



by Ron Jones

Times have changed the status of farmers

famine, urban people now seek farms for status symbols, most retaining their urban employment and income of course but a few actually attempt to support themselves by farming their land.

Farmers too are changing their views. Not many years ago at a farm meeting in Simcoe County a question was posed concerning the eligibility of persons to vote on a farm issue. A man in the audience abruptly solved the problem. He shouted "Who in hell would claim to be a farmer if he wasn't?"

Even to-day some older farmers bad mouth their occupation to no-body's credit. Not surprisingly their children can't leave the farm fast enough. Ironically the grandchildren of the disgruntled farmers like those second and third generation urbanites of to-day may also at some time seek out the soil.

Notably now there is a large increase in the numbers of university educated young people who actually return to take over the home farm as well as many urban raised youth who would like to begin farming if they could only swing it financially.

Just who is a farmer and who is not is a question that has stumped various levels of authority particularly in the last few years as governments have accepted the principle of subsidization of agriculture for the purpose of equalizing income between urban and rural people, rather than allowing farmers to demand fair returns from the market place.

Urbanites have found that by maintaining a cow or two on their rural acres or by renting all or part of their holdings they become by law a farmer and eligible for grants and subsidies designed to support and encourage bona-fide agriculture endeavours. Some have even manipulated government assistance for their rural lifestyle with paper cattle - a practice of buying and selling livestock on paper only to show the financial involvement of agriculture required to obtain certain types of assistance. Others of course do

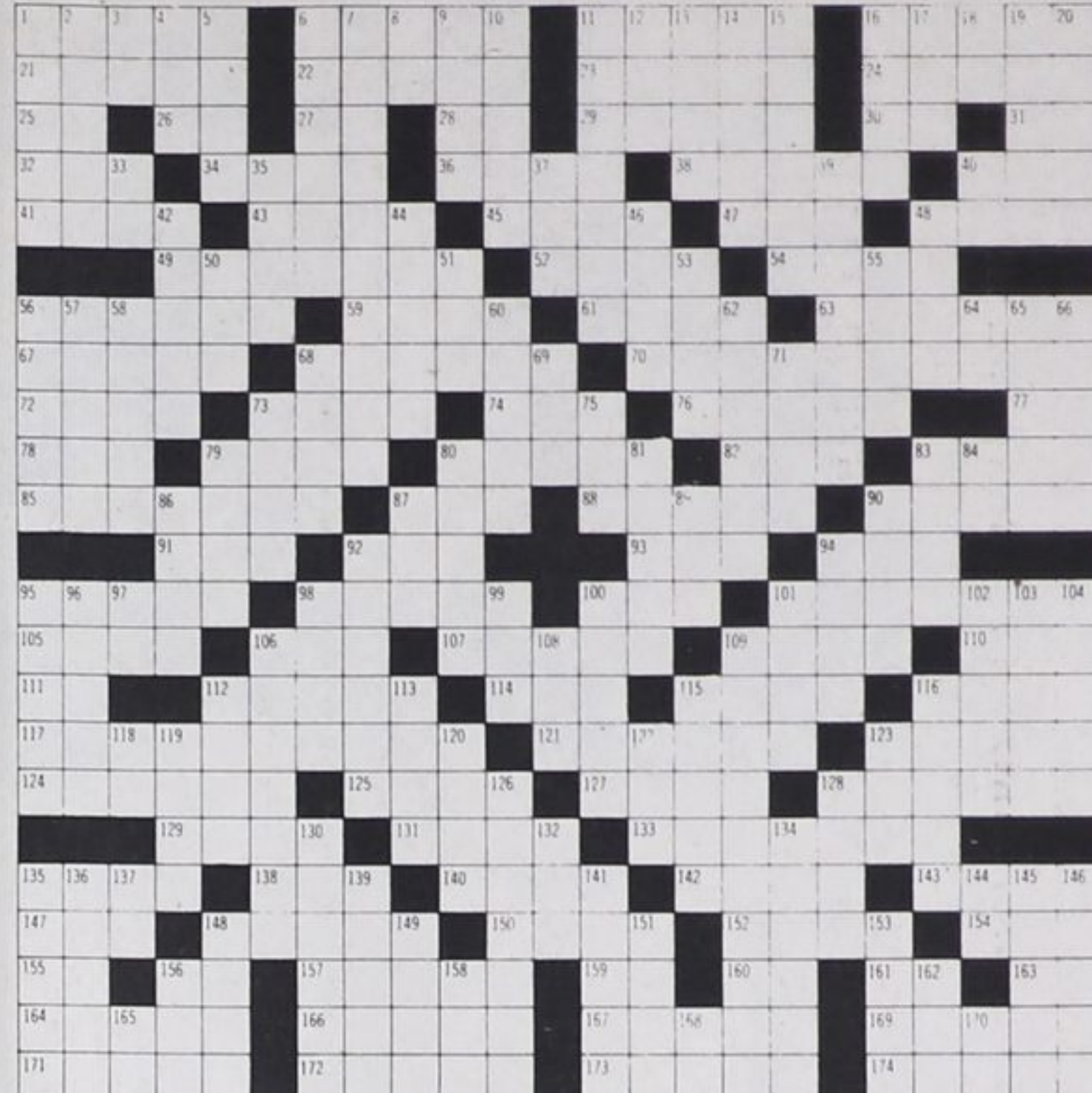
actually maintain livestock year round and make a serious and creditable attempt at farming.

