



Migrant workers who will pick fruit on the farm of Aldo Ferri, R R 2, Norval, this year will have all the comforts of home. Mr. Ferri is building oil-heated units for the workers who come long distances. Bunk beds, propane gas cookers and heaters will be installed, the cost of which is shared equally by Mr. Ferri and the federal government. In the past, transient workers have slept in Toronto flop houses or under trees in the warm weather.

Norval Grower Building Motel Improves Conditions For Pickers

Aldo Ferri, RR 2, Norval, is doing something about the living conditions for migrant workers. Under a federal government plan, the area grower, is building a cement block motel to hold up to 35 migrant workers needed for picking his apple crop in the fall.

The oil-heated unit will have built-in lavatories, gas propane stoves, bunk beds and everyday kitchen utensils. When completed the unit will have to be approved by health authorities and the farm labor board.

The government will pay expenses of workers' transportation to the farm as long as they are guaranteed a minimum of five weeks work at \$50 a week. Local workers are not eligible for accommodations.

While some farmers are considering bringing workers from Jamaica, Mr. Ferri feels it would be too expensive for him. The government does not pay for off-shore to Canada trans-

portation and the farmer must guarantee eight weeks work, minimum wages and transportation.

Mr. Ferri has been accepting migrant workers since 1933. The farm he is living on now was purchased in 1940. Together with his brother's farm, there are about 100 acres of apple trees to be harvested.

"We begin anywhere from Sept. 12 to 20th, depending on the weather," said Mr. Ferri. To begin after the 20th would mean a loss of apples through cold weather. The trees are picked clean by late October, sometimes as late as November.

"There are delays. Work is halted when it rains and if the cold reaches apples during the night, workers have to wait three or four hours until the

trees thaw. Apples touched while frozen bruise easily."

Indians from northern Ontario make up a large part of migrant workers. Ferri, through Manpower, an employment agency, has in previous years brought in workers from Newfoundland, Orillia, Warton and some from the Mariposa Islands. Transients from Florida and Haiti have also worked for him.

"Drinking is a big problem among workers," explained Mr. Ferri. "but we have to get along with it. Some workers who don't give a damn leave once they have money for alcohol."

There are, however, many transients who are dependable while on the job. Depending on their strength, they put in up to 10 to 12 hours work each day.

According to Mr. Ferri, the once patterned path of fruit pickers, starting in the far south with oranges, then tobacco and across into Canada for apples, has almost been broken. "It is more difficult for these people to get across the border now," said Mr. Ferri.

As a member of the farm labor board, Mr. Ferri reaches many workers in Toronto.

Apples picked on the Ferri farms are packed and shipped to wherever there is an agreeable price. They have been sent to England, Scotland and Ireland. But not all apples reach the packing stage.

Becoming popular on a large scale both in Canada and the United States is the pick-your-own method of clearing the lands of fruit. During the last 10 years, Mr. Ferri has had hundreds of people pick their own strawberries in his patch of about five acres. Most come from the Georgetown-Brampton area.

Last year, Mr. Ferri extended the self service to apples which proved popular with area residents.

Forced Steel Bars to Escape From County Jail

Magistrate John Ord was told Thursday that the 26 year old Hamilton jailbreaker who escaped from Halton County Jail May 27 used a broken off steam pipe to force apart steel bars in the window of his cell.

Assistant Crown Attorney Bruce Martin said the man then squeezed through an eight inch gap between the bars in his bid for freedom. He scaled a 30 foot wall at the rear of the jail by using an eight foot long window sash as a ladder.

He was back within two hours after being spotted by Robert Morley, a Milton resident who promptly contacted an off-duty policeman.

He was arrested by Constable Tom Dube of the North Halton OPP and Burlington constable Ross Woods.

"There was no trouble and he went quietly," Mr. Martin said.

The escapee, who appeared in court handcuffed, was charged with making a breach in a

cell block with intent to escape. He pleaded guilty.

