

# Champion Farm Page



"WELFARE" a prize bull of the Griffin herd poses here with Smith and the hired hand. The bull was a bit reluctant to have his photo taken and had to be held tight by his master. The shorthorn herd was established in 1915 by Smith E. Griffin and has been in existence ever since.—(Staff Photo)

## Farm in Griffin family for more than 100 years

R. R. 2, Acton or Lot 11, Concession 6, Erin Township, is well known to all farmers of the area. This farm and surrounding land has been owned and occupied by the Griffin family since 1838. Smith E. Griffin of Smithville first bought the land in 1838 for the sum of 50 pounds. He settled on the land and raised a family of six children. He died in 1859, and left the farm to his son William. William retired in 1911 and moved to Erin, leaving the farm to his son Smith E. Griffin who in turn gave the farm over to his son Harold L. Griffin, and is now operated by his son Smith R. Griffin.

The Griffins are of Welsh descent. Smith represents the 11th generation since his family came to this country and is the fifth generation to live on the farm.

Mixed farming is not a common practise for all farmers today. Now most specialize in one breed of cattle, dairy or beef, and one commercial crop. The Griffin century farm has pure bred beef cattle with sheep, turkeys and registered seed grain.

The pure bred Griffin beef herd was established in 1915 by the late S. E. Griffin and his son Harold and is still maintained under the name of "S. E. Griffin and Son." The herd is comprised of Scotsdale Sterling and Welfare Sterling breeds. Approximately 100 heifers and two bulls make up the prize herd. Each year some cattle from the herd are entered in 10 or 12 of the local fairs.

Most feed for the stock is produced right on the farm and planted, cultivated and harvested with their own equipment. Feed used for the herd is hay, grain, barley, corn and oats. The cattle pasture outdoors all summer, but are kept inside during the cold winter months. If winter weather is warm the cattle are turned outdoors for a breath of fresh air. "At one time the herd was always brought in during winter," said Harold Griffin. "These cattle are good foragers and can utilize ruffage exceptionally well. During a storm the herd will gather together under a tree for warmth," he added, "but this is often dangerous as a bolt of lightning could strike the tree, and a good number could be lost."

Smith is president of The Ontario Shorthorn Association and recently returned from a trip to Costa Rica, where two shorthorn bulls from the S. G. Bennett farm were sold by private treaty. The bulls will be used on native cattle there as Shorthorn Drummond cattle are rare in that country. The trip was a joint effort sponsored by the Ontario Food Council and the Department of Agriculture and Food. Aside from a prize herd of

## Ontario apple growers must strive to meet competition

By E. Estabrooks  
With great increases in apple acreage being planted in North America during recent years, a great deal of competition for markets from other apple growing regions is anticipated. Apple growers in Ontario will have to become more efficient in the use of land, labor and good cultural practices to meet this competition. To assist growers to this end a series of special meetings are being held in six locations across the province sponsored by the Ontario Apple Commission and the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

**Meet Sept. 8**  
The meeting being held for apple growers in the Toronto-Hamilton area is being held on the evening of Sept. 8 at Chudleigh Bros. Orchard, Highway 25, just north of Milton. Featured on the program will be Dr. D. H. Heinicke, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wenatchee, Washington, who will talk about and demonstrate pruning and training of apple trees. Dr. Bob Fisher of the

Canada Research Station, Vineland Station will discuss a sprayer evaluation project which has been conducted in the past two years in an attempt to discover the limitations of sprayers being used to apply pesticides for insect and disease control. With emphasis being placed on apple quality for consumer satisfaction and to meet competition, two talks with emphasis

on quality will be presented at this meeting. Mr. Reid Dunham, of the Farm Products Inspection Branch will discuss the selection and grading of apples for controlled atmosphere storage and Dr. Sam Loughheed, University of Guelph, will discuss indices for determining optimum maturity in McIntosh apples. To accommodate such a full program, the meeting will get underway at 7 o'clock.

## 4-H shows calves just for practice

On Aug. 24 the Acton 4-H Calf Club held a two part meeting. The first part started at about 7.30 p.m. at the farm of Mr. K. Murray. Susan Murray, Pat Murray, Susan Maly, Janet Clendinning and Karen Pierce got the meeting underway by leading their calves for practice in showmanship. Nino Braida, club leader, acted as a judge to make it seem like the official fair day. Carol Somerville gave a talk on the grooming of a calf. Many questions were asked, and while a cold drink was served Cathy Lasby thanked the host Mr. Murray.

**Show calves**  
The second part of the meeting took place at the farm of Mr. Lasby. Bob and Cathy Lasby showed calves (shorthorns) and Russell Murray showed Bill's as he was absent.

