

Informal Sunday devotionals draw many to ranch

In the unique atmosphere of casual family worship Christian fellowship is growing.

Every Sunday, a large group of children, teenagers and adults congregate in the rustic dining hall at the Peoples Ranch, located just a few miles from town on the Fifth Line of Nassagaweya. Purpose of the meeting is a weekly round-up where everyone is welcomed to join in an hour of informal worship, bible reading and singing.

The Sunday morning get-togethers are really a carry-over from the summer camp, held during July and August for children of all denominations. Local children had become accustomed to dropping in for chapel services and campfires. They were in the habit of visiting from the Speyside community; others from the Campbellville area would ride over on bicycles. All wanted to be part of the special atmosphere created at the ranch; they enjoyed the way Christianity was being presented.

When it started, the camp closed down last September 15 of the youngsters, ranging in age from eight to 20, asked camp directors if they could continue visiting during off-season months. They wanted summer devotionals on Sunday mornings to be kept going.

Bruce and Chris Chapman are the co-directors of the camp. Together with the weekend assistance of several volunteer youth leaders, they manage the 200-

acre farm as well as the other ranch facilities. Bruce is in charge of maintenance and market gardening, etc. Chris looks after food requirements of family, campers and staff. During camp months they handle a staff of 35 to 40, all volunteers. From September on, until camp starts up again in July, approximately 20 to 30 young people visit on what they call "work weekends" assisting in farm work, looking after the horses, and generally wherever they are needed.

The Chapman family lives at the ranch all year round.



BRUCE CHAPMAN, Peoples Ranch director, is seen leading singers in folk-type hymns.

They have their own home on the grounds. Besides Bruce and Chris their three children contribute to life at the farm including David 17, Karen 14, and Richard 10. One other son, Bill, 19, is at Lakehead university studying forestry. He comes home as often as possible and also involves himself in the organization of the busy program.

When the local youngsters approached Mr. and Mrs. Chapman about continuing with Sunday devotionals, they were receptive to the idea. They were pleased they had reached so many young people inside the community who actually were outside the structure of the camp itself. Because they regard the ranch as a sort of home-base missionary project, the Chapmans saw the idea of the services as an extension of their work for Christ. So they agreed. Checking with the students themselves, they decided to call it Sunday round-up. Since last September it has been operating under that name.

Attendance growing. From 15 to approximately 115, the congregation is growing weekly. The round-up is held in conjunction with a horse-back jaunt through the countryside. Anyone who likes to ride has access to one of the 30 horses kept at the ranch and, in small groups, they are escorted by youth leaders who also assist in the devotionals.

From the 9:30 a.m. rides until about 11:15 a.m., people fraternize in a spirit of fun. For those who have never been on a horse but want to, special instruction is supplied by students who know about

horses. They take novices around a ring where they familiarize themselves with horsemanship.

Right of the morning service is fresh, unstructured and, as Bruce Chapman puts it, "low profile." The leader explains that he tries to keep both the tempo of the camp and the Sunday sessions informal. "Easy on people," he says and is enthusiastic at the results the regular services are showing. Voices ring out with vigor and everyone joins in on songs projected on a screen accompanied by guitars and other instruments played by students.

Fridays are busy. Youth leaders begin to arrive from many areas on Fridays. Mostly they are affiliated with the home base Peoples Church in Toronto. Many are teenagers of high school age, others are university students.

According to Mr. Chapman, by about noon Saturday anywhere from 20 to 30 young leaders have arrived at the ranch. Usually the group is evenly divided, half girls and half boys. At this time of year it's spring spruce up time and, getting fences up and ranch grounds into shape is important. The market garden has to be worked up.

On Friday nights, staff and directors get together to plan activities. They discuss groups coming in, jobs to be done and formal of the Sunday service ahead. Each one is different with skills, Bible discussions and sermons alternating. Rousing camp songs with a Christian slant are important highlights.



INTENT ON LEARNING words of a folk-hymn projected on a screen, adults and children gather in casual fellowship at the Sunday morning round-up at Peoples Ranch located on the Fifth Line off the 15th Side Rd. of Nassagaweya. Services are actually a carry-over from summer camp days. Today large groups of all ages attend.

Bruce Chapman feels he and his family are running the ranch like a family ministry. "We are endeavoring to show, through action and living, what Christ means to us," he says.

