



APPLE PICKING at Chudleigh's is an adventure in learning for over 400 Toronto inner-city school children per day. Teachers arrange the morning bus trips as early as June to ensure visits to the popular farm when crops are at their peak. Tours are conducted each morning Sept. 16 to Oct. 3 with guides on hand to explain apple growing and plucking procedures. Thursday's visitors were from Wilkinson public school near Danforth and Coxwell in the city.

Chudleigh's fruit farm hosts hundreds of children

Apple picking time is here again and once more weekend crowds throng from distances to the Chudleigh farm on Highway 25 to get their share of first-crop, delectable, crunchy MacIntosh Reds, ripe for picking since last Friday.

Besides apple, corn and vegetable sales, the popular establishment has one other side to its long line of accomplishments. It's one of the few farms visited annually by Toronto's inner-city school children who have never experienced the delight of open spaces and field crops.

Youngsters are brought to the Chudleigh farm via bus and are completely immersed in what farm life is all about with guides to escort them around while explaining about corn, vegetable and apple growing and picking. According to Tom Chudleigh, proprietor, "some of the children have never even seen an apple growing before." Corn in the fields is to many of them like a small miracle.

Requested Mr. Chudleigh explained the morning excursions started originally as a simple request from a teacher-friend to bring her grade one children to the farm for a visit. From the first trip,

visits to the Chudleigh farm have mushroomed into an annual three-week schedule of morning visits for approximately 400 children per day starting this year Sept. 16 to continue until Oct. 3.

Mr. Chudleigh finds the children's visit tremendously rewarding for him and his staff as well as for the young visitors. "All who come are so obviously ecstatic, it makes it all worthwhile. After hectic weekends of continuous crowds of apple pickers the weekly visits of school children must be worthwhile for us to decide to jump right back into more groups after a busy weekend!"

Every year they consider dropping the whole idea of visiting schools, "but then we think about the new crop of youngsters who haven't been here and we decide to do it all over again," he said. The apple growing expert sees the school visits as "doing good for others." In describing child reaction when students first step off the big yellow school bus, "Some of the children immediately break into great excitement and want to run about, they are so overwhelmed by seeing vast open fields."

Corn cobs "We'll often take a cob of

corn, show it and peel it down for them," he said and explained amazement of the children. He said he gets a real charge out of the way some of the children act. In a crowd of 35 children, it is usually the class toughie, self-assured and belligerent, who is most overcome by the bigness of everything and spends his morning staying close to teacher and not saying a word.

Even hay mow fun has been considered for youngsters at the Chudleigh farm with extra precautions taken to ensure complete safety for junior climbers and jumpers. Highly-stacked, clean, fresh hay deeply covers the floor into which children can jump safely or frolic about. On weekends the popular mow is supervised by local students, on morning class visits, teachers are in charge.

Idea of the school visiting program was launched approximately six years ago according to Carol Howitt, a neighbor of the Chudleighs. Mrs. Howitt was, at that time, a teacher at the Institute of Child Study, a school affiliated with the University of Toronto. The school is big on field trips," she said and explained that, after seeing the Chudleigh operation she could see its value as a learning experience for her children. Mr. Chudleigh agreed she could bring her pupils to the farm for a visit.

Mushroomed Mrs. Howitt said until that time children had never visited the farm before but after the initial visit the idea mushroomed. School teachers picking apples at the farm on weekends would often request a trip for their classes. Today there is a tight schedule of city youngsters with teachers making visiting appointments from the end of June until first week of September for fall trips.

According to Mr. Chudleigh early scheduled appointments are favored as pupils get a chance to see production at its best. "After September corn is finished," he said and explained that, if teachers bring students on later visits, even apples aren't at their peak.

Explaining this year's crops the knowledgeable

farmer said corn on his farm was ready for picking about Sept. 7 but that, with little rain this summer, drought spoiled his corn crop somewhat. "Heat in August probably hastened maturity of apples," he said, and cited June 28 as the last decent rain in the district with only small showers after that which did not contribute to agricultural production. He stated that apples are ready for picking two weeks earlier than last year.

As the number of groups visiting from school has increased it has also been necessary to include more guides. Anne Berry, a neighbor, was the first organizer and guide of the tours. Since that time three other young district women assist, including Barbara Spaldin, Moira Boyce and one part-time guide.

This year Mrs. Howitt is also organizing tours; meeting the bus, instructing teachers what to do and talking to the children. Other guides take the groups on a tour of the orchard. Last year children from the School of Deaf in Toronto visited the farm. This year ambitious guide organizers hope to see the Milton School for the Deaf students visit.

Many phases Mrs. Howitt sees the farm visiting experience not only as an exciting one-day learning excursion but one around which other phases of learning can also be based.

She said, in her own grade one class at the Toronto University, she first explained what dwarf trees were all about, how apples were grown, principles of grafting and the importance of picking fruit properly so as not to damage the nearby bud. "The children even knew about tree guards and were prepared for what to look for beforehand," she said, explaining how she used the field trip to the best learning advantage.

The enthusiastic teacher said that, returning home, the children were then exposed to mathematics, counting apples, etc. and, as a further follow-up, learned about apple recipes and made apple sauce in their own classroom. "Even the importance of not

wasting anything can be taught, she said, and explained how not walking on fallen fruit was stressed as the apples could be made into apple cider and other by-product dishes.

