

Mad Rabbit Attacks Truck

An attack on a three-ton truck by a 12-pound jackrabbit apparently maddened by rabies was described at Ryley, Alta., by two coal miners.

The rabbit, after hurling itself through the closed cab window of the truck, was beaten to death by Gus and William Wick. Both were cut about the face by flying glass.

The miners were driving near this town 57 miles south-east of Edmonton when they

saw the jackrabbit cross the road and then veer back to make a pass at the truck. It missed the first time and the miners were inclined to dismiss the affair.

But the usually timid animal wheeled sharply in the field and came rushing back at the truck, leaping from the ditch. This time, foaming at the mouth, the squirming animal crashed into the truck and landed on the steering wheel. The men beat it to death.

The Wick brothers are being treated in hospital for possible rabies contamination.

TWO-WAR VETERAN WORKS V.L.A. FARM



Mr. and Mrs. William Batten are fighting it out with 50 acres of sandy land in Ontario County between Claremont and Uxbridge. When they were settled by VLA in 1950, part of land was blow sand; now it is all under good grass cover.

Retired at 52 To Run Dairy Farm

William Batten is something of an anachronism in a world of social welfare and security. At 52, he sank all his savings in 50 acres of impoverished sandy soil between Claremont and Uxbridge. At 55 he works from 4:30 in the morning until late at night to achieve a somewhat outmoded idea of security—a grassland dairy farm

with 15 milking cows. All his life until 1950, he had worked for somebody else. Then a veteran of two world wars, he persuaded Veterans' Land Act officers to stake him to his farm. Not a little persuasion was required, for VLA is a long-term proposition, and the administrators like to start with younger men. But Bill Batten is as tough as an oak knot, and has been given 25 years to pay off his VLA loan. Just now, besides running his own dairy

farm, he works mornings for an Uxbridge dairy. He was born in Cornwall, served through the First World War with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He came to Canada as soon as he was discharged in 1919. In 1927 he joined the 9th Battery, RCA, in Toronto. In the second war he was an artillery instructor, then RSM of the officers' training school at Brockville.

In civil life he had been a groom, a gardener, a farm manager. For generations back his people had been dairy farmers in Cornwall. They never faced anything like the farm near Uxbridge. The whole area threatens to revert to blow sand in dry years. But Bill Batten has his soil tied down. He sowed an amazing mixture of grasses and legumes that included alfalfa, ladino, red clover, sheep's fescue, Canada Blue grass and orchard grass. Bill says his sandy acres hold rainfall better than clay because the sand just blots up the moisture and won't let it run off.

In spite of last year's low precipitation, the mixture has caught and held. Bill already has five of the milking cows he promised himself. He'd like to put down grass silage—but he has to earn the money to pay a bulldozer operator first before he can afford a trench silo. Meantime, he feeds his cattle his own hay and buys grain for them.

Mrs. Batten comes from Cheshire and knows a thing or two about farms herself. When her husband took sick, she did all the farm work except the milking. Bill, incidentally, doesn't believe in milking machines. He insists that the farmer gets more milk if he uses "the personal touch." Cows, Bill points out, aren't machines.

The Battens have a tractor and most of the necessary farm implements. Their house and barn are substantial. Admittedly, there's a social security he wants: 50 rich acres, 15 productive cows. The mere fact that he will have to put in from 10 to 16 working hours a day to make a living from farm and herd has nothing to do with his idea of social security.

"An idle mind is the devil's workshop"—and he also accomplishes quite a bit in a busybody's mind.

Comes the time when brother will be teaching sister to swim—brother and sister to somebody else.

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THE TRAVEL TREND this summer will be Coronation-wards for many. This housewife may not be one of those to see London's dramatic celebrations, but she's about to follow the trend in home decoration by giving her walls the dramatic interest of new deep tones—Royal Red, Windsor Blue or any other of the nine special "Coronation Colours" now obtainable in C-I-L's washable, rubber-base paint, "Speed-Easy Satin".



"FIRST AID FOR APPLES" or "a tonic for tomatoes" could describe the work carried out in C-I-L's new soil-testing laboratory at Montreal as a free service to farmers. For sick plants and poor yields are usually the result of a deficiency of one or more essential plant foods in the soil. Chief soil chemist, Jean Leclerc, points out that soils can vary greatly even in one locality, says Chambly County, Quebec has some 30 types.

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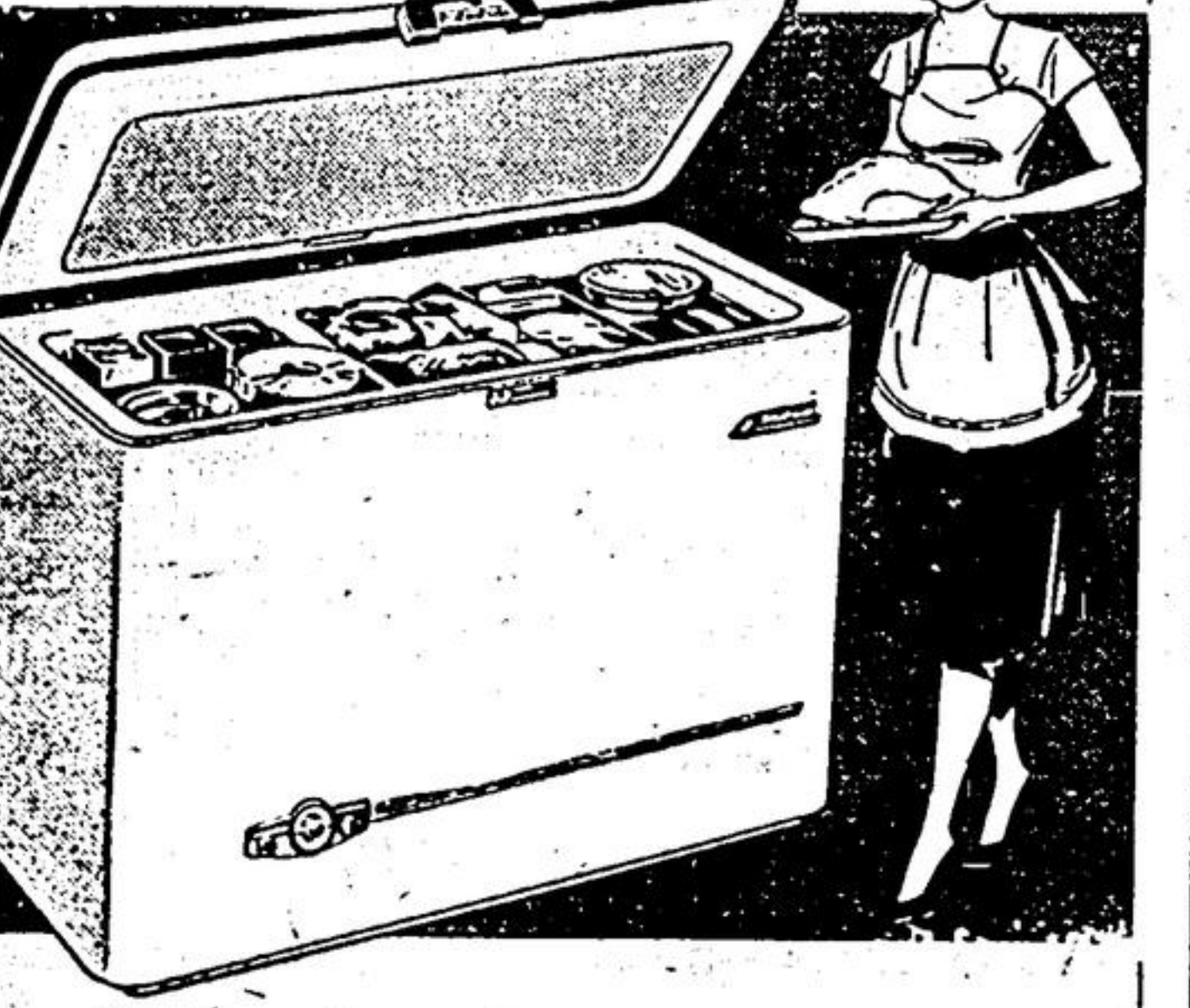
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