

# Host farmer Craig Reid

## prepares for big party

Like all hosts preparing for a party, W. T. Craig Reid is busy these days getting ready for a king-sized party, somewhat larger than the average house party.

Craig Reid is expecting up to 300,000 guests at his party on a 200-acre farm on the Ashgrove Sideroad and the Ninth Line, site of the 61st International Plowing Match Sept. 24 to 28.

Plans for this party took a little longer than having a few people over to the house. They started three years ago when the Reid farm was chosen as the site of the huge tent city which will cover it during the four day event. An adjacent 500 acres will be used for plowing matches, crop demonstrations and parking.

**Spencer's selection**  
Spencer Wilson, now billeting chairman for the International Plowing Match and a longtime member of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, had been pushing for Halton to host the big match for years, since most counties in Ontario had already done so. On a casual drive past the Reid farm, a frequent occurrence since he lives nearby, Mr. Wilson realized the Reid farm had no internal fences separating the fields, so he recommended this farm to the International Plowing Match committee.

The committee chose this farm over two other Halton farms, the Biggar farm in Oakville and the Liptay farm at Milton, partly because of the lack of fences, and partly because of the easy access on good roads from all directions.

The lack of fences is not due to neglect, it is a deliberate move in a form of grazing known to farmers as "zero-grazing." It means the cattle are kept in a corral and the hay is cut and brought to them.

**No stopping**  
Mr. Reid tore down the aging fences when he bought the farm 10 years ago, and decided to start zero-grazing. He claims it is more economical since the equipment can move across the fields faster without stopping or turning at fence lines.

Foresight was necessary to

ready the farm for the plowing match. Mr. Reid had to make sure the site was all in grassland by this year so the ground would be suitable for the tent city. In order to do this he had to rent a farm nearby, where he raised corn and grain for his own purebred Holstein herd.

The 100-acre field has been transformed, and boasts street lights, street names and numbers, and even has a "main drag." There's a First, Second and Third Ave. plus Halton, Segsworth and Reid Sts. The last two honor the chairman of the Halton committee for the International Plowing Match and the host farmer, respectively.

Culverts have been placed under the entrances, and piped water flows to the various tents. Trenches for the pipes were cut by Halton farmers in the area using their own tractors.

**Missed it**  
Host Craig Reid has farmed all his life, as did three generations before him, but not at this farm. He sold his 100-acre farm in what is now Georgetown, 20 years ago

### Geo. Chuvalo punches in

Guess who's coming to the IPM this year?

Heavyweight boxing champion George Chuvalo and Canadian Commonwealth welterweight champion Clyde Gray, that's who.

The two boxers will take on unfamiliar roles when they appear at the Pride Hybrid Corn Co. booths to promote the product. Pride's theme is "Pride's Power and the company's advertising features a boxing glove."

Clyde Gray is currently number one contender for the World Welterweight title held by Jose Napoles of Mexico. Gray lost to the Mexican champion but hopes for a rematch in the near future.

when Delrex Developments bought farms in the area and tripled the size of the town. His farm covered the area where Centennial school and many houses now stand. His uncle N. H. Reid farmed where George Kennedy school, and more houses, are now situated.

He built his house on Chipper Ct. at this time, but after eight years out of farming he couldn't stand it any longer and bought the present farm on 10 Sideroad at Ninth Line. He has never lived there, he rents the old farmhouse, sitting at the end of a tree-lined driveway, and backed by a line of walnut trees, but farms the land and keeps his cattle there.

"Once a farmer, always a farmer," says Mr. Reid, as he explained his restlessness without land of his own to till.

By an odd coincidence, Mr. Reid discovered when he bought the farm the original crown deed showed a relative of his wife's had owned it.

In addition to farming, Mr. Reid has been a cattle exporter for the past 27 years, dealing almost exclusively in pedigree Holsteins for breeding purposes. He exports cattle all over the world, but mainly to Mexico, Spain and England.

