### Successful farming for Pete Van Niekerk requires good business sense

Did you hear the story market. about the farmer who was lottery?

was all gone," he replied. increased acreage, and Well that may be funny, more progressive but it is not ture.

Today's farmer is a avoid either being forced competent businessman, to incorporate themselves often as not head of a million dollar agri- neighbouring agri-corcorporation.

Shares in some of the

MF

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that have survived the he won the million dollar fast moving, constantly changing agricultural "I reckon I'd just keep industry have had to on farmin' 'till the money adjust to new equipment,

poration.

agricultural methods to or be swallowed up by a

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Maple Grove on County Even the family farms Road 13 (Airport Road) three miles south of

> Pete Van Niekerk ships out 2,500 pounds of bought the original family farm in 1956 for \$18,500, and has recently expanded from 200 acres to 550 acre dairy

The original 200 acres is evaluated at \$225,000 today. This spring he added another 150 acres that he paid \$75,000 for bringing his total land holdings to a value of \$300,000.

In addition, Mr. Van

Niekerk rents 200 acres the butter and cheese," including a 100 acre Blue Mountains.

> milk from it's 62 head of Pete likes cows. "My Work is my hobby," he said in an interview, "I

enjoy working with Raised on a dairy farm He recalled memories of growing up on a small dairy farm in Holland helping his father care for thirty cows on their 50

acre farm. "My job was to make

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Massey Ferguson

Pete said. A process that month to take a course in pasture on Collingwood's became part of his life for ice cream making," he eight years while he was Everyday the farm employed by Bessie's

Agricultural College and worked for three years. worked for the Depart- But, finding this farm was ment of Agriculture after not exactly what he graduation. family to their present

In 1949, he packed his belongings and sailed for Canada with his new bride Maria and \$125 in his pocket.

In 1953, Pete Van Dairy in Stayner, from Niekerk purchased the 100 acre farm across from Pete attended Holland's Stavner Collegiate that he wanted, Pete moved his

Prize winning cattle Three year old Holstein A three month course in Wm. Master Glenda and two year old Happy dairy farming at Guelph was the first order of earned awards in 1973 as

"top producers". The

acreage on the Airport

"I stayed on one more by the Huronia Dairy Herd Improvement Association to Glenda for contributing 23,757 pounds of milk during the year with 729 pound of

butter fat content. are not his ambition.

"I have made cattle my life's work," Pete stressed, "I like cattlejust doesn't pay."

at Maple Grove has been bred and raised at the

and a half year old heifers equipment." that we will milk next The huge automatic year; 20 yearlings; and 20 milking machines, three

artificial breeding invites Maple Grove.

Giffen opened the

meeting by asking

everyone to repeat the 4-

The girls then answered

H pledge.

"A Pleasant

259 Innisfil St.

Place to

awards were presented infections. "Natural breeding is the best," he commented.

With 122 cows to feed, most of the farm land is used for feed grains. "We have 110 acres of

barley, 55 acres of corn, But records and awards and the rest is mostly hay and alfalfa. Good equipment essential Equipment is very

important in farming but not show business. It today especially with a large operation. Mr. Van Most of the dairy herd Niekerk believes in buying quality.

"Sixteen years ago I bought a new tractor and "This spring we had it still purrs like a sewing forty calves. Now we machine. I believe in have 62 milk cows; 20 one Massey Ferguson

New Flos 4-H Garden Club

gets tips on good gardening

massive sylos, tractors Some of the stock are and equipment, and fully registered animals. Mr. modernized barns run Van Niekerk feels that into a six figure asset for A family farm for the family

Pete and Ria raised six children. Marion is the eldest and the only girl. John, 23, discovered farming full time was not for him. John is employed by the TD Bank in Elmvale. Peter, 21, and Gary, 19, are their father's right hand men.

Pete hopes to eventually have both boys attend the agricultural college in Guelph. Seventeen-yearold Andy and Ron, 15, are students at Stayner Collegiate.

Both boys farm full time.

A few goats, rabbits, and chickens take up residence in the barn vard to compete with the two family dogs for the boys' attention.

flower garden when she

"Freezer Quiz" and did a use of her home for the

has a few spare moments out of her busy day.

Pete likes to keep track of the newspapersespecially the financial

The big old farm house is undergoing renovations at the moment but the uniquely quaint atmosphere dominates the setting. The wall ornaments and furnishings declare the family's Dutch heritage. A huge fishing net imported from Holland adorns the dining room ceiling; demi-tasse china tea sets picturing tiny windmills peek out from a beautifully carved cabinet brought over in 1949 from Holland.

Mr. Van Niekerk said "My pleasure is to see the boys continue far-Ria putters in her ming,...and I like to drive a good car."

