

Farm Forums Hold County Rally

Ontario County held its first Farm Forum Rally on Tuesday. The Music Hall at Uxbridge was chosen for this important event. Eight new Forums have been organized in Uxbridge and Scott Townships this season. They are Uxbridge Forum, Foster's, 5th Line, Bethesda, 4th Concession Scott Township, Bethesda Scott, Uxbridge, South Leaskdale.

Foster's Forum made a special collection for the March of Dimes one of their projects. A short course in farm mechanics was a very successful action project sponsored by the Greenwood Forum. In this age of farming by machinery their efficient use is one way to cut down the cost of production.

The reports of the Farm Forums show good discussion of subjects that not only concern the farmer but many of them are far reaching and concern everyone in our land and even beyond.

They found weather, tariff walls to protect industry, cartels, and artificial substitutes for farm products interfered with the law of supply and demand. The Canadian farmer's prices are influenced too much by the surplus. Greenbank and Claremont Forums agreed with many when they said, "farmers would be willing to accept lower prices if the cost of other things came down accordingly."

Sinclair's Corners Forum and others stated they followed "Canada's Food Rules" very well, although it is difficult for many to secure green vegetables during the winter months.

Most Forums thought we had enough land to feed the increasing population in the world if all farmers put organic matter back into the soil and practiced soil conservation and the best farming practices. However, this would never feed the world unless there was better distribution of surpluses. It isn't the farmer's responsibility but is a problem that can only be solved by all people sharing this responsibility.

Forums in the Uxbridge area named soil drifting as their worst soil erosion problem and found reforestation an important means of control. Other Forums where soil was heavier found washing of top soil caused most erosion. Several discussed the Soil Conservation demonstration on the Heber Down farm, Brooklin, but saw no way to purchase the heavy machinery needed as the present price of farm produce is not on a par with expenses. The advice of the Agricultural Representative was thought sufficient for all the conservation that could be accomplished.

M. E. McClean

The numerous bearded fig trees on Barbados gave the island its name.

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CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

by ALEX MCKINNEY JR. ★ Director
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

(Editor's Note: — This is the sixth of a series of weekly stories which Alex McKinney Jr., a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, is writing about the visit of Canada's champion plowmen to the British Isles, West Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.)

Brampton: There's an end to all things are over soonest. That's things but it seems that the best probably why it feels like only yesterday, although in reality it was seven weeks ago, that I started this series of letters by saying good-bye to Canada. Now, on behalf of the Canadian champion plowmen and myself, I want to say hello everybody for we are back home.

We flew back to Canada from Prestwick, Scotland. It was a smooth trip and a fast one for we had a tail wind all the way. We were surprised, when we put down at Dorval airport, to learn we were two hours ahead of schedule. That gave us time to telephone our homes so that when we landed at Malton a few hours later our families were on hand to give us a real welcome.

This business of globe-trotting can certainly be thrilling but coming home is just as thrilling. That poem by Walter Scott that we had to memorize at school describes our feeling when we landed better than we can express them. "Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,

Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land! Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd

As home his footsteps he hath turned, From wandering on a foreign strand?"

But this letter is chiefly about our stay in Scotland. As you will remember my last letter was from Ulster where we attended the in-

ternational plowing match at Mulsusk, near Belfast. I'd just like to say in passing that Jim Eccles' effort there was really outstanding. Taking eighth place in a field of 38 champion plowmen from the United Kingdom was really an achievement especially as he had only one day's practice on the high cut plow. There were some there who said he should have rated higher but, be that as it may, the fact is that Jim is the first Canadian plowman to do so well. In a special class for overseas plowmen Jim also took first and Ron Marquis was second against very stiff European competition. The boys received silver cups and I feel they were a credit to all Canadian plowmen.

Also in passing I'd like to point out that when I speak of "we" in these letters I mean the three of us. There is my next door neighbor Jim Eccles of Brampton and Ron Marquis of Sunderland, the Canadian champion plowmen. As winners of the Esso Trans-Atlantic horse and tractor plowing classes at last year's International Plowing Match held near Brantford these boys were awarded trips to the United Kingdom with Imperial Oil Ltd. paying expenses. As a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, sponsor of the International Plowing Matches, I was appointed to accompany the boys as coach-manager. I also act as a sort of reporter-historian.