**Automated**  
Little drudgery is involved in this modern automated farm. The cows are milked by machine, and the milk piped directly to the stainless steel tank.

"It's a big change since I was a boy, helping my father milk cows by hand, I don't even have to empty a pail," commented Mr. Reid.

At a flick of a switch the gutters in the barn are cleaned as a conveyor belt carries the manure away. There's not a manure fork in sight.

The Reidson Farm has been all spruced up for the big day, and stands spanking clean, with a new paint on barns, silo and farmhouse and a brand new gateway at the end of the inviting lane.

## REIDSON FARM



OWNER OF REIDSON FARM, Craig Reid rests for a spell before starting another job to prepare for the International Plowing Match to be held on his farm on the Ashgrove Sideroad and the Ninth Line.

## Spencer's looking for 200 more rooms

Spencer Wilson, Billeting Chairman for the International Plowing Match, is looking for rooms. No, he hasn't been evicted from his more than a century old farmhouse, he's searching for space to house some of the thousands of visitors who will visit the International Plowing Match, Sept. 24 to 28.

"Hospitality Halton" is the theme being emphasized at the plowing match this year, and Mr. Wilson is "Mr. Hospitality" since he has the huge task of trying to find rooms for some of the 200,000 or more guests and exhibitors expected at the big event.

While by far the majority of the visitors will not be overnight guests in Halton, Mr. Wilson is trying to line up quarters for 600 people in private homes. He's doing pretty well, too, since he thinks he's close to 400 now, and plans to line up another 200 before the event.

**Put on list**  
When calls are received at the Wilson home, Mrs. Wilson makes it clear they cannot guarantee to use every room, but want to have a list available at the plowing match for weary visitors who decide to stay another day.

Spencer Wilson has already booked all the hotel and motel space in Acton, Burlington, Oakville and the Mohawk Inn. The Holiday Inn at the Seventh Line and the Queen Elizabeth Way will be headquarters for the Ontario Plow-

men's Association.

The biggest headache for the billeting chairman is the lack of motels in the northern area of Halton. This area closest to the match for exhibitors and people who have to be there every day, would be the ideal place to lodge for the five days.

**Eat at match**  
Mr. Wilson wants as many visitors as possible to taste Halton's hospitality, but a literal tasting is not necessary. The host or hostess does not have to provide meals unless they so desire, but many are planning to serve breakfast. The other meals will be eaten at the many booths of home-cooked food which are available at the plowing match.

Many city people who have never seen a plowing match are expected this year, since they can drive from Toronto

or Hamilton in less than an hour. Their interest right now is one mainly of curiosity. They are puzzled to hear about a tent city covering 100 acres, and can't figure out what goes on beside plowing. A parade every single day, innumerable food booths featuring home-cooking, horse-shoe pitching contests, tug-of-war contests and many other events found nowhere else should convert them to plowing match regulars.

**Sample hospitality**  
Mr. Wilson stated, "We're depending on the people in the area to open their homes, and hopefully their hearts, to the visitors, so they will go away warmed by Halton's famous hospitality."

The billeting chairman asks anyone who has a room to spare to call him at 877-1220.

## 1,600 box lunches

*That's a lot of bread!*

A total of close to 1,600 box lunches will be sold at the IPM to plowmen and workers in the fields who can't get to tent city for their meals. That's over 300 lunches per day.

Claude Inglis of Campbellville is in charge of this mammoth undertaking and the ladies of Hillcrest United Church in Hornby are making lunches.

Each lunch will contain two sandwiches, one meat and one other filling, plus two sweets, an apple and coffee, milk or pop. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Roy Wilson, 12 United Church women will be at the church by 7 a.m. on each day in order to have the fresh lunches out to the field by noon.

The price for each box lunch is \$2.



SPENCER WILSON, billeting chairman for the International Plowing Match, makes sure everyone knows about the big match. He has carried this sign on his truck for six months.