Working with young people is not something new for the two directors. Bruce has for years been involved with athletics. He coached minor hockey for 15 years and has handled football players up to International B level. As a family the Chapmans enjoy skating together. At their former home in Nobleton near Schomberg they owned their own horses and riding is another family recreation.

Trained with youth. Chris has also been well trained in working with youth groups. They both apply their training, acting as counselors and as friends to campers and others dropping in at the ranch during off-hours. "Many people drop in at the ranch during the week to discuss problems," say the couple who like to feel the

work they are doing is for everyone. The Chapmans say they encourage all people who wish to visit for round-up time. They make a point of not bringing members in to join their specific church.

"Just to get them going to any church, and learning about Christianity is the important thing we stress," says Bruce Chapman.

As well as the Sunday services, the ranch is also a retreat for people who need quiet thinking time. On Wednesday evening an "informal bible study is held where, again, anybody who wishes to attend is welcomed at the checkhouse. The study begins at 7:30 and runs through to 10:30 p.m. with a cup of coffee on hand for refreshment.

Ranch self-supporting. At this point the Peoples Ranch is self-supporting. The home church subsidizes only capital expenditures. Sunday round-ups are free as are the horse-riding excursions. Those attending bring in

cookies and cake, the Chapmans supply coffee.

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Humenick's the name — gas, rugs the game

April 1 was no Fool's Day for Norm Humenick. That was the day he opened his new businesses.

Mr. Humenick took over the Chalet Oil gas station but was not just satisfied with this one business, not to mention his barber shop downtown, so he converted the bay into a rug cleaning room.

There is new method of carpet cleaning on the market, and Mr. Humenick was quick to see the advantages of it. He decided to establish one of Canada's few, if not the only cash and carry rug cleaning service.

Technical terms. The system used is called Streambrush, which is based on injecting a pressure stream of Hi-Temperature solution into the carpet in conjunction with a gentle brushing of the fibres to restore the original pile to a like-new condition.

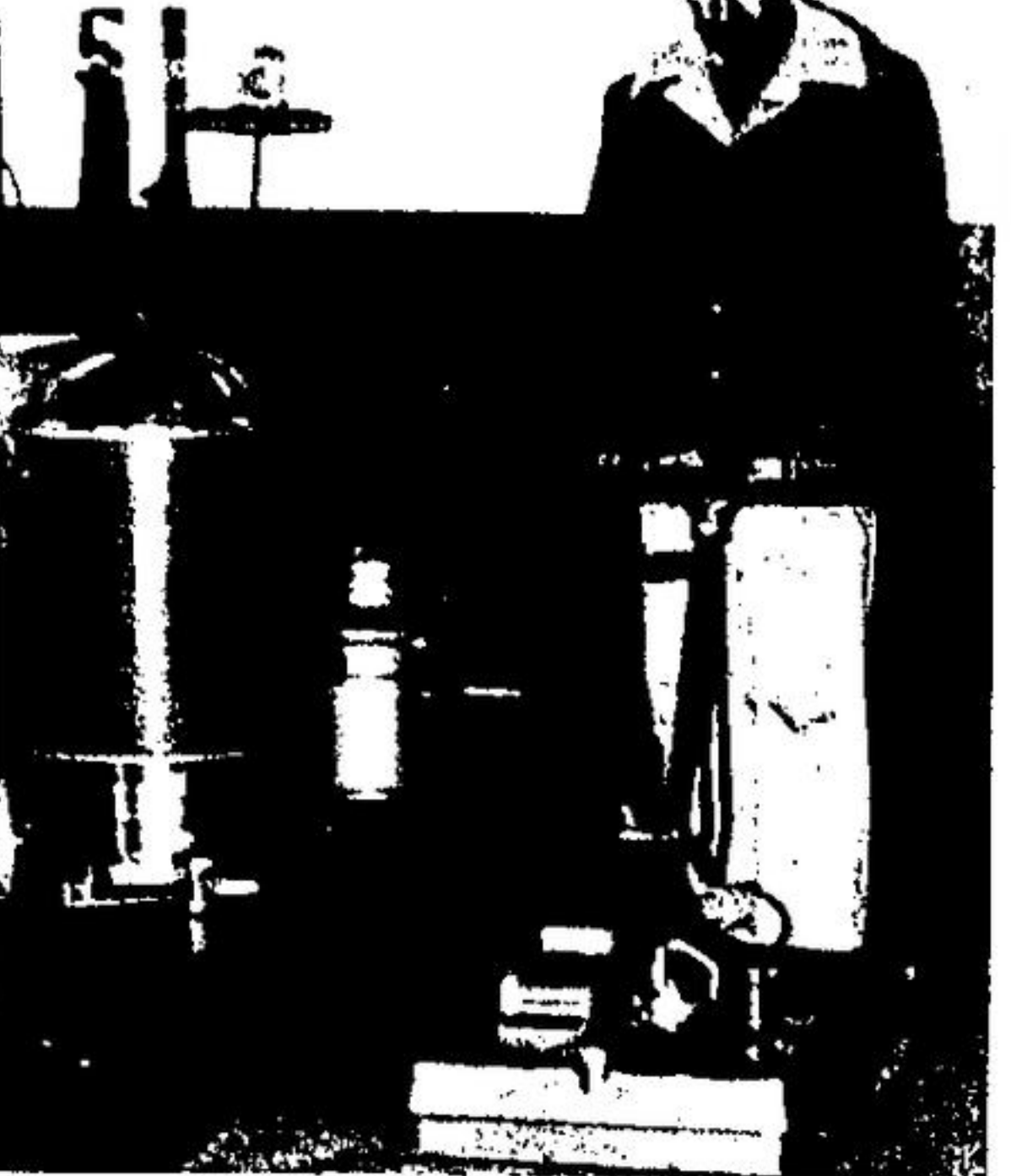
One of the advantages of this new method is there are no soap suds left in the carpet, which collect dirt. A vacuum-like machine is the only thing which goes

near the rugs, but this is attached to two large tubs by long hoses. One tub is full of the cleaning solution, while the other holds all the dirt and debris which is cleaned from the carpet. These stay in one spot, possibly in the next room, depending on how the hoses are.

Mr. Humenick wanted to serve his customers as cheaply as possible, thus the cash and carry. He saves money by not having to keep up a van to go and collect the carpets by asking the customers to bring the rugs to him.

He charges the same prices for all carpets, regardless of size, one price for all runners, again, regardless of size, and all mats, under the same paying principle. In this way, a five foot long runner would cost the same to clean as a 20 foot one, and a nine foot by ten foot carpet would cost the same as a five by seven size.

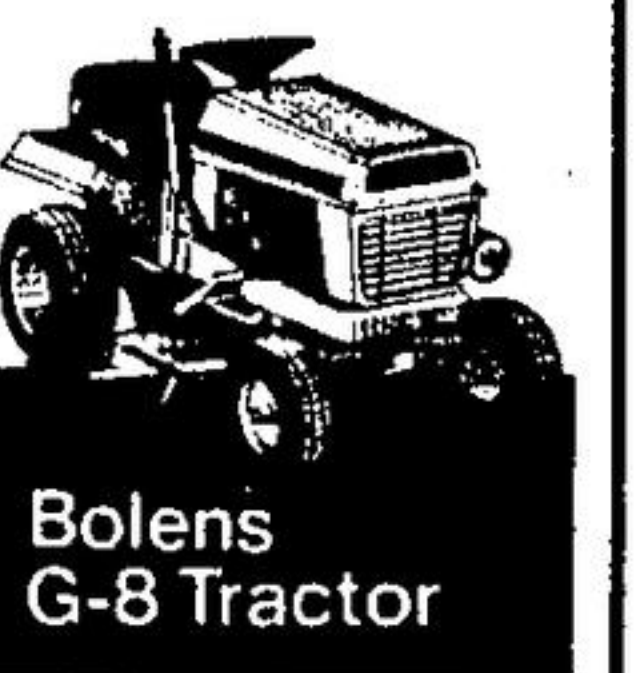
Mr. Humenick will go to homes in the case of wall-to-wall carpeting, and does furniture and car upholstery. Since being in the business, he has discovered several interesting items hidden within the rugs. Safety and bobby pins are the most common item, but he has found earrings deep within shag rugs.



NORM HUMENICK streambrushes a carpet in his new business. Streambrushing is a ultra-modern rug cleaning method. Beside him on the left are the vacuum (the smaller machine) and the tub in which the cleaning solution is put. There is another tub identical to this one that holds the dirt and debris which has been cleaned out of the carpet.

Water off
Hydrants were moved on Church St. this week prior to paving. Water was cut off for a while when the work was underway. Workmen of Halton region are those responsible now.

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