

Peace returns to Continental

By Kim Curran

There will be no pickers' union at Metcalfe's Continental Mushrooms.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board has determined that Continental is an agricultural operation and does not qualify for unionization under the Labour Standards Act.

The decision follows a period of unrest at Continental culminating in 30 of the farm's 100 adult day workers striking for half a day.

Dissidents wanted to install a local of the International

Laborer's Union of North America.

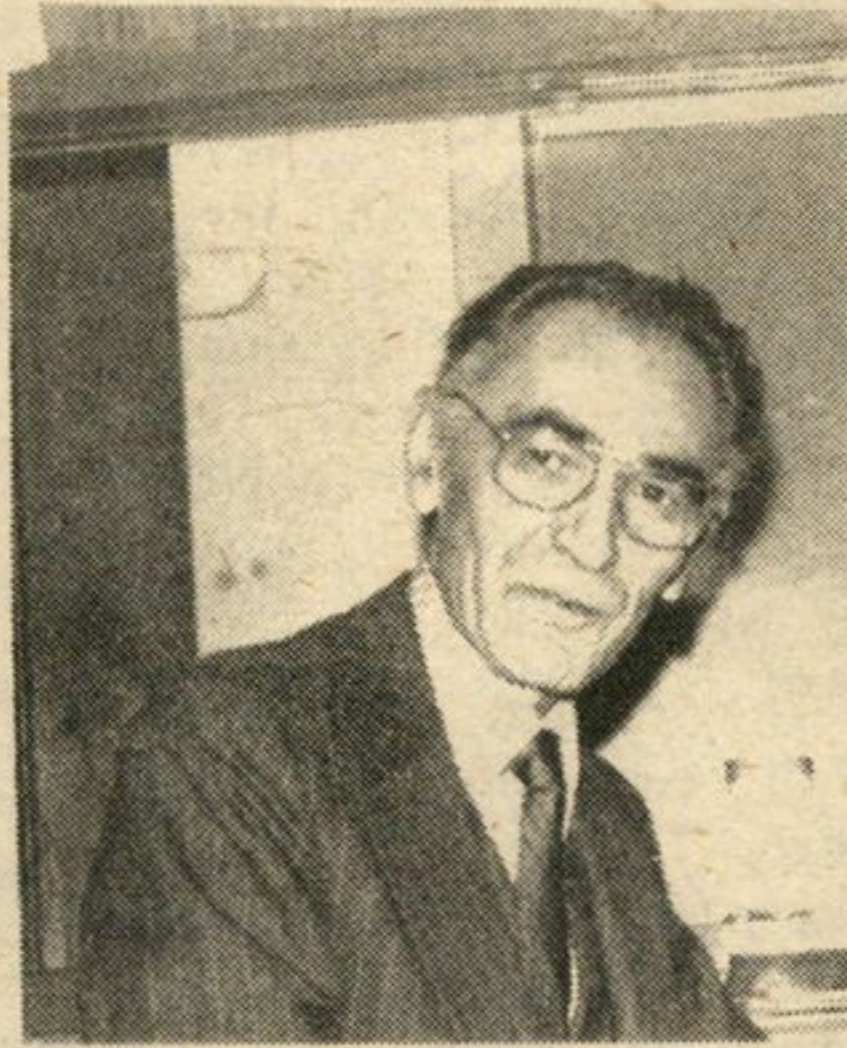
Workers and boss Nick Pora are once again a happy family with key union organizer Virgilio Branco offered his old job back.

Mr. Branco was let go after ignoring Mr. Pora's orders not to try signing employees during working hours.

Under the Labour Standards Act persons employed in agriculture, hunting, trapping or involved in any form of primary production are exempted from instituting trade unions. The nature of farming does not allow for strictly set working conditions.

Owner Nick Pora says: "In this business you must do what is right at that particular moment. If you are at full speed you don't stop at three o'clock if you can carry on production for a few more hours."