Farmers view the "city farmers" with mixed feelings. While often considered a curse on agriculture because they tie up farm land that could be used for expansion of existing farm operations their inexperience in such duties as maintaining line fences, controlling weeds, etc. has meant additional responsibilities for other land owners - their existence has brought economic opportunities in other forms. For the retiring farmer a "city buyer" generally meant selling for much more than his land was worth. Often the naive intruder also found himself the proud owner of someone else's culled livestock or worn out machinery. Few city transplants who have owned their farm for long are heard to repeat the urban comment that farmers "are poor businessmen".

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, two years ago, established a committee to advise the government on how to define a farm. The committee has reported to the minister but no legislation has been presented to date.

Farmers have generally resisted licensing or registration fearing bureaucratic control over their activities. Recent discussions with officials involved in reassessment of Ontario properties (there are over 30,000 "farms" in Southern Ontario of 30 acres or less all eligible to benefit from "farm value assessment") indicates that much of Ontario agriculture assistance or otherwise consumer subsidies benefit a relatively select group of consumers.

It would seem given the provinces intention to trim spending and the higher profile that genuine agriculture must assume as consumers turn from the products of a frivolous commercial industrial economy that those men "wanting (to be) what is (they are) not" should at least be required to finance their adventures without the assistance of public money



- ACROSS
- 1 Sweetheart
 - 6 Fumble
 - 11 Lukewarm
 - 16 Basal
 - 21 Automaton
 - 22 Whisker
 - 23 Enteraint
 - 24 Sheeplike
 - 25 One or
 - 26 Current
 - 27 Silver
 - 32 Encountered
 - 34 Rope
 - 36 Friar
 - 38 Gossip
 - 40 Against
 - 41 Love god
 - 43 Heroic
 - 45 Highway
 - 47 Always
 - 48 Handies
 - 49 Supernation
 - 52 Legal
 - 54 Verve
 - 56 Singing
 - 59 Retain
 - 61 Flit
 - 63 Laughing
 - 67 Venerate
 - 68 Sizing
 - 70 Guide 2
 - 72 Rave
 - 73 Farm
- DOWN
- 1 Ornamental
 - 2 Independent
 - 3 Jewish
 - 4 Lightness
 - 5 Engrave
 - 6 Family
 - 7 Cloth
 - 8 Wizard of
 - 9 Couple
 - 10 Mistake
 - 11 Ale cup
 - 12 Extinct bird
 - 13 Feline sound
 - 14 Emit
 - 15 Adjudged
 - 16 Wild hog
 - 17 Gabor
 - 18 Japanese
 - 19 Enhance
 - 20 Sea birds
 - 23 As far as
 - 25 Unearthly
- 143 Weeps
- 147 Negligent
 - 148 Playful
 - 150 Needlefish
 - 152 Mold
 - 154 Gym pad
 - 155 Biblical king
 - 156 For example
 - 157 Habitué
 - 159 Hawaiian
 - 160 At home
 - 161 Exclamation
 - 163 Artificial
 - 164 Poetry form
 - 166 Chest
 - 167 Cut
 - 169 More secure
 - 171 Expunge
 - 172 Choose
 - 173 Carried
 - 174 Barter
- 37 Presently
- 39 Great
 - 40 Calcium
 - 42 Intelligent
 - 44 Spotless
 - 46 Meter face
 - 48 Exclamation
 - 50 Anger
 - 51 Lamprey
 - 53 Waste
 - 55 allowance
 - 56 French city
 - 57 Apothegm
 - 58 Canonical
 - 60 First Pope
 - 62 Suitmaker
 - 64 Exclamation
 - 65 Sea eagles
 - 68 Girl's name
 - 68 Rational
 - 69 Sprint
 - 71 Costly
 - 73 English
 - 75 Conditional
 - 79 Throw
 - 80 Concert
 - 81 Above
 - 83 Brace
 - 84 Digraph
 - 86 Cistern
 - 87 Armpit
 - 89 Equine
 - 90 Margin
 - 92 Medical
 - 94 Frolic
 - 95 Card suit
 - 96 Secret
 - 97 Square
 - 98 Fastive
 - 99 Possesses
 - 100 Strain
 - 101 Wearing
 - 102 Stare
 - 103 Rust away
- 104 Estimator
- 106 Remark
 - 108 Exclamation
 - 109 Frozen
 - 112 Cast
 - 113 Highlander
 - 115 Decorate
 - 116 Melodies
 - 118 Attending
 - 119 Playing
 - 120 Aromatic
 - 122 Actress
 - 123 Solidly
 - 126 Biggest
 - 128 Russian
 - 130 Willy
 - 132 Affirmative
 - 134 Removed
 - 135 Garlic
 - 136 Light
 - 137 Cutting
 - 139 Punitive
 - 141 Forearm
 - 144 Hindu
 - 145 Exposed
 - 146 Accumulate
 - 148 Curved
 - 149 Govern
 - 151 Lone
 - 153 Sali
 - 156 Feminine
 - 158 Receipt
 - 162 Boer
 - 163 Civil
 - 165 Egyptian
 - 168 Neuter
 - 170 Stare

