

FAME President Urges Farmers Join New Markettime Enterprise

Several dozen Nassagaweya farmers gathered in Brockville Community Hall Wednesday evening, November 29, to hear several speakers, including Charles McGinnis, former president of the Ontario Hog Producers and now president of Farmers Allied Meat Enterprises (FAME). The meeting was sponsored by the Nassagaweya Federation of Agriculture.

Archie Service, a Nassagaweya farmer and 2nd Vice President of FAME, was named chairman of the meeting, introducing the

speakers and conducting the discussions. Mr. McGinnis stated "We in agriculture are face to face with some serious problems. Farming as a way of life is being threatened." He explained people were attempting to turn farming into strictly a business proposition. "I hope we never get to the stage where farming is a business. The production of food in co-operation with nature is more than a business . . . it will always maintain its status."

Mr. McGinnis stated, "Farmers

down through the years have developed a community life which produces friendship, companionship . . . this community life is being threatened because of economic conditions. In 1960, Canadian farmers made \$9,000,000 less than they did in 1959, yet the cost of operating was up \$7,000,000 and the people of Canada paid \$162,000,000 more for their food. . . this is a serious situation and one which cannot be allowed to go on." He mentioned that 50 and more years ago, the average farmer produced enough food for himself and his wife; now the average farmer produces enough for himself, his wife and from 100 to 150 others, yet the standard of living has certainly not improved correspondingly.

The FAME president gave the chief reason which he believes is responsible for the low standard of living of farmers, "We as farm people have been interested in only one thing — producing. We have made little or no investigation into the marketing of our produce . . . because of this, we are forced to take what the trade will give us for our produce. . . the trade sets our prices and so our standard of living . . ."

"It has come to the point where we've got to go a little bit further . . . you have better than \$20 invested to every \$1 of the other fellow, yet you got less than 40 cents on the dollar while the other fellow got better than 60 cents. How long can this be allowed to go on? . . . prices are not determined by the laws of supply and demand but by manipulation and price fixing at your expense and that of the consumer. While this is going on, we as farmers are being squeezed out."

"There has been a movement among producers in past months to go into marketing. This is our last chance, our only hope to save agriculture. If we are going to save the family farm, the farm community, we must get into this business of marketing. There are four pressures keeping prices down: the chain store . . . the wholesaler . . . the processor . . . and the country buyer. These forces must be overridden."

He said that it would be necessary for the farmers to go into marketing in a big way, to build

new packing plants across the province and to do this, unite in a financial way. "If we set aside one cent in every dollar of produce, we would have three million dollars a year . . . we can and should find ways and means."

He informed the audience just what they could expect FAME to do if the farmers did join and enter marketing as suggested. "If we do it, what is FAME going to do for us? The problem is that price levels are too low. The first thing we have to do to change this is to create competition . . . by being in there and bidding to raise price levels . . . another great opportunity is the surplus levels down . . . we can get in there and handle these surpluses for the benefit of producers rather than the benefit of trade. Surpluses are being used to push prices down when people are going to bed starving. It would pay Canada to give surpluses away and would do much good as well."

In closing Mr. McGinnis asked, "Are we ready to assume the responsibility or are we ready to go ahead and continue to pray to God to give us a harvest, then allow trade to use it to their benefit? It's not so much what we're going to get out of it, but what we can do for mankind, for business, for the farm community . . . FAME gives us the opportunity to help make this a better world."

When later questioned on contract farming, Mr. McGinnis said that those involved in this are crowding the average producer out of business. He said, "In a few years, either they are going to be in control or we as producers will have control collectively and co-operatively. FAME gives us the opportunity of being in a controlling position, of being our own masters."

Clayton Frye, vice-president of FAME, reiterated part of Mr. McGinnis' speech to emphasize the point and also made mention of the fact that, under the present system, many farmers are forced to seek work off the farm to supplement their income. Mr. Frye said that the need is obvious for a strong organization.

William Mahon, president of Halton Co-operative Supplies, chairman Archie Service, second vice-president of FAME, Roy Coulter and Cliff Brown, president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture, spoke briefly, emphasizing the importance of co-operatives and the need for a powerful farmers' organization.

Yule Message for Farm People By College Chaplain W. A. Young

By Padre W.A. Young Ontario Agricultural College

About this time of year, a strange and indefinable spirit takes possession of the world. It permeates the remotest corners of our existence, and its magic is felt wherever a human being lives. Somehow, we are more kind and sympathetic to others. We declare a brief moratorium on hate, and the ferocious competition among us takes on a kinder aspect. The gentle, happy realm of childhood comes near to our hard-bitten adult world, and most of us become as little children again, generous, kind and gay.

For a little while we forget our sophistication, and our vaunted progress, and gather in spirit around the manger in the stable at Bethlehem, where a child was born.