In Scotland we were treated royally and really got around. While there we saw some of the finest livestock farms of all we have seen. We also saw Winston Churchill, attended the world famous purebred shorthorn sales at Perth, visited a number of outstanding farms and even attended a football match at Glasgow. Our guides in the land of the heather were Allen Campbell of the Department of Agriculture, Scotland, and

Ken McNeil of Anglo-American Oil Co. They certainly did a good job of looking after their charges.

It's hard to know where to start in describing our experiences but as we have always wanted to attend the Perth sales I'll start there.

The Perth sales were held in a large building specially fitted up for the occasion. It was a two day affair with the first day for show and the second day for sales. The quality of cattle offered was very high but as far as exhibiting the cattle, I think maybe we do the job better here in Canada.

There were some outstanding bulls up for sale and the bidding was brisk. Somehow we got the impression that the British breeders liked to say that a bull cost them so many guineas and for that reason they seemed willing to carry their bids higher than Canadian bidders would do.

The top price paid at this year's sales was 6600 guineas, or about \$21,000. This was for a white bull named Lawton Nelson, the major champion and grand reserve champion. It was consigned by Major P. H. Henderson and was bought by Argentine interests. Fourteen animals from the Calrossie Farms owned by Capt. John MacGillivray sold for a total of 32,000 guineas.

Just about everybody who is interested in purebred shorthorns attends the Perth sales but we were surprised to learn that the English actress Greer Garson had been there although we didn't see her. We did, however, see the foundation herd Miss Garson bought through an agent. It was made up of five females and two bulls. They were all white and were bought for between 150 and 250 guineas apiece. We understood they were for a cattle ranch Miss Garson is starting in New Mexico.

We also heard some of the fastest bidding we've ever heard. In one period they auctioned off 90 head of cattle in 110 minutes which is certainly a lot faster than we do in our country. All in all it was easy to understand why the Perth sales have over many years consistently secured the highest prices for shorthorn bulls anywhere in the English-speaking world.

The Perth sales also served to remind me that it's a small world. For it was there that I ran into my next door neighbor Hector Astengo of Rosafe Farms, Brampton. I hadn't seen him since about the time of the Royal Winter Fair so

we had a lot to chat about. Mr. Astengo was buying some purebreds for his ranch in South America.

It was in Edinburgh that we saw Winston Churchill. He was making a political speech there that night but because of other engagements we did not go to hear him. He was staying at the same hotel as we were and when we got back that night he came in a few minutes after. We got a real good close-up look at him. He is just as impressive in the flesh as he is in his pictures. Several people were after him for autographs but it wasn't us because we didn't have autograph books with us.

The day we attended the football match was a miserable day, it was snowing. The match was between Glasgow Rangers and Couperheath and it was played in more than an inch of snow. In spite of the dirty weather there was a good crowd on hand to see the Rangers win eight to nothing. Compared with our game it was rather tame. They play a more gentlemanly game over there and body checking is penalized.

Before we left Scotland we visited the farm of William Young, Sherriton Mains, not far from Prestwick. Mr. Young is a cousin of Clark Young of the Ontario Plowmen's Association whose letters you probably read a few years ago. William is a former president of the Scottish Farm Union and has an outstanding flock of Border-Leicester and a fine herd of Ayrshires on his 400-acre farm. Our visit to the Young farm was another of the many highlights of our trip.

I realize that in these letters I haven't told you a quarter of the interesting places visited nor the interesting people we met. It would take many more letters and it would also take considerable time to sort out our memories. As time goes on we may have other opportunities to tell you of the things that haven't been covered in these letters. But before I bring my final letter to a close there are two matters I'd like to mention.

The first concerns the maple trees we planted or left to be planted overseas as a symbol of Canadian friendship. The Danish government has reciprocated. Since we returned we have received a shipment of beeches. The beech is the national tree of Denmark. They asked that the