The escape was discovered at 7 p.m. when guards went to the cell to move the man to another quarter of the jail.

Mr. Martin said a steam pipe, three-quarters of an inch thick and four feet long, had been used to pry open the space between the bars from the standard six inches to eight inches.

The missing man was back behind bars at 8:10 p.m.

The Assistant Crown said he was jailed for a parole violation and to await a county court trial for an alleged break and enter offence at Campbellville Gravel Supply Ltd.

Magistrate Ord said the proper way to deal with him would be to adjourn the case until disposition was made at the pending trial. The escapee was remanded in custody until June 23 when he will be sentenced. A conviction was registered on the attempted escape charge.

The escape was the second this year from the Halton County Jail.

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Keith Robinson was Hornby Towers Pro

Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Keith Robinson who died on Thursday at the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, in his 48th year. He was the beloved husband of Betty Piddington and dear father of Robert, Michael and Medie. He was the Hornby Golf Towers pro director and manager of the course.

The Hornby Happy Hostesses attended the 4-H Clubs Achievement Day, at the Williams Ave. High School in Milton, on Saturday, May 28th. The girls put on a play called, 'Your Table Manners.' Mrs. Pat Squire, Peel County Home Economist gave comments on their different displays of fancy sandwiches, flower arrangements and table setting.

Birthday greetings to the following who are celebrating birthdays this week, Terry Jackson on May 30, Mrs. Ernest Roc, John Marchmont on June 3, Jeffrey Feenstra on June 4, Bobby Drew-Brook, June 5, and Diana Royce on June 7.

Mother Daughter Banquet Views 'Changing Years' Film

The Children of the Church, Explorers and Canadian Girls in Training entertained their mothers on Thursday at the Annual Mother and Daughter Banquet held in Knox Presbyterian Church Hall. The Hall was decorated with paper chains in pastel colours, lanterns and birds all made by the girls.

Irene Keir, president of the C.G.I.T. welcomed the guests, and introduced the head table: Mrs. Douglas Wright and her daughter Carolyn; Mrs. John Colter, President of the Knox Auxiliary of the WMS who acted as mother for Irene since her mother was visiting her parents in Scotland; Rev. Norman Young; Mrs. Marilyn French Guest Speaker; Mr. W.M. Gedge, a member of the Christian Education Committee; Mrs. J.L. Barber and Mrs. Norman Young. A Toast was drunk to the Queen Carolyn Wright proposed a Toast to the Mothers, and Mrs. Young replied on their behalf.

After the tables were cleared the Explorers, under the direct-

ion of their leaders, Peggy Given and Jane Graff conducted a short sing song.

Mrs. Marilyn French of the Public Relations Department of the Bell Telephone Company in Toronto entertained the girls and their mothers with an illustrated talk on "The Changing Years" telling the story of the past 65 years through slides, and recordings depicting the clothing, furniture, cars, movie idols and music of the years since the turn of the century.

Mrs. J. E. Fenning thanked Mrs. French for coming and her employer for providing such an entertaining speaker.

The members of the CGIT put on a humorous skit; a mock court room trial of girls accused of wearing sloppy uniforms. Peggy Given was Judge, Beth Young, Prosecutor; Irene Keir, Foreman of the Jury; and the accused were: Gail Jamieson, Connie Bombholt, Karen Minton and Linda Oliver.

The evening closed with all joining hands and singing Taps.

East Halton 4-Hers Judge Holsteins

The highlight of the East Halton 4-H Calf Club held on May 12 at Howard Tarzwell's farm, Georgetown was the judging of two classes of holsteins.

The first class was three year old in milk and John McGe and Don Brander gave their reasons. Tom Hunter, 4-H club leader gave official reasons and placings. The second class was mature cows in milk and Bert Stewart gave official placings.

A film on breeds of cows was shown.