Those of you who are farmers went to the barn this morning to do the chores. The animals were waiting for you as they always are. And you were greeted by the welcoming, comforting sounds of the stable. There is no finer feeling that can come to a man than to know that he is trusted by his livestock. You fed your stock, and paused a moment to listen to the contented sounds of feeding.

In A Stable
Then perhaps, you remembered. It is Christmas! And the greatest event in the history of the world took place in a stable on the first Christmas Eve. It was so important that we number our years from that day! It happened in a stable because there were "No Vacancy" signs everywhere else!

And we who love and respect the animals of the farm have a warmth in our hearts as we remember that it was the cattle and the sheep who first welcomed the Son of God to the world. Everyone else was too busy!

And we remember, too, that it was the Shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night, who heard the herald angels sing the first Christmas Carol. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men." No one else was listening.

So, I think Christmas should have a very special meaning for farmers.

Message For All
But not only for farmers. We all need Christmas, and perhaps

and heartaches, but the needs and heartaches of others. So the spirit of Christmas will become the answer to the strife and confusion of our troubled world.

After dinner, it is better to remove the stuffing from fowl and refrigerate it and the bird separately, advise the Information Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

THANK YOU TO THE ELECTORS OF OUR NEW TOWN

For their vote during the election.

Gordon W. Leaver

THANKS!

TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED ME IN THE RECENT ELECTION, YOUR CONFIDENCE IS APPRECIATED.

Charles Wilson

School Board Fetes P. Merry Boyne Centre Becoming Busy

By Mrs. Cecil Ratterson

A pleasant event took place on Monday evening when Percy Merry was honored with a presentation and dinner at the County Squire. Mr. Merry has been a member of the Trafalgar Area school board since its inception in 1944. He served five years as chairman and this year is retiring as the area board is to be disbanded prior to amalgamation with Oakville.

All former members of the board with the administrative staff were present. All had a pleasant time reminiscing and recalling past days. Mr. Merry was presented with a gift by E. J. James on behalf of the board and Mrs. Merry received a lovely mixed bouquet of flowers from Mrs. E. Irvine.

Mrs. William McCartney of Boyne returned home from Milton Hospital this past week. Friends hope she is soon feeling better.

Fine Euchre
An enjoyable euchre party was held in Boyne Community centre on Saturday evening with a large attendance. Prize winners were Melville Dolby, Wilfred Lawrence, Mrs. John Devlin and Mrs. Wilbert Ford. A travelling prize for lone hands was won by Clare Ford.

The annual meeting and election of officers was held and nearly all were returned to office. President is Norman Clark, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Staff Curtis; committee, John Willmott, Howard Gowland, Norm Clark and Melville Dolby.

It is planned to hold a social every two weeks, alternating a euchre party and a dance. At these affairs, the ladies will provide lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon donated a hamper of apples and these were won by Mr. and Mrs. H. Winch. Sweet cider, also a treat from the Gowland family, was enjoyed by all.

At the close of meeting, a delicious lunch was served.

Hospitalized
We are sorry to report that Jim Jarvis, third son of Mrs.

Charles Jarvis, is a patient in Milton District Hospital where he underwent surgery on Thursday and a second operation on Tuesday morning. His many friends wish him a speedy and complete recovery to good health.

Many from this district attended the funeral service in Milton on Monday for the late William Boyes. Mr. Boyes was in apparent good health but suffered a heart attack and passed away shortly after he retired on Friday evening at the home of Carl Cartwright. He was in his 84th year, his wife died several years ago. He is survived by a sister, a brother and several nieces and nephews. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton.

Anniversary Dinner
We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Anderson on their 25th wedding anniversary December 5. To honor them on this occasion a family dinner was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer McCann on Sunday, December 3. They received many good wishes and gifts.

Relatives and friends of this district were saddened on Sunday, December 3 to learn that Carol Galbraith, pretty young daughter of Mrs. Peggy Galbraith and the late Albert Galbraith of Markham, had been killed in a car accident on Kennedy Road in Toronto. Funeral service was held on Tuesday and interment was in Omagh Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Carol's father was also killed in an accident eight years ago. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the mother, brother Bob and sister in their sad bereavement and to all others who mourn the passing of this young person.

Sympathy is extended to the Harry Burton family on the death of their small child last week.

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TOM ANDERSON

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MILTON ELECTORS
FOR CONSIDERING MY EFFORT ON COUNCIL WORTHY OF ANOTHER TERM. I WILL CONTINUE TO UPHOLD THE INTEREST OF MILTON.
Charles Johnson

FOR THE TRUST PLACED IN ME THROUGH ELECTION TO MILTON COUNCIL MY SINCERE THANKS I WILL ENDEAVOR TO JUSTIFY THAT TRUST IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MILTON
GEORGE PURDY

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