Mr. Pora said a union would be of little burden to himself. As for the consumer, it would be horror, he said. The factory would tag increased overhead costs to the product and the consumer would have to pay huge price increases.



Continental owner Nick Pora

Clay Taylor, part of the growing crew and spokesman for workers opposing the union, feels there is no valid reason for a union. He said workers have no gripes about conditions; he fears that if a union was instituted, many benefits would be forfeited.

At present, the company provides transportation for its workers and pay depends on amount picked. With unions, the system would change and workers would be paid by the hour. Mr. Taylor believes the only reason for union action was because it sounded like a good idea at the time.



worker Clay Taylor

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Memories of old house

By Kathy Romme

Our first brand new house. Today when we woke up the whole family left and went to where the big hole full of dried cement stood. it was hard to believe that in another hour this would be becoming our house.

The next thing I remember is a truck arriving with only a piece of a house, a few minutes later another and another truck arrived each with a piece of my mother's dream home. The day was terrible, the wind blew the house around as the crane lifted it into the air and the trucks slip-

ped and slid all over. My mother nearly fainted when the crane slid and the wind blew our house with a violent force that sent it swinging in all sorts of directions. "Don't drop our house". As you see our new house was one of those houses that come in pieces and gets put together right before our eyes. At age seven this was an exciting day.

When I got to the new house which is really only a quarter of a mile away from the old house and on a perfectly straight road, the tears were flowing freely but we had a

visitor smaller than me so I said: "Isn't this great except for the wind that makes my eyes leak." I was really thinking I'm never going to talk to my parents again for making me freeze to death. But as soon as I'd struggled up the front steps I went running to my mother. "My feet don't have toes anymore." But when she took my shoes off I noticed I still had ten toes; as my mother rubbed my feet I thought it was because I'd been brave and kept walking. When I went to bed that night in my brand new house I cried. That old house had all my memories in it would they always stay there? Or would they come with me wherever I decided to go? Was the house lonely for a child's chatter, or adults' conversation and happy laughter. Would it ever enjoy another joy-spreading Christmas, or a frightful Hallowe'en? Or perhaps it would fall during the night because no more sounds kept it awake, not even a clock's familiar ticking.

Since then that old house has known and enjoyed eight other happy years but not with my family's laughter or chatter. Four other families have kept the house standing with the happy sound of life and human joy.

But if ever anything happened to the old house, happy memories would be shattered, for that house did and always will carry my childhood within its comforting doors.



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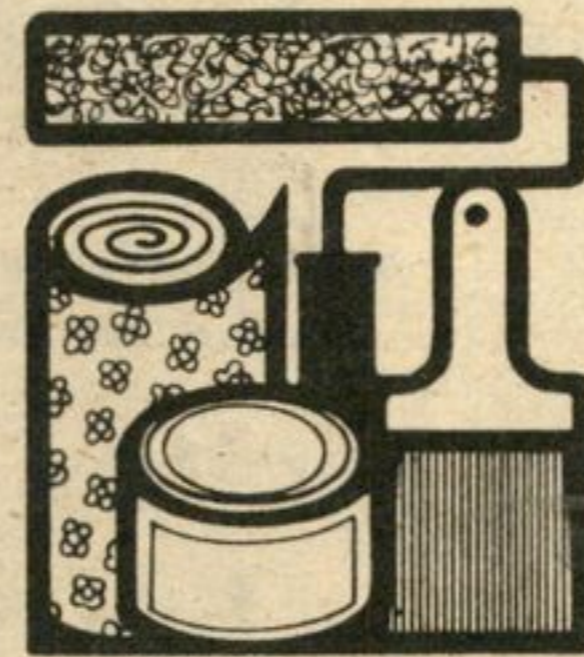
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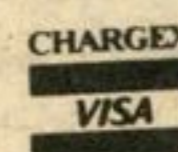
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