As a rule a man's a fool When it's hot he wants it cool When it's cool he wants it hot Always wanting what is not.

That insight into life was part of the philosophical side of education that students of a Tay township one room school were exposed to when such scholastic institutions were common place a few years ago.

While it could have been a prophecy of the trial and error classroom experiments that followed the rural school system it also depicts the lifestyle adjustments people seek, now that owning rural property or "a Farm" has become the in-thing.

When the parents of to-day's primary school children were attending (then) high school, farming was a despised occupation - teachers would ridicule aspirations to agriculture. It was acceptable of course if one was to go on to an agriculture college but at that time a very small percentage of those graduates actually returned to the farm. Generally well meaning teachers felt duty bound to lift the students, particularly the gifted ones, to a more rewarding occupation than farming.

How times change! Whether it is the promise of profits from uncontrolled subdivision of rural property or the increasing threat of calamitous world

(the bookworm)

Exxoneration

It couldn't happen...or could it?

In the film industry, nothing succeeds like disaster.

Currently, realistic novels about political and economic dilemmas seem to be the big stars in the book market. Arthur Hailey is the grand master of this sort of drama from everyday headlines. Now Richard Rohmer, by casting his novels ten years into the future, seems assured of similar success.

Hamilton born Rohmer is a Toronto lawyer whose first novels (*The Green North* and *The Arctic Imperative*) had solid bases in fact. *Ultimatum* took us into the future and Canadians eagerly read the fictional account of their annexation by the United States. After all, it couldn't really happen. Or could it?

Exxoneration carries on the *Ultimatum* story. Still hungry for Canadian oil and natural gas, the United States invades Canada, and is promptly and defiantly repelled.

The crew-cut American general looked grim as he said, "Ah didn't know you Canadians had that much gumption, but Ah sure know it now."

And the U.S. President reprimands his Secretary of Defence thus: "Do you realize...we'll be the laughing stock of the world?"

Canada, it develops, has a few more surprises up her sleeve. Gasoline has climbed from 69¢/70¢ a gallon in 1974 to \$1.05 in Rohmer's 1981. Accordingly, Canada opts to buy control of Exxon Corporation, the biggest oil company in the world. It's a twenty million dollar idea, but financing is secured.

The U.S. fights back with attempts at bribery, blackmail and bugging. Ultimately, the denouement demonstrates who really holds the big cards in the international energy game.

Exxoneration could serve as a manual for pretend politicians and war-mongers. There's a map showing defence deployment around the Toronto International Airport and there are diagrams of missiles and aircraft.

Exxoneration demands some understanding of corporate financing and international politicking, but it's absorbing reading, and we all know it couldn't really happen. Or could it?

The Bluenose
Most Canadians have an affection for the Bluenose, perhaps because she's been emblazoned on the Canadian dime. Currently Bluenose II is on her way down the Saint Lawrence heading home after a visit to Toronto.

Whether you saw her there or not, you'll get the feel of the racy lady of Lunenburg if you read Brian and Phil Backman's book *Bluenose*.

The original Bluenose was the undisputed champion of the North Atlantic fishing fleet.