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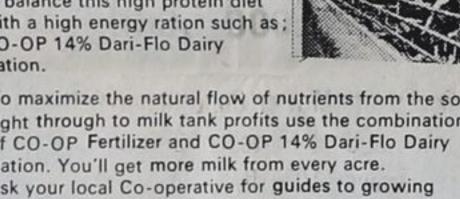
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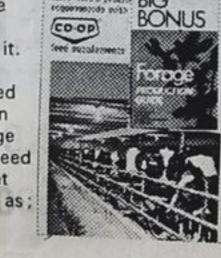


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### SIMCOE DISTRICT CO-OP

### Special garden culture "Flower, Fruit and fourth meeting on New Flos 4-H Garden (staking tomatoes, Vegetable" Crossword. Club was held at the home pruning cucumbers, Nancy Giffen offered the 2. of Connie Giffen on hilling etc.) was Tuesday evening, June discussed also Food 4-H Homemaking Preservation - Freezing All eight members and and Common Root their leaders, Mrs. Storage. Porretta and Mrs. Darlene Del Mastro and Edina Vander Wielen Conference Wanless were present. The president, Pat

offered to prepare and package rhubarb for the freezer and then Lisa Keeney and Linda Porretta offered to prepare and package asparagus to be frozen.

bed in the front lawn.

the roll call, "A report on the progress of my Insect and Disease Afterwards everyone Control for Garden

adjourned to the garden Vegetables and where Connie gave a Vegetables for Good demonstration of thinning Health according to radishes and Nancy Canada's Food Guide Giffen transplanted were topics of discussion. calendulas into a flower The girls answered the

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Wednesday evening, July

by Susan M. Stanbury Home Economist North Simcoe County An enthusiastic group

of 200 girls from across the province will be University of Guelph from June 17th to 20th. They will be attending the annual 4-H Homemaking Provincial Girls' Conference.

North Simcoe County will be represented by five Club girls: Anne Giffen, Edenvale; Debbie Adams, Minesing; Marie Quinlan, Crown Hill;

Mary VanCasteren, New Flos; and Brenda Simpson, Edgar.

The Conference theme "Images '75" Delegates will be actively involved in group discussions, interest groups, panel discussions, tours, and an opportunity to hear a

variety of speakers. A busy week for these representatives of 4-H clubs across the province but one which represents a special opportunity to other Homemaking Club members.

### Vasey Vegetarians hold a meeting

by Alberta MacDonald The Vasey Vigorous Vegetarians met to hold their third meeting Tuesday evening, June 3, at the home of Mrs. Grant Robinson.

Five members and the two leaders opened the meeting with the 4-H

pledge. The minutes of the second meeting were read by Alberta Macdonald and approved by vice-president, Brenda

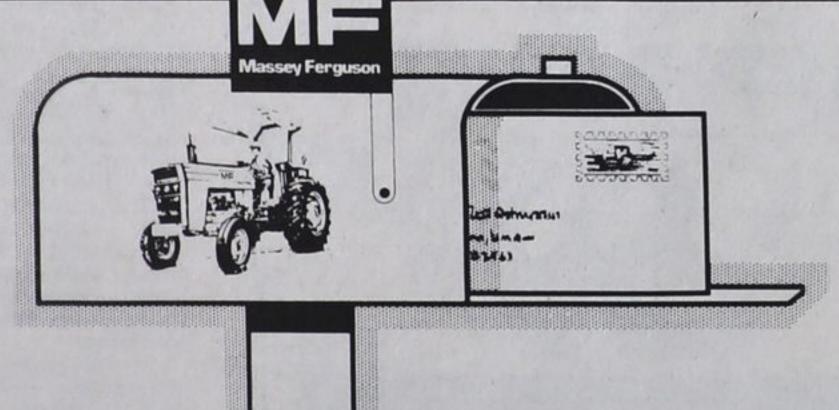
Roll call, "A report on the progress of my garden," concluded that some crops had already been attacked by insects or disease while others were ready for use such as lettuce, radishes, and

During the business a few ideas were mentioned for record book covers and for the exhibit to be presented at

Achievement night, August 18. Mrs. Grant Robinson then took the members on a tour of her garden and demonstrated thinning radishes. Mrs. David Jones showed how to transplant using young broccoli plants as an

example. With the members and leaders working together, one bag of rhubarb was frozen using the dry pack method as well as some asparagus which was prepared, blanched, and

Topics for discussion included special garden cultures such as staking tomatoes, tieing cauliflower heads, hilling potatoes and thinning and transplanting; vegetables and good health, sources and functions of vitamin A and C, the proper methods of cooking vegetables, and freezing and storage principals.



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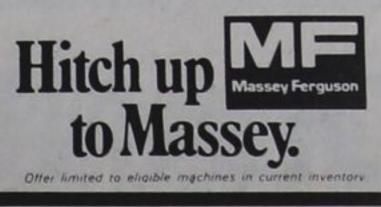
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