

Michael Pembry's dream

Country Estates born, raised in Terra Cotta

by Jennifer Barr
Visitors looking for Norbry Publishing, Terra Cotta—home of the magazine, Country Estates, are often confused when confronted by an unpretentious yellow bungalow surrounded by cattle, geese, dogs, chickens and a donkey.

Further investigation reveals the co-editor and publisher, Michael Pembry, in work clothes planting a garden or unloading hay.

The Pembry home epitomizes the lifestyle revered in Country Estates—the rural home owner interested in farm dabbling but without the knowledge or experience to fulfill his dream.

Seven years ago The Family Herald closed its doors and ceased functioning. Then Ontario editor for the magazine, Pembry became a freelance writer specializing in rural articles and farming communications.

The gap left by The Family Herald was keenly felt. Non-farming country readers no longer had a publication. At the same time Pembry needed a vehicle to carry his first love—rural articles for the country dweller.

Country Estates was born. With co-publisher Robbie

Robson of Rockwood, Pembry conceived the idea, saw it as a means to publish all the articles he wanted and expected it to take off like a rocket.

It didn't quite explode, but in the three years of publication the magazine has grown, steadily increasing in age and subscriptions. Pembry feels the quality of the editorial content is the main reason for Country Estates' popularity.

"The articles are written by people who have their hands in the soil and know what they're writing about," he explains.

"I have done and tried everything I've written, which accounts for the cattle, geese, rabbits, chickens, donkey, bees, trees, etc.," he grins at his wife. "But it turned out I was allergic to bees!"

Coming from the "Garden of England", Kent, and armed with an agricultural degree, Michael emigrated to Canada in 1957. He worked on Canadian farms for a year or two in order to get the feel of Canadian soil. A five year stint with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture followed, giving him some writing education as he made up farm booklets and reports. The next step was an Ontario

editor for the Family Herald. With his wife, Noreen, he moved to Terra Cotta in 1963 and started to work his 100 acre farm (50 acres leased).

The barn was renovated, the old farm house was replaced by the yellow bungalow entirely Pembry-built.

Their three children, Glenn, 9, Michelle, 6 and Carol, 2, have been raised on the farm.

"Living the part is very important," comments Pembry, which is why the magazine is published at the Pembry home. He chuckles about answering the phone and having people ask for "Advertising" or "Circulation Department."

He often feels like saying, "Just a moment, he's out in the barn."

The vast exodus from the city in the past ten years has pointed out the need for such a magazine, according to the publisher. So far, all profits have been ploughed back into the magazine but Pembry hopes to be able to change that soon.

"It's my sincere hope Country Estates will eventually support my family and I'll have more time to spend playing at farming and doing the things I like."



Michael Pembry

Forty per cent answer inserts

Forty per cent of the questionnaire forms enclosed in Acton hydro bills a few months ago, have been returned, with the large majority saving they are not in favor of changes in provincial hydro representation.

This figure was brought to the attention of the Acton Hydro Commission at their monthly meeting on Thursday evening, by Audrey Urquhart, secretary treasurer of the Commission. Out of the 1552 inserts sent out, 433 were returned, with only 11 saying they are in favor of the proposed changes. This amounts for one half of one per cent of the inserts.

would have meant only 20 per cent did not answer. Most communities across Ontario which sent out the same inserts received only 28 per cent in return mail.

Ice still

Salt was still being put on ice roads and walks this week. The slippery stuff remained beneath the coating of melting snow.

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Under the old apple tree

by Michael Pembry

What's the best thing to do with those old apple trees in the traditional small orchard attached to many Ontario farms? Cut them off at ground level in the advent of most agricultural extension people. Their argument is that they are not usually economic

fruit producers and they harbor pests that attack neighboring trees. This might be the answer for anyone serious about going into the fruit business but for someone looking at an old apple tree as a landmark of beauty that enhances the nostalgic

feeling of old Ontario associated with rural living, cutting it down becomes a last resort. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gairdner were faced with this way problem on their beautiful estate and farm which nestles into that long rolling hillside north of Shelburne, Ontario. The Gairdners have an old orchard of more than five acres. It makes an ideal setting for the house located in one corner of the orchard, but the trees had grown into massive, tangled giants with many of the branches showing signs of severe rot.

