

CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

by ROY SHAVER, Past President
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION



(Roy Shaver of Finch, Ont., past president of Ontario Plowmen's Association, accompanied Douglas S. Reid of Brampton, Ont., and Algie Wallace of North Gower, Ont., Canada's champion plowman, on their trip to the British Isles, Eire and France. This is the first of a series of five weekly articles he has written as team manager about their experiences and impressions.)

It hardly seems possible that this is 1953 and it is two months since the three of us took off by air to start another Canadian plowmen's tour of the British Isles and to compete against European plowmen.

By the time we returned we had experienced our first "pea-souper" — the worst fog in London's recent history — visited Canadian war graves in France, seen some of the finest agricultural land in the world, and rubbed shoulders with, and spoken to, representatives of almost every nationality you can think of.

However, before I tell you more about the trip, I had better tell you something about us, and how we came to make the journey.

For the past seven years the grand prize of the Ontario Plowmen's Association annual International Plowing Match has been a gold medal and a trip to Europe for the champion horse and tractor plowmen, with all expenses paid by Imperial Oil. The prizes are offered for the winners of a special class known as the Esso Trans-Atlantic class.

The winners at last October's match held at Carp, near Ottawa,

were 26-year-old Douglas S. Reid of Brampton, Ont., in the tractor class, and 35-year-old Algie Wallace of North Gower, Ont., in the horse class.

Algie's win was a matter of great pride in eastern Ontario. He was the first plowman to bring a championship to the eastern counties in the 39-year history of the O.P.A.

Each year it is the custom of the O.P.A. to select a team manager to accompany the plowmen. In addition to acting as manager, he also is the group's official chronicler and reporter. I consider it a great honor to have been chosen. I am a director and past president of the O.P.A., and have been a lifelong dairy farmer at Finch, in Ontario's Stormont County.

You are probably wondering why we did not write while we were overseas. There are two reasons.

It has been the practice in past years for the winning plowmen to make their overseas visit in January and February, in time to participate in the Northern Ireland International Match at Belfast. This time the O.P.A. directors decided we should make our trip almost immediately after the International match and compete instead in the British National Ploughing match at Falkirk, Scotland. During the match there was to be a trial of a set of rules that had been proposed for international plowing competitions. The O.P.A. was anxious for Canadian plowmen to take part in this trial. Leaving at that time also allow-

ed me to sit in with J. D. Thomas of Toronto, the O.P.A.'s special delegate, at the 11-nation conference at Stirling, Scotland, which decided to hold the first world plowing match in Canada this fall.

However, the early November departure meant there was little time for preparation of many things, among them arrangements with weekly editors for publication of our letters to you. A quick poll taken among editors of our acquaintance showed they thought it would be better if we related our experience after our return for publication after the Christmas rush.

So for the next few weeks we will try to recall for you the things that impressed us most and some of the wonderful people we met during the trip.

I think I can say without hesitation that the one thing that impressed us most, and certainly the thing that will live in my memory for a long time, was the amazing spirit of the people of England. Reading newspaper accounts and predictions of approaching national bankruptcy, scarcity of food and high taxes, we had expected to meet gloomy, disgruntled people. Though bomb damage still scars acres of London (we saw only one new building) the people we met never once mentioned the war, the high taxes which are even now still paying for that war, or the stringent rationing which is another hold-over from those bleak years. Had we not known better we could have concluded there never had been a war or rationing.

It is easy to be generous when one has plenty, but it is quite a different matter to be generous on the meagre rations which Britons have put up with for the past 13 years. I can remember sitting down to tea in the dining room of a quaint oak-beamed house 400 years old. On the table were hot scones dripping with butter. The butter represented some two weeks' rations for our hosts, but that was a subject that was never discussed.

Don't misunderstand me. It isn't a mood of resignation. It is rather a spirit of "There's no use

MT. PISGAH

There was a bit of excitement in the community on Saturday of last week when little Irene Chambers was missing from her home. The family hunted in the immediate surroundings of the home and then called in the provincial police who found her about one-third of a mile from home in the bush of a neighboring ranch. Irene is five years old and was gone for about three hours. She did not realize that she was lost and was quite warm and contented.

Mr. and Mrs. William Linton of Thornhill visited with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brown and family on Sunday.