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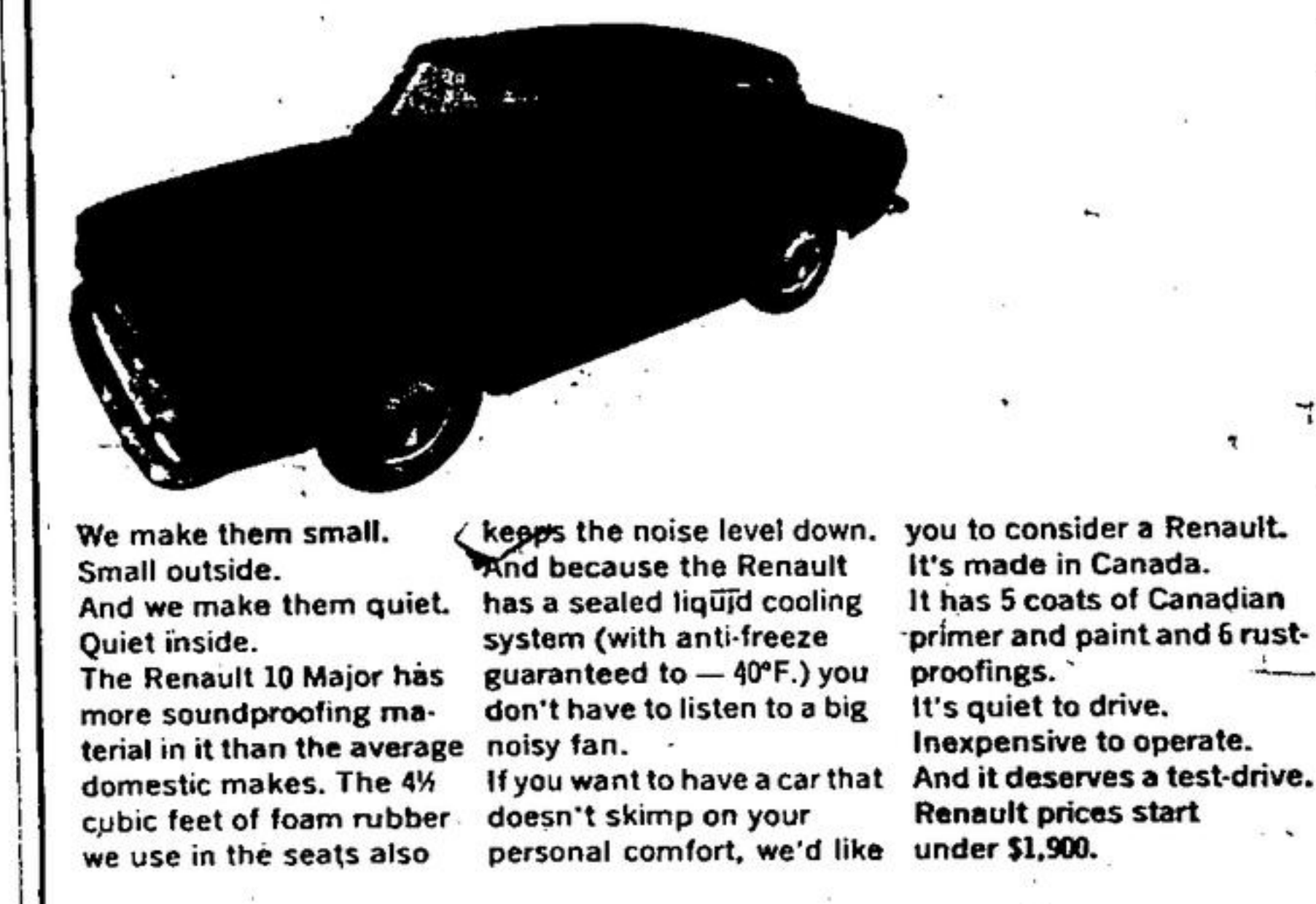
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