

Vic Lawrence is honored for years of Co-Op work

Vic Lawrence, formerly of R. R. 2, Oakville, a pioneer of the co-operatives in Halton County, was honored recently at a special gathering in the Hillcrest United Church at Hornby.

Mr. Lawrence and his wife Rita are well known for their community activities in Halton County. After Mr. Lawrence retired from the Council of Delegates at the UCO branch last fall, his colleagues decided to have a special evening for the Lawrences to recognize all the contributions they have made over the years. A euchre night was held. The Lawrences and 70 of their friends and neighbors attended.

The Lawrences were presented with an original painting by the people who attended. United Co-operatives of Ontario, Milton Branch, presented Mr. Lawrence with a silver tray in recognition of his 36 years of service to co-operators in Halton County. Mrs. Lawrence was presented with a bouquet of roses.

Praise service Don Cleave, R.R. 2, Norval, chairman of the council of delegates for Milton branch was chairman for the evening. He called on Archie Service, 135 Town Line, Milton, who spoke at length on the early days of the farmer buying clubs at Milton and the growth of the co-operative out of the buying clubs. Sam Harrop, who used to farm in the Milton area and served on the board of directors at the time of merger with UCO, praised Vic's leadership and assistance on the board during his term.

George Pelletier, R.R. 6, Milton voiced similar sentiments as the other speakers, noting that it was Vic Lawrence who really helped to steer the former co-operative through the merger program. Mr. Lawrence served as a charter director of the former Co-op and has been on the Co-op Council for the branch as delegate and secretary since merger with UCO.

Mr. Lawrence recalled a number of significant events that had happened when the co-operative was struggling to get a foothold as a useful service to members and patrons. He noted that in the early days the directors themselves had to put up \$10,000 in funds when the bank wouldn't provide a loan to keep the business going. This and other events had made the many years he had spent in co-operative service most interesting, he said.

A buffet lunch completed a successful evening.



MR. AND MRS. VIC LAWRENCE were honored by United Co-operatives of Ontario recently at a party in their honor at Hornby. UCO Halton chairman Don Cleave of Norval, left, presented a painting and silver tray in recognition of Mr. Lawrence's many years of service to the organization.



PAST PRESIDENTS Ed Harrop, Bill Breckon and Joe Willmott were honored by the Halton Crop and Soil Improvement Association for their years of service to the group. Agricultural representative Henry Stanley, left, presents past president's pins to the three first presidents of the 35-year-old organization. Mr. Breckon holds a sample of the wheat which made him World Wheat King in 1954.

(Photo by R. Downs)

Soil, crop Assoc.

Past presidents honored

Past presidents were in the limelight Friday when Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association held a special night to honor its chief officers during the past 35 years. All but five of the 26 men who have been president of HSCIA since its formation in 1939 were on hand for the ceremonies and each received a silver past president's pin.

Specially honored were the first three presidents of the group, charter president W. E. Breckon who was president 1939-40, Joseph H. Willmott who followed him in the chair for two years, and Edwin Harrop who was 1943-44 president. Each gave a short talk and reminisced about the work of the group in its early years.

Others honored were Addison T. Woodley 1945-46, Vernon E. McArthur 1949-50, Fred Nurse 1953-54, Ross Segsworth 1955-56, Maurice Beatty 1957-58, Brock Harris 1959, Johnston Neelands 1960, Fred Bell 1962, Hugh Beato 1964, Russell Hurren 1965, Sam Harrop 1966, Calvin Aitken 1967, Clarence Ford Jr. 1968, Harold Middlebrook 1969, Claude Inglis 1971, Colin Marshall 1972, Earl Wilson 1973 and Harold Biggar 1974.

One past president C.L.S. Palmer who served in 1947-48 is deceased. Unable to be present for the ceremony were 1951-52 president Claude F. Pickett, Sam Finnie Sr. who served in 1961, Jim McKay 1963 and Tom Foster 1970.

A large crowd was on hand for the occasion and games of euchre opened the program, with 20 tables in play. The Halton Sodbusters Orchestra entertained. Current president Harold Biggar and secretary Henry J. Stanley were in charge of the program and Mr. Stanley had a display of newspaper clippings, photographs and booklets on display.

Winning wheat Also on display was a sample of the wheat that made charter president Bill Breckon the World Wheat King in 1954. Mr. Breckon became famous for winning this honor as it was the only time Ontario has had a winner in the world-wide competition.

Mr. Stanley also showed slides of HSCIA activities, bustrips and field crop projects over the years, which brought back a lot of memories for those involved.

When it was organized Jan. 20, 1939 the group was known as Halton Field Crop and Seed Growers Association and included members from Erin and Eramosa. Among the first directors were president Breckon, Ed Harrop, Tom Brownridge, Joe Willmott, Vic Lawrence, Edgar Ellenton and Lloyd Chisholm, all of whom were present Friday. One of the group's first major projects was getting a county-wide soil survey tak-

en, which lasted until another was taken four or five years ago.

Lacked labor then Among the group's early complaints were low prices and lack of farm labor—which caused a ripple of laughter in Friday's audience as those are still sources in contention. Stanley reviewed the machinery shortages during the war years, a bus trip to Ohio in 1950 and one to the mint in Ottawa, the twilight meetings, pasture contests, grain corn and high yield contests, soil and land judging and one successful corn day.

Over the years the presidents changed every year or two but the group has only had three secretaries in its 35 years of existence. J. E. Whitelock served as secretary until 1959, then Al Francis held the post for five years and Henry Stanley has been secretary for the past 10 years. Traditionally the county agricultural representative serves as secretary.

Much praise was given to the late Mr. Whitelock by several speakers.

Charter president Breckon said it was "an organization to be proud of, because it is helping the farmer do a better job with his soil, his crop, his harvesting, etc." HSCIA's work has never caused any inflation in Halton, he joked, but it has led to lower production costs of the farms. Farmers here have progressed with better methods of doing their work, not pressure groups demanding more money, he concluded.

Praises agricultural representative Past president Willmott praised Mr. Whitelock and his two successors and reviewed some of the history, as published in the Junior Farmers' silver anniversary book, "Leaves of Silver." He recalled helping to found the Junior Farmer movement in 1915 and serving as president of the Milton group in 1916.

The third past president to speak, Edwin Harrop recalled many pleasant memories of his years of association with the group and praised Whitelock as "the driving force" behind it. "I only hope the association continues to do its good work," he concluded.

Greetings were brought

from the Ontario association by District director George Gardhouse of Peel, who reminded the group that "out of recognition for the past, comes direction for the future," and by soil and crop specialist Paul Fish who has been working with the group for the past five years.

Vernon McArthur of Burlington, who was Halton's weed inspector for many years, also spoke briefly.

Jack Taylor was the only member to record a perfect score in the barley judging competition. Prizes for the top euchre scores went to Mrs. Alfred Ford and Andy Frank.

Delegates took a look at what Junior Farmers should be, what other people think of the organization, and what a Junior Farmer thinks and does. Local clubs are interested in expanding their membership and new members are welcome.

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