Last winter, Mrs. Gairdner and Terra Cotta landscape contractor, Bob Elwood, toured the trees and then sat down to decide the courses open to them. Bob assured Mrs. Gairdner that nearly all the trees could be saved and with careful but severe pruning, the trees would not only maintain their beauty but be rejuvenated. He also warned her that the severe pruning would inevitably result in a massive growth of new wood the following year which would require more work next fall.

The decision was made and Bob and two of his men set to work. "You really have to be careful with these trees," said Bob. "It's easy to get carried away cutting out wood that looks diseased. The next thing you know you're down to the trunk. Look at it something like sculpturing. You have to balance the tree with the best available limbs."

Judging by the mountain of branches that was stacked in the nearby field ready for burning and the neat stacks of logs in the orchard, Bob had been severe alright, but the trees now looked refreshingly clean and healthy. Some of the remaining branches still carry the tell-tale marks of woodpeckers where one side is already dying, but Bob feels that many of these branches can be replaced in the future. The object is to aim for a well-balanced tree where the branches don't block the sunlight from each other. All branches are cut as close as possible to the trunk or the limb they are growing from and then



The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gairdner.



More than five acres of "antique" apple trees form this peaceful setting for the Gairdner home.

Bell agency here to close

Saturday, April 26, will be the last day Bell Canada payments will be accepted at the Moss Pro Hardware, Main Street in Acton.

Mr. Moss stated that due to the growth of his business and a desire to improve service to his regular customers he feels that "now is a good time to make the change."

The Moss payment agency has been one of the most efficient agencies in the area, according to Lloyd Denby, Bell manager for this

district. There is a rapidly growing trend towards payment of accounts by cheque, according to Mr. Denby. Over 85 per cent of all Bell customers now pay their monthly ac-

counts by cheque. After April 26, Acton Bell customers may pay their accounts at any branch of a chartered bank or use the brown envelope included with each monthly account.

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BRAND NEW

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4376⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH GRAN FURY CUSTOM 3 SEAT WAGON

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5D-129290, Inca Gold Met., gold vinyl bench, LR78x15 WSW steel belted radials, quarter panel storage bin, automatic transmission, engine 300 cu. in., 2 BBL, dual chrome remote control mirror, luggage rack, push button am radio, 2 watt, deluxe wheel covers.

5394⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH GRAN FURY CUSTOM 3 SEAT WAGON

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5D-123650, Astral blue metallic, blue vinyl bench, LR78 x 15 WSW steel belted radials, automatic transmission, engine 300 cu. in., 2 BBL, heavy duty 65 AMP alternator, 500 AMP extended life battery, left chrome remote control mirror, 3 speed windshield wipers, H.D. suspension with sway bar.

5273⁰⁰

75 D100 SWEPTLINE PICK-UP

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5S-010911, Light gold, black trim set, H78-15-B bias belted TBL BSW, spare tire same as front, 318-1 eight cylinder gas engine, trans A-727 automatic, rear axle and ratio option No. 3, oil pressure gauge, 15x5.5 stud disc wheels, 1475 No. front spring, 1450 No. rear spring, hwy. tread pass car tire, Uniroyal tires, gross vehicle weight rating, anti-freeze—35 degrees.

4994⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH GRAN FURY SPECIAL 4 DR. SEDAN

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5D-125534, Inca gold metallic, gold cloth and vinyl bench, GR 78 x 15 WSW steel belted radials, automatic transmission, engine 300 cu. in., 2 BBL, left chrome remote control mirror, R.R. window defogger, push button am radio, 2 watt, deluxe wheel covers.

4383⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH VALIANT SCAMP SPECIAL 2 DR. H.T.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5B-143776, Frosty green metallic, green cloth and vinyl bench, 6.95x14.2P 4 PR WSW tires, automatic transmission, engine 225 cu. in., 6 cyl., hood release inst. pnI. mounted.