When the age of sail died, she was sold, shorn of her masts and sails and used to carry cargoes of bananas and rum between West Indian ports.

When she foundered on a coral reef off the coast of Haiti in 1946, the *Halifax Herald* mourned, "Her passing is a national sorrow; the ignominy of her death, a national shame."

In 1963, a replica of Bluenose II was launched and the Backman's book details the years of planning and construction with fascinating accuracy. Above water,

Bluenose II is an exact copy of the original. Below decks, she is fitted out with modern navigational aids and sailing luxuries that would astonish her original crew.

Whether the rebuilders managed to capture the soul of that first magnificent schooner is questionable. Angus Walters who skipped the original Bluenose, took Bluenose II out one day in 1963. "All in all," he said, with down east economy, "she'll do fine."

And doing fine she is, as

one of Nova Scotia's prime tourist attractions.

Bluenose will be read with great delight by anyone with an interest in the sea and sailing. Adding to the pleasure is a splendid collection of photographs of both ships, including some by W.R. McAskill, a highly respected marine photographer.

Exxoneration by Richard Rohmer, McClelland and Stewart, 213 pp.

Bluenose by Brian and Philip Backman, McClelland and Stewart, 112 pp.



Taking the big tip

Lolling around on a boat at the Penetanguishene town dock Saturday afternoon proved a little boring for the lads above, so when a photographer happened by they used the occasion as an excuse for some hi-jinks. Bill Duvall, Grant (The Nose) Carriere, and Gary Belanger ganged up on Nick Baker - who kept shouting "let him see my face" - and tried to throw him in the water. Whether any or all of them managed a dunking later on is not known. Only their mothers know for sure.

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Huronia Life



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Remember the Klondike rush

A trapper, George Carmack, with his two Indian companions, Skookum Jim and Tagish Charlie, staked the claim that started the famous Klondike gold rush. The anniversary of the date on which they discovered gold, August 17, "Discovery Day" is celebrated as a holiday every year in the Yukon Territory.

The Klondike area of Canada's Yukon Territory has yielded a quarter of a million dollars in gold since the gold rush of 1898.

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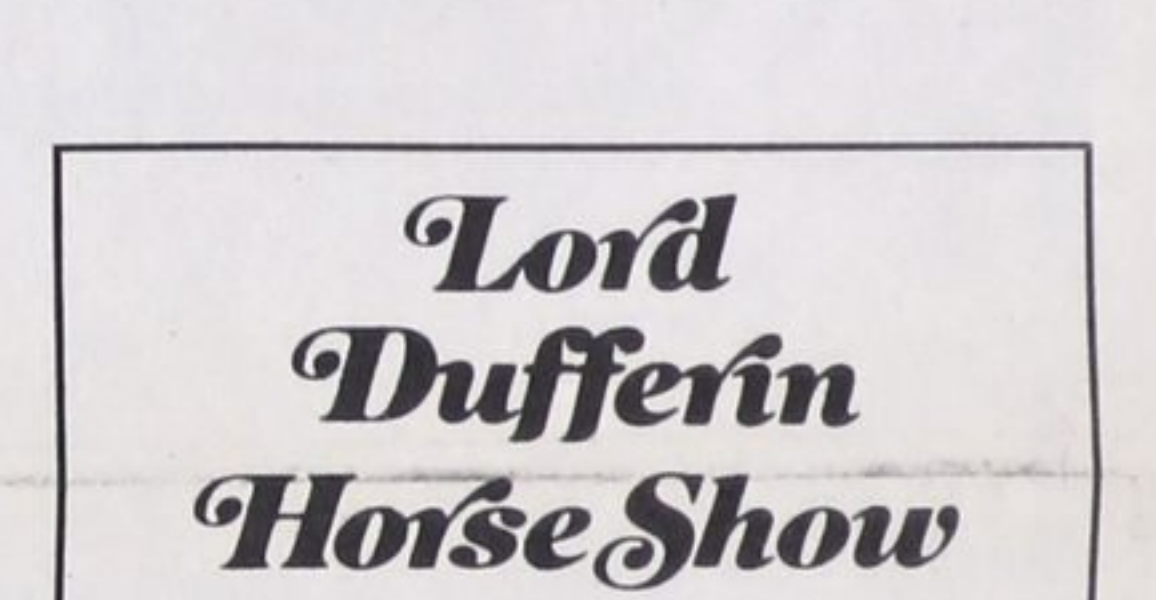
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Sunday June 22, 1:00 p.m.

\$2.00 per person

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Children under 12 admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orangeville

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