Morning visitors to the Chudleigh farm will see well organized groups of youngsters being directed about with teachers and guides explaining the many facets of apple growing. Sometimes the children have an opportunity to feed and pet tame goats. Ducks on a nearby pond are also a

fascination to the children, especially to those who have never been exposed to country visits.

After such visits, children often write letters back to the Chudleighs thanking them for a wonderful day. "It was a magnificent experience," wrote the teacher who made the initial class trip. Today, as a Chudleigh guide herself, Mrs. Carol Howitt has an opportunity to relate the same meaningful experience to other groups. She advocates such excursions as worthwhile for all ages.

Churchill

Christening, wedding

by Mrs. Fred MacArthur Morning worship and Sunday School at Churchill community church was very well attended. Our pastor Rev. Fosbury's sermon subject was The Foundation of the Church. Choir anthem was We are in the Spirit. Church service and church school are at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

Mrs. A. W. Fosbury visited last Wednesday and Thursday with her daughter Sheila Mrs. C.E.E. Bayliss, Melinda and Julie Mae in Toronto.

On Friday Rev. A. W. and Mrs. Fosbury were called to Hanover as an old friend Mrs. Kunher had passed on. The

funeral was on Friday, Sept. 20 and Rev. Fosbury assisted in the service.

Christening Mr. and Mrs. William Kockx and daughter Helen were in Toronto on Sunday and attended the christening of James Sheridan, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, at their church and were guests at their home for the day.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended from Churchill friends to Susan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brooks, and Mrs. Roy Bosch of Eden Mills whose marriage took place in St. Alban the Martyr church Saturday afternoon, Sept. 21. A reception was held in the church hall when the ladies of the church served a delicious banquet.

A dance was held later in the evening at the golf club. They will be living in Rockwood.

Visitors Misses Nancy Knox and

Kathy Vice of the Western University, London, spent the weekend with Nancy's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr, Christine and Jeffrey.

Mrs. Myrna Marchment and her daughter Betty visited with Mrs. Wilber Brown.

Mrs. W. H. Johnston of Earl Grey, Saskatchewan and Mrs. Margaret Laasch of Regina spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Binnie and also Mr. and Mrs. Russell McAllister and daughter Laurie of Paisley, Ont. and Miss Masie Sharp of Brampton and Mrs. C. H. Best of Guelph were with the Binnies on the weekend.

Mr. Bob Agnew of Brantford spent Sunday with his cousin Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Warne of Guelph and his father Mr. Robert Warne visited on Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Fred MacArthur.

Stop non resident hunting licenses

Information on existing by-laws covering hunting in areas now included in Milton is to be compiled and no non-resident licenses are to be issued in the meantime, Milton Council's administration committee agreed Monday night.

Clerk J. McGeachie pointed out different by-laws are in effect in sections of the former Burlington, Oakville, Esquimaux and Nassagaweya that now form part of Milton. A consolidation was suggested.

The clerk indicated that in a meeting with the representative of the Ministry it was indicated that provision had been made in former Nassagaweya and Trafalgar by-laws for 200 non-resident permits in each.

Councillor J. Watson and Mayor Anne MacArthur hotly denied there was any such provision in the most recent

Nassagaweya by-law. She maintained the township had passed two by-laws since the Ministry was saying it was enforcing.

"There's no way we're going to issue 400 non-resident licenses. They would all end up in Nassagaweya and the people would be afraid to go outdoors," the mayor protested.

Treasurer Don Lougheed pointed out the licenses had to be ready for issue from October 1 and asked direction. The committee ruled that all hunting licenses would be sold at the treasury department in the town hall and that no non-resident licenses be issued until the by-law is revised.

Dublin North girls have first meeting

The Dublin North had their first meeting on Sept. 18 at the home of Mrs. Fred Kirton. This club is called The Club Girl Entertains and they will learn about table manners, table setting, and flower arrangements.

The officers are: president Heather McEachern; vice president Marie Parker; treasurer Penny Kirton; telephone girl Laurie Pierce; and press reporter Kathy Barber.

Other members are Lorna Sayers and Joyce Parker. The club learned about a reference file to keep information in that they find in magazines. They then had a quick lunch.

A new riding office opens

Operations are now in full swing at the new Halton Federal Constituents' office.

The office, opened by new Halton M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook, is located at 321 Lakeshore Road East in Oakville and is open six days a week. They opened the doors on August 14 but things didn't really get going until just recently.

Hours for the new office are 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The Zenith telephone number 89119, will enable people from all over Halton to phone the office toll free. The regular number is 844-4146.

"We have already dealt with quite a few problems such as unemployment benefits and immigration hassles," said Sonja Jensen, Philbrook's secretary, who operates the office. She added that quite a few problems have come up that really are provincial and municipal and she has referred the people to the proper officials.

"We have also referred some problems from constituents to Eugene Whalen, Barney Danson and Robert Andras," she said. Danson is the Minister of Urban Affairs and is a newcomer to the Trudeau cabinet. Whalen handles agriculture and Andras manpower and immigration.

Raking leaves is an exercise for all ages and on Acton streets this week can be seen residents and whole families enjoying the experience of the annual outdoor activity.



THREE AREA young ladies hacked over to Rockwood Trail Riders second show, Sept. 15, for competition, left to right Lynn Carr on Sabra, Elizabeth Wilson on Autumn Gold, and Katrina Wilson riding Moses.

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