**Special machinery**  
The turnip crop is planted with special machinery, the planter covering two rows at a time. When the root is approximately one inch long, the crop is sprayed with the first treatment of insecticide. The crop is then left for another month, and given a second spray. "Our turnips are late turnips," said Smith. The early ones seem to have such little taste and such a watered centre. Their crop will be harvested during the first week of November.

Smith was also chairman of the Ontario Turnip Growers Association for a number of years. Is mixed farming a hard life for the Griffins? "Not hard, just busy," was the reply.

been postponed in order to beat the dark.

The President opened the meeting with the 4-H Pledge and Carol Somerville, secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting which were adopted as read. The secretary then took roll call and the business of building a float was brought up by Bob Lasby. They discussed the float and nominated Keith Aitken, Cathy Lasby, Bob Lasby, Norma Leslie, Susan Murray and Carol Somerville for a committee.

**Quiz night**  
Next the secretary handed out name badges to be worn at 4-H events. We were told quiz night was to be on Sept. 9 and projects must be completed that day. Susan Murray moved that the meeting be adjourned and Tom Parker seconded it.

Refreshments were served and Pat Murray thanked the host, Mr. Lasby.

## Apple meeting at Milton

The fall apple meeting sponsored by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food and Apple Marketing Commission will be held in Milton Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.

## Furrow queen contest held with plow match

By H. J. Stanley  
This year the Halton Furrow Queen Competition is to be held at the same time as our Halton Junior Plowing Match. The location is the farm of Ward Brownridge, about one mile north of Hornby on the 7th Line.

The days activities will commence at 9.30 a.m. with coaching to all competitors on match plowing. Boys and girls 14 to 21 years of age, as of Nov. 1, 1970, will then compete in two classes of plowing. The winner in each class receives prize money with the overall champion receiving

the J. E. Whitelock Memorial Trophy.

The top competitors will also be selected to compete in the International Plowing Match to be held Oct. 13-17, 1970 in Victoria County.

The Furrow Queen competition is slated for 1.30 p.m. when contestants will plow and then present a three minute talk. All contestants must have been raised on a farm and be 11 to 24 years of age as of Nov. 1, 1970.

Anyone interested in the Halton Furrow Queen Competition should contact Mrs. Spencer Wilson, R. R. 1, Norval, the chairman of this committee.

## Will investigate pond pollution

Milton Council moved against pollution Monday as members agreed to provide a truck and driver for delivery of non-returnable bottles collected by the local Operation Survival group.

Reeve Ron Harris noted a drive was being scheduled for September when non-returnable bottles would be collected by the group. The bottles then have to be delivered to a centre in Hamilton.

Council agreed to the provision of truck and driver for the Hamilton trip.

**Clean pond**  
Deputy Reeve Percy Barr wondered if students could be organized to clean up the mill pond areas where a Champion letter writer had complained of pollution in last week's issue.

The extent of town ownership up the stream from the mill pond was to be looked into by the works committee to determine how far it had authority.

The letter writer in last week's issue observed how pleasant the pond was until she cycled to the entrance where she complained of polluting rubbish left along stream banks.

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shorthorns, Griffin's also have a flock of 20 Suffolk sheep.

The Griffin farm has also specialized in registered seed grain and certified seed potatoes for a number of years. Seed grain is used for commercial planting and is sold locally to farmers, although on occasion it is exported to the United States. The grain is grown and cleaned in the seed plant right on the farm.

The late S. E. Griffin was made a "Robertson Associate Member" in 1937. This medal was given in recognition to a grain grower who had done outstanding work in producing pure seed grain. This medal made him a life member of the association.

While certified seed potatoes are no longer grown on the farm, they also were used for over 50 years. These potatoes won many prizes over the years as well as the grand champion award at the Royal Winter Fair in 1927 and 1928. A silver cup was given for the honor in '27, a gold pocket watch in 1928. Both are treasured souvenirs at the Griffin homestead.

Griffins are members of the "Old Guard" at the Royal Winter

Fair in Toronto, having exhibited continuously since the show started.

The original Griffin homestead was 100 acres in size but has since increased to 250 acres. The century old house was built by an uncle of the late S. E. Griffin.

In recent years they have specialized in growing table turnips. These eight acres are cut by hand and turnips are washed and waxed right on the farm. The turnip is washed in a large tub and placed in a grocery cart for waxing. The cart is built with handles at the side so the turnips can be lowered into and lifted from the hot wax coating. "Where two turnips touch in the basket means the wax coating is not perfect. Therefore the cart is given a flip, to ensure an even wax coating on each separate turnip," said Smith. And have they ever been burned by the hot

wax? "It sometimes splashes on your clothes," he said "but no one has been seriously hurt."

**Special machinery**  
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