3823⁰⁰

75 DODGE CORONET 2 DR. COUPE

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5A-110445, Rallye red, black vinyl bench, F78x14 2P 4 PR WSW tires, power disc brakes, automatic transmission, engine 225 cu. in., 6 cyl., mirrors—dual remote chrome, hood release inst. pnI. mounted, black body side tape stripe, push button am radio, 2 watt, power steering, canopy vinyl roof, black, deluxe wheel covers.

4293⁰⁰

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75 PLYMOUTH DUSTER CUSTOM 2 DR. SPT. CPE.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5B-140006, Lucerne blue metallic, parchment vinyl bench with C.A.R., ER 78x14 WSW steel belted radials basic group—am radio, 3 sp. wipers, remote mirror, prismatic mirror, deluxe wheel covers, roadability package—front sway bar, boom damper, fold down rear seat, automatic transmission, engine 318 cu. in., 8 cyl., 2 BBL, electric heated rear window, white body side tape stripe, power steering, parchment canopy roof.

4592⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH GRAN FURY CUSTOM 2 DR. H.T.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5D 112747, Powder blue, blue cloth and vinyl bench, GR 78 x 15 WSW steel belted radials, easy order pkg.—vinyl roof blue, am radio, rear speaker, std. w/walls, light pkg., electric clock, remote mirror, undercoating and hood pad, deluxe wiper pkg., deluxe wheel covers, fuel pacer system, dual horns, automatic transmission, 360 cu. in. 2 BBL, electric heated rear window, tinted windshield, premier wheel covers.

4997⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH VALIANT DUSTER 2 DR. SPT. CPE.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5B-134070, Spanish gold metallic, gold vinyl bench, 6.95x14.2P 4 PR WSW tires, manual disc brakes, carpets colour keyed, automatic transmission, engine 225 cu. in., 6 cyl., electric heated rear window, hood release inst. pnI. mounted, white body side tape stripe, white deck stripe, push button am radio 2 watt, power steering, gold canopy vinyl roof, deluxe wheel covers.

4157⁰⁰

75 DODGE DART SPORT 2 DR. SPT. CPE.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5B-135575, formal black paint, white and black vinyl buckets, ER 78x14 WSW steel belted radials, roadability pkg.—front sway bar, boom damper, Dart sport special pkg.—canopy vinyl roof, white body stripes, w/walls, wheel covers, interior decor, insulation pkg., deluxe seats, day-night mirror, electric fuel pacer, power disc brakes, console, automatic transmission, 318 cu. in. 8 cyl., 2 BBL, electric heated rear window, tinted windshield, dual chrome racing mirror, push button am radio 2 watt, single RR seal speaker, power steering, tough sport strg. wheel, rallye styled road wheels.

4694⁰⁰

75 DODGE DART SPORT 2 DR. SPT. CPE.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5B-110752, Sahara beige, green cloth and vinyl bench, 6.95x14.2P 4 PR WSW tires, manual disc brakes, automatic transmission, 225 cu. in. 6 cyl., electric heated rear window, hood release inst. pnI. mounted, push button am radio 2 watt, deluxe wheel covers.

3996⁰⁰

75 PLYMOUTH GRAN FURY SPECIAL 4 DR. SEDAN

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 5D-139853, Astral blue metallic, black H.D. vinyl bench, GR 78 x 15 BSW steel belted radials light pkg., automatic transmission, 318 cu. in. 8 cyl., 2 BBL, heavy duty 65 AMP alternator, 500 AMP extended life battery, double bottom fuel tank, oil and temp. gauge assembly, RR window defogger, h.d. susp. w sway bar, radiator splash guard, already licensed. Ready to go! Radio.

4392⁰⁰

74 DODGE COLT 2 DR. H.T.

BRAND NEW

Serial No. 45-102880, Sea green, green vinyl seats, standard size WSW tires, 4 speed manual floorshift, 1600 cc engine, electric heated rear window, deactivate starter interlock.

2894⁰⁰

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