Mrs. Margaret Acey is again living in our community, with her daughter, Mrs. Norman Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Clark and Mrs. Hattie Gamble of Richmond Hill were Saturday visitors with the Jack Gamble family.

Mr. Don Sproxtton was rushed to Newmarket Hospital on Friday night of last week with a ruptured appendix and was immediately operated on. Latest word is that he is a very sick young man and will be for awhile. His friends all send the best of wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Gormley branch of the Women's Institute will meet on Wednesday evening, January 28, in the school room of S.S. No. 6, Mrs. E. A. Smith, convener of Agriculture and Canadian Industry, is planning a very good program for this meeting as it is "husbands' night." Motto—"To provide two blades of grass where there was but one, is both a profit and a pleasure." Hostesses are Mrs. George Boynton and Mrs. Kirstein. All provide.

Mrs. Duncan Crawford of Baldwin is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. John Ash and family for a couple of weeks.

whining about all this. We went into it with our eyes open, so we'll see it through."

When we remembered some of the complaining and grumbling that goes on over here, I think we all felt a little ashamed.

Together with this wonderful spirit was an extreme politeness on the part of the English. We met it through England. After the raring, tearing, "let's get there in a hurry" rudeness that it seems to me, is so general here, it was as refreshing as a summer rain.

On the platform of London's St. Pancras station our tall, white western-style hats, decorated with a maple leaf, revealed us as strangers. Within as many minutes six people approached us, smilingly said "Hallo", and asked if there was anything they could do for us. That sort of thing happened to us wherever we went.

Another thing that made a strong impression was the breathtaking beauty of the war graves I visited during a two-day trip we made to France. The cemeteries and graveyards of our soldiers who fell in the two world wars would stand comparison with the finest parks in the world. No monument could better show our gratitude than these acres of green grass, beautiful flowers and simple white crosses, that reveal the most loving and tender care.

I am afraid I have rambled a little in this first letter, but in those that follow I will trace our path through the British Isles and hope that you will get as much enjoyment from the telling as we did from the doing.

CLEARANCE SALE

TO MAKE ROOM FOR SPRING DELIVERIES

Save From 15% to 35% on:

- Beautiful Nylon Blouses.
- Ladies' Skirts.
- Ladies' Cozy Ski Underwear.
- Ladies' Snuggies and Vests.
- Children's Blouses.
- Children's Skirts.
- A few Children's 'Better Dresses' styled by 'Dorothy Brown' and 'Joan Doreen.'

— Limited quantities in each group —

DROP IN AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SAVINGS.

P.S. — Attention Figure Skaters:

We have very few skating skirts in LADIES' sizes only in stock.