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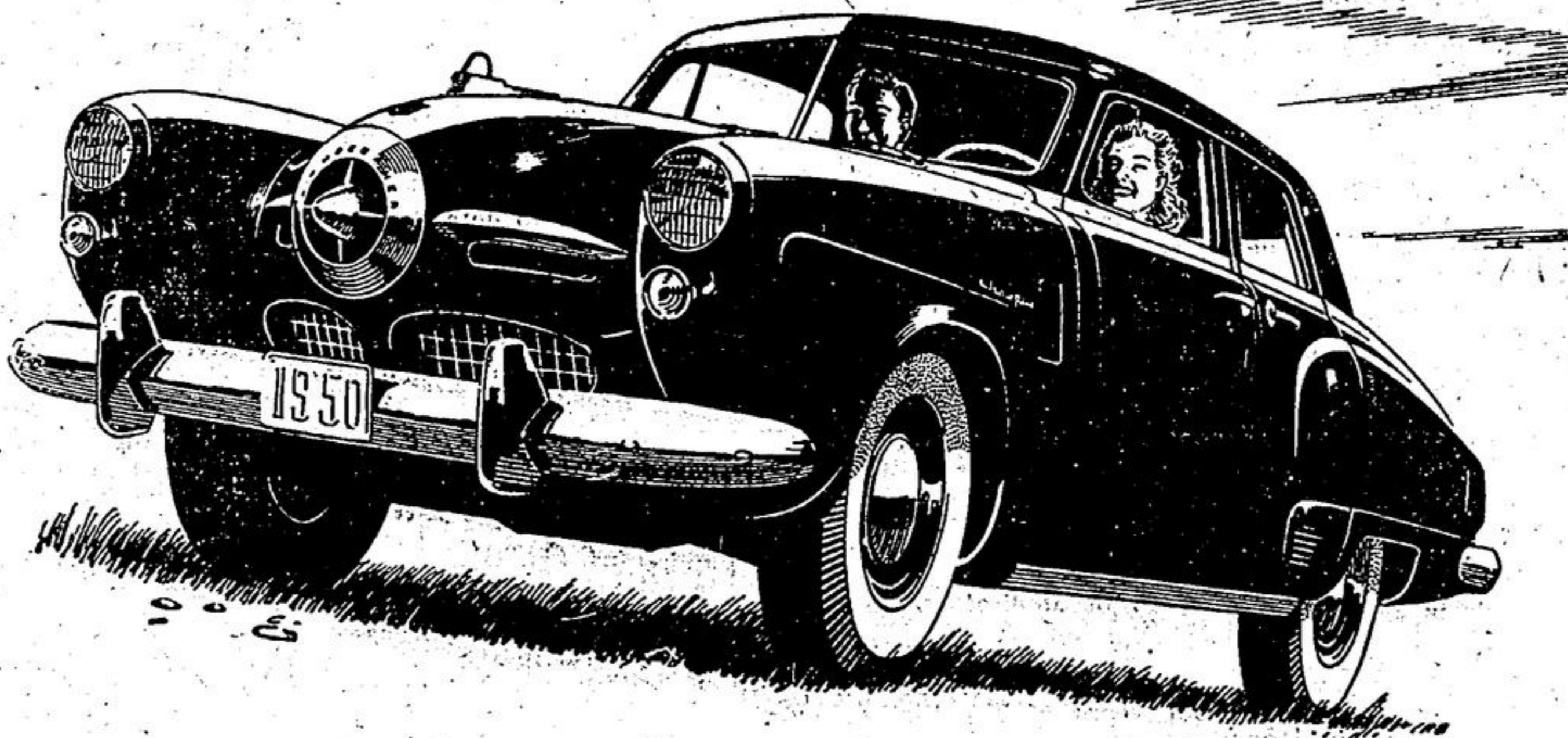
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trees be planted on the grounds of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. As you may remember from my last letter I planted maple trees at the veterinary college at Copenhagen, I think this reciprocity is a real friendly gesture on the part of the Danish government and I hope we can make a ceremony of planting the beeches. I also hope that as many as can make it will attend the ceremony.

The other important matter is our thanks to the Ontario Plowmen's Association and Imperial Oil Ltd. for making the trip possible. We would also like to express our appreciation to the many people in private industries, in the government services and the Esso companies overseas for all they did to make our trip so memorable. And we would like to thank you, the readers of these letters for the time you have given in following us in our travels. We hope you found them interesting. Good-bye for now.

MOUNT ALBERT COUPLE CELEBRATE 60th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. George Burnham, Mount Albert recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of their marriage. In the afternoon they received many of their friends. The tea table was centred with a wedding cake and the color scheme was carried out in pink and white. Mrs. Byron Stiver and Mrs. Agnes Crowle poured tea and Mrs. Jim Sibrach, Mount Albert, and Mrs. Clarkson Arnold, Zephyr, served.

From the sale of farm products, Canada's farmers realized \$2,409,165,000 cash income in 1949, about three times the 1940 total and just \$40,000,000 less than in the peak year of 1948.