

# Neighbors



## REGENT MENARD — steel vocal cords

by Ann Davelaar

"I think I had it in the blood." That's how Regent Menard describes his choice of career as an auctioneer.

Since Mr. Menard's father and grandfather were livestock dealers in Embrun, it was natural for Regent to be herding calves in the ring already at the age of seven. When he was fourteen, he began to learn auctioneering by keeping the books beside the auctioneer. He officially joined his father's livestock exchange as soon as he got his driver's license to drive the cattle-truck.

And he's been busy ever since! Mondays and Thursdays livestock auctions demand his presence at Embrun and Greely, respectively. The rest of the week is taken up with arranging cattle deals with farmers and organizing country sales, where he disposes of antiques, machinery and even cars and trucks.

"For me the auction is the best, the most honest way to sell, because you're right there," he says. "You meet people every day. You always learn something new. People like me too, I think. That's encouraging." Mr. Menard adds that it's an advantage to be able to auction things in French and

English. It sure has cut down on the competition!

There seem to be other qualifications necessary for being a successful auctioneer. He needs to keep up constantly with market trends by telephone and newspapers. He also requires a lot of patience and diplomacy in dealing with argumentative members of the public. And last but not least, he must have vocal cords of tempered steel.



But the hardest part of the work is the long hours, according to Mr. Menard. Especially in the fall, auctioning at the livestock exchanges starts at ten in the morn-

ing and goes right through until eight in the evening.

It may be tough work but according to Mrs. Menard, Christian, 11, their youngest son, likes auctioneering and comes to watch his father selling in the box. He's beginning to deal in ducks and rabbits with his friends. Mr. Menard also has a daughter and two older sons.

For relaxation Mr. Menard drives a hackney. "I have a horse just for fun...I like to have a ride once in a while — fresh air," he says.

When asked about the future of auctioneering, Regent Menard says, "The livestock is always going to be good, because people have to eat."

As for plans for the future, Mr. Menard says that eventually he'd like to buy a place where he could keep horses for hackney-racing.

"If I get out of the auction," he says, "then I could come by, maybe, and sell — keep on helping the business without being the auctioneer myself."

In Regent Menard's case, auctioneering certainly seems to be in the blood!

## Santa Surprise for Seniors?

by Thomas Van Dusen

Christmas may bring long-awaited gifts for many Russell-area senior citizens — apartments in the new Russell Village residence.

The 30-unit residence on Church Street will soon be ready for occupancy, said George Laforge of the Prescott-Russell Housing Authority based at Hawkesbury.

"Many senior citizens will spend Christmas in their own apartments," Mr. Laforge promised.

He has personally visited a number of applicants in the area and has processed their applications, without being able to notify them officially of the fact that they have been accepted.

"Our final inspection of the premises has taken place. Assuming that all is well and that our specifications have been complied with, we will then take over the building. We will begin renting on December 21."

He emphasized that the residence was not a convalescent home.

"All those in residence will be able to take care of themselves. We do not supply meals. But each unit is equipped with kitchen facilities. I think the senior citizens will find it extremely comfortable and it will be an asset to Russell Village."

From what the Castor Review has been able to learn, none of those who applied in the Russell area have been officially notified of their acceptance. Some have received unofficial indications that they have been accepted but no official notices have gone out.

It is learned that at the outset at least, the thirty units will not be taken up, since several of those who applied earlier have made other arrangements. One lady, for example, decided not to move in unless a place could be found for her dog, who, unfortunately, did not qualify.

Preference has been given to residents of Russell and the adjoining area and acceptance is geared to financial need.

Approximately two years ago, the go ahead was given for construction of a Senior Citizens' Residence in Russell. Approval followed a long and active campaign by the Women's Institute and the Senior Citizens' Association.

At about the same time, approval was given for a similar residence in Embrun.

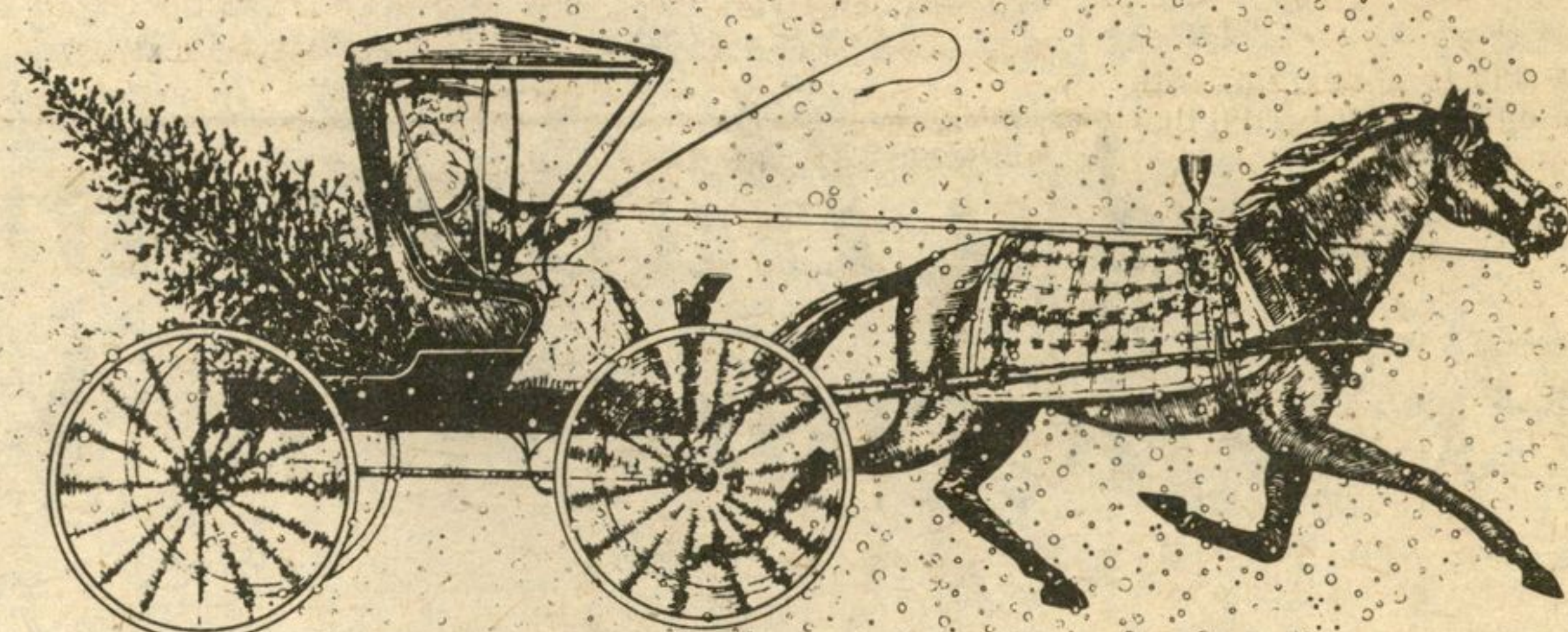
The Russell residence, in a quiet part of the village, overlooking the Castor River, will house some sixty senior citizens. The Embrun residence is located on the Main street of the village and is built of artificial stone.

  
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