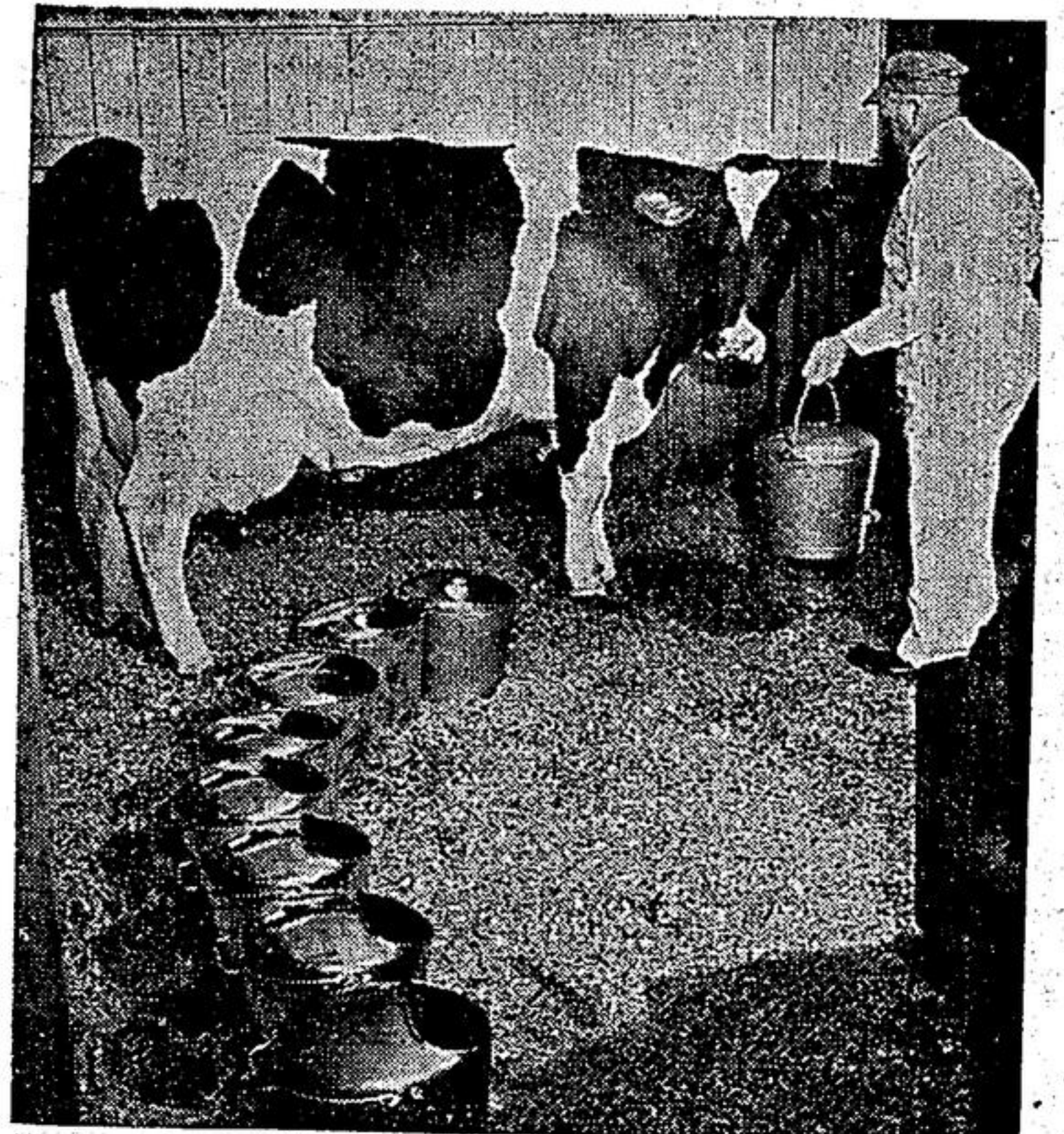
Reg. \$9.95 for \$5.25

Reg. \$6.95 for \$4.25

The Three Sisters

Stouffville, Ontario

A World Champion Looks Bored



Homestead Daisy Madcap is the world champion walking milk factory. On Jan. 13, her 365-day average milk production stood at 45 quarts, and in the year she produced almost her own weight in table butter 1,500 pounds. Daisy appears suitably modest about it all, or may be just bored, as she views the nine five-quart pails she's expected to fill at her barn in Carnation, Wash., where her output was checked by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

SPONSORED BY THE ONTARIO RETAIL HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

Greatest Hardware and Housewares Merchandising Event of the Year

Visit Toronto... for the **CANADIAN HARDWARE and HOUSEWARES SHOW** February 2-3-4-5-1953

See thousands of items designed to stir your imagination, and rouse your interest, in this, the biggest showing of its kind. You'll find eye-catching new equipment for the home, garden, or workshop... work-saving appliances... and fascinating demonstrations.

Free supervised Parking. Special Street Car Service (transfer to "Exhibition" Cars at Bathurst.)

Open to the Public February 2, 3, 4th only
6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission 50c

AUTOMOTIVE BUILDING
CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Always RUNNING MATES AT OUR STORE Town's TOP QUALITY BEST PRICES



Fancy Tomato Juice, 20 oz. tins	2 for .23	Budget Tea, 1 lb. pkg.	.75
Aylmer Choice Cream Style Corn, 20 oz. tins	2 for .27	Christie's Soda Biscuits, 1 lb. pkg.	.33
Campbell's Tomato Soup, 10 oz. tin	.13	Wilson's Ginger Ale, 2 bottles	.45
Marvel Pastry Flour, 24 lb. bag	\$1.39	Spy Apples, second grade, 6 qt. basket	.49
Morning Treat Coffee, freshly ground, lb.	.93	Lemons, 300's	6 for .29
		Grapefruit, 96's	4 for .25
		Oranges, 252's	doz. .39

CARLOAD Groceteria

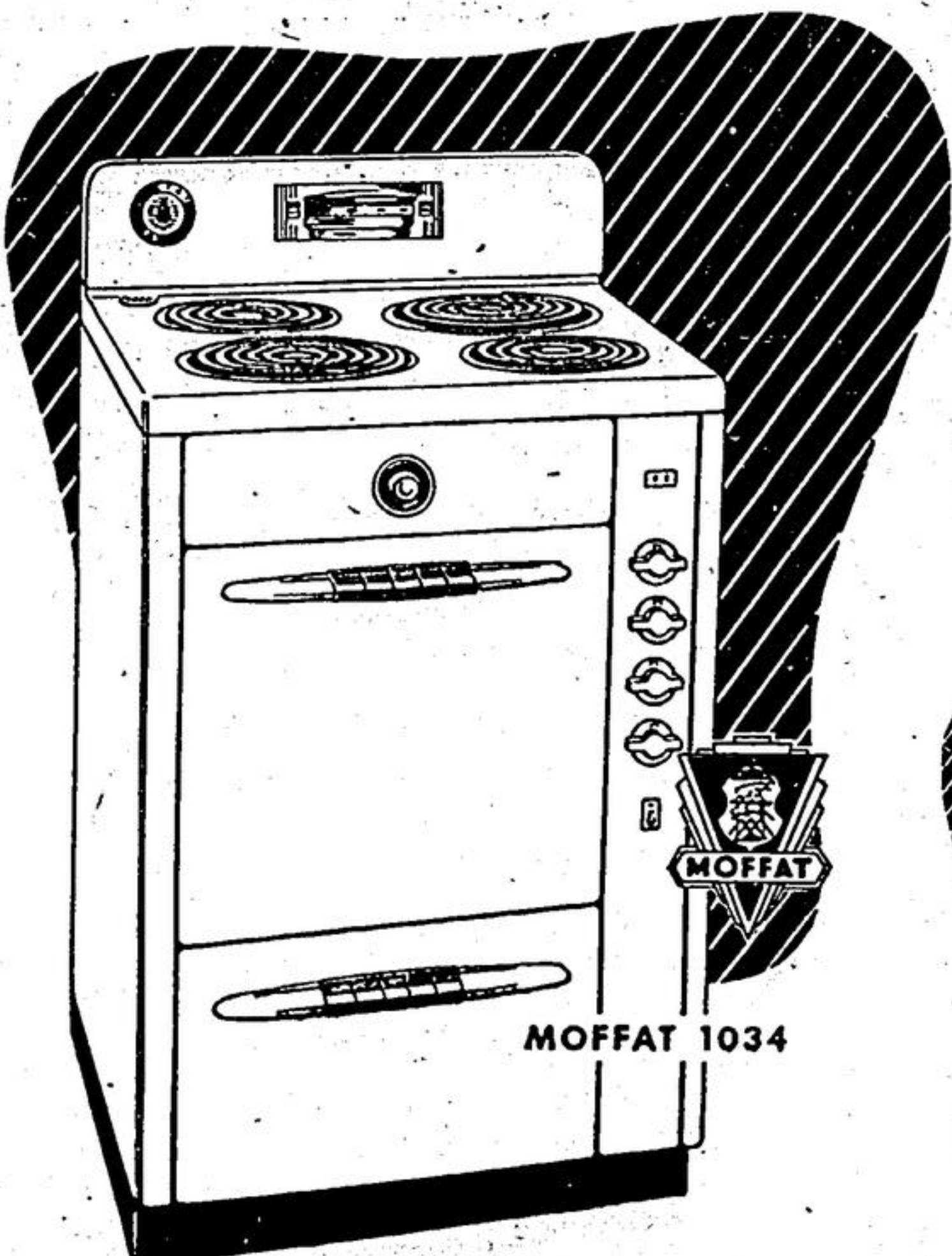
JOHN MATHEWSON, Prop. STOUFFVILLE, ONT. PHONE 280

Clearance Sale

A quantity purchase allows us to pass this saving on to the customer. Quantity limited.

\$50.00 TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE

(Model 1034) Price — \$249.50	Minimum Trade \$50.00	SALE PRICE \$199.50
(Model 1014) Price — \$229.50	Minimum Trade \$50.00	SALE PRICE \$179.50
(Model 1054) Price — \$299.50	Minimum Trade \$50.00	SALE PRICE \$249.50



FARR'S Radio Electric

Stouffville, Ontario