



This farm grows sofas, chairs, and fancy lamps. George Grundy of Ospringe has turned the family farm into a half-million dollar furniture business with barn-showroom-warehouse and observation tower site.

"Here to wheel, deal"

## Grundy enterprises lucrative

by Jennifer Barr

Who says you can't make money out of a farm?

George Grundy of Ospringe has and plans to do so for some time. But the secret is he doesn't really farm his 100 acres.

The Grundy farm near Acton is the seat of varied lucrative business schemes, the brain-children of enterprising 37-year-old Grundy.

By far the biggest and most successful operation is Grundy's furniture warehouse and auction barn, a 24,000 square foot building built from the Lady Eaton barn originally at the corner of Highways 5 and 25.

George will sell anything, so he tells you.

His auctions are held three times a week and attract customers from "all over". His radio advertising on such stations as CFRB, CHUM, CFGM, CKCL and CJOY has interested scores of people. So have the Drive-In ads in Guelph, Mississauga and Kitchener.

It's important for Grundy to have masses of customers because he likes to keep his prices down, he says, and volume is the only way he can make money.

Custom work

The auction and furniture business started only a few years ago and grew out of custom farming from the necessity to make the farm pay in some way.

In 1965, George, the middle child of seven—"I was the middle brat"—bought the family farm from his father. At the time George was involved in custom farming, since 1962, cultivating, harrowing, swathing, hay-baling, binding, and plowing for area farmers. At one time he ran ten tractors and ten men, not to mention other specialized equipment needed for such an operation.

The custom work has been cut by necessity to one large tractor and three small ones with no combining or planting done. Five men are employed during the farming season for custom work now.

Most of the Grundy farm is worked on lease with George doing the plowing and taking care of his own seven-acre enterprise up front.



George Grundy pauses for a brief moment of relaxation while operating his multi-business operation in Ospringe, north of Acton.

Growing like Topsy

Actually, what George has done in little over ten years is shove the farm around a lot. Buildings have been removed, added, rebuilt, renovated or just plain moved. It no longer looks remotely like the Grundy farm residents remember from a few years ago.

The house has been enlarged and apartments added. A huge drive shed has been built on to the back of the house. The original barn has gone and the new furniture warehouse has been growing like Topsy ever since it was first built.

Most of the front lot has been paved for parking hundreds of cars and the back has been having its topsoil stripped off for sale for some time.

"Did you wonder what I was doing

back there, did you notice the hole?"

George asks referring to the mountain of earth behind his residence.

"We're building a 20 acre lake and I'm going to stock it with fish."

Sell anything?

The incredible energy and sheer willpower of this man is evident in the amount of growth he has caused in such a short time.

All this carving and creating would take most people all of their time to supervise but George has done it in his spare time. He still spends six days a week on the furniture business.

George has said that he set out to prove you can be a success without taking people to the cleaners and he proves it by offering quality merchandise at low prices.

"We buy from the manufacturer and

sell name-brand stuff," George explains.

Two salesmen Kenny Smith and Bob Smith ("no relation") help keep the stock moving.

Auction sales are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons. The store is open from 8 a.m. till 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Auctioneers Alec Parr of Guelph and Brian Kurtz of Fergus take care of the actual selling although George is in and around during all over at these auctions.

On the last Saturday of every month, George holds an "anything goes" auction—a sort of giant garage sale.

"We've helped clean a lot of basements and garages in the area," he chuckles.

"If anybody can use it we can sell it," he continues, "We want to help people save—everyone who wants to save money should come here."

Aid to crippled children

But Grundy's life isn't all business. He has time for his wife Cecile and children George, 10, Diana, 8, and Julie 6. He collects antiques and helps the community too.

When his dramatic observation tower, built from a silo, was completed and opened two years ago, he held an auction for the crippled children's fund, donating all the proceeds, or \$3,600, to the fund.

He'd like to do it again as soon as he can interest manufacturers in donating more items.

Although the tower was built as an attraction gimmick, the fund sale was not. George feels very strongly about helping the fund having been nearly crippled himself when he was 21.

"There was only a 40 percent chance I'd ever walk again (from back damage)," he comments ruefully.

Although his back still bothers him, George doesn't rest much—"how do you relax in business?"

With a half-million dollars in turnover last year, George Grundy is aiming for a million this year. But he's not greedy. He says any reasonable offer on any item he has for sale will be accepted.

"We're here to wheel and deal."

## Cobham president of Ladies' Fair Board

by Heather Rennie  
The Ladies' Division of the Acton Agricultural Society held their annual meeting Wednesday, January 3 at the Acton public library. Thirteen members were present. Ruth Linham presented the report of the nominating committee:

president, Carmela Cobham; first vice-president, Heather Rennie; second vice-president, Marlene Steckley; secretary-treasurer, Diane Evans; press reporter, Evelyn Aitken; and card convener, Lucille Cooksley. The slate of officers was unanimously accepted.

In support of efforts to save the town hall, the ladies will pledge \$25 to the town hall committee. A letter of congratulations will be sent to Victoria Lenizky, the reigning Miss Acton Fair in recognition of her success in obtaining a six month modelling contract in Paris.

The annual meeting of the Acton Agricultural Society will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at

Knox Church Hall at 7.30. The ladies' division has been asked to supply refreshments. Heather Rennie and Irene Swackhamer will be responsible. Various ideas for a spring fund raising project were discussed.

## January meeting

Many members had braved icy streets to attend the regular meeting of the Golden Age Club Tuesday, January 2.

Discussion followed the suggestion that the evening meetings of January, February and March be changed to the afternoons. However, it was decided to remain the same.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Doris Fryer who was a valued member before she went to reside at the Manor.

The meeting was adjourned to play eight games, of euchre—the winners being Mrs. L. Dennis and Mrs. A. Lambert for ladies and Joe Fuller and Walter Hug for men.

Lena Mann and Ivan Lillierop were recipients of birthday greetings.

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## Youths to enter residence

Operation of the staff residence at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton as a home for troubled youth will be the subject of discussion between the Halton Health and Social Services Committee and the Sheridan Youth Association.

The committee decided to enter the negotiations with the association at its first meeting of the 1979-80 term Tuesday, Dec. 19. The association had

made a previous offer but the committee decided to withhold a decision until after the Nov. 13 election.

The committee's decision was made on the recommendation of Jack Charlton, manor administrator.

Mr. Charlton had no objections to using the former staff residence as a home for troubled youths.

He said he did not envisage any problems mixing the young and the

old. Nor did he have any opposition to the proposed renovations the association will be undertaking.

Although Mr. Charlton acknowledged Halton Recovery House and Halton Women's Place had made presentations to use the staff residence, he recommended the association use the building because it had a formal plan and provincial financing.

## Phony chain locks for sale

The latest scam of apartment thieves is to sell chain locks which can be opened by a key outside the door, police have reported.

The scam came to light at an apartment building in Milton where the

superintendent said that two men had gone through the building selling chain locks.

Both in their early 30's with short dark hair, the men claimed to be representatives of

management and offered locks claimed to be worth \$29.95 for \$12.95.

The two men each carried a flight bag with tools and upon selling a chain lock, installed it, police said.

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