

Proper Soil Conservation Rule On the Eugene Lemon Farm

(By L. R. Webber)

It shall be an essential part of this agreement that as long as this land is leased the two south fields shall remain in hay pasture and shall not be broken up for corn or oats.

Such was the content of an unusual lease made many years ago by a farmer at Stouffville, Ont., when through illness he was unable to work the farm, and he prepared to hand over the farm to his son Gene Lemon. When we visited the Lemon farm in York County recently the two fields in question were still under soil sod practices to control soil erosion and were pasturing more cattle than ever before.

The wisdom shown by father Lemon has paid off many times. This farm has produced 68 bushels of fall wheat per acre, the county record a couple of years ago. The milk from the Guernsey herd brings in premium prices on the whole milk market. These high-producing milk cows are fed entirely home-grown produce except for their special desserts of concentrates and minerals.

A Farm Family

Today, Gene Lemon of the fourth generation in 125 years takes a special and creditable pride in showing visitors around the farm. It is not a showplace, for like most down-to-earth Ontario farmers the buildings appear older than those painted in bright colors. There are no fancy fences or gates but miles of portable electric fencing that commands the respect of the cows.

Gene and his six-year-old son Jonathan have a particular knack on the farm to which they take visitors and from this slight elevation relate much wisdom that is both agricultural and historical. The Lemon farm lies on the south slopes of what geologists often refer to as the Oak Ridges moraine, a large acreage of rolling and hilly sandy soils uncovered many years ago when the last glacier melted away. Father Lemon had the situation well sized up when he realized that his farm lay on the long smooth slopes adjoining the rugged moraine and in this position could be subjected to damaging floods. He insisted that the land be covered with grass, clovers, or trees the year round.

Water and the Pioneers

For centuries these sandy soils have acted as great filters to supply the streams with clear water. Many streams or gullies in these hills and by well-defined courses unite to form the Little Rouge Creek which in turn joins the Rouge River at Highway 2 just east of Toronto. It was a combination of good soil and choice sites for water-powered mills that induced the early settlement of Whitchurch and Markham townships. In his book, "The Settlement of York County," John Mitchell noted that in 1812 the towns of Stouffville and Markham each had a flour mill, an oatmeal plant, a tannery, and a distillery depending on water for power. Today a part of Stouffville's water supply originates on the Lemon farm.

From where we stood we could see the remnants of an ambitious and hard-working generation. Almost covered by thorns and choke-cherry bushes is a kiln where the limestone rocks were "burned" to provide the quicklime used in the foundations for the barns and a stone house on the farm. Nearby is a man-made ridge, all that remains of the Grand Trunk Railway spur line from Stouffville to the resort town of Sutton. This line was built around 1880 but was discontinued in the late twenties when motor transport became a part of rural and urban life.

John Mitchell tells the story of an English settler who was a pioneer in this area around 1800. For the money that he would have spent in England on rent, taxes and tithes alone, in Whitchurch township he cleared 20 acres of land, fenced it, built a cabin, and bought his livestock consisting of a yoke of oxen and three milk cows. This settler with his 3 cows set the pattern for the township's type of farming, Dairy Farming.

Gene Lemon is classed as a dairy farmer with more than 30 head of cattle to feed the year round. In the spring and summer months the livestock feed outside but a large part of the farming business is to provide winter feed. Each cow will need around 3,000 pounds of hay and 7,500 pounds of silage for winter feeding while during the whole year she would like a ton of grain and 5-6 hundred pounds of expensive protein supplement. All of this feed is produced on the farm except the protein supplement, salt, and minerals.

On dairy farms hay and pasture are the two most important crops, providing hay for winter feeding and pasture for summer grazing. When nature is unusually kind with just the right amount of sunshine and rain, more pasture is available than currently needed for summer grazing. The farmer harvests the grasses and clovers

for fall and winter feeding. This livestock food is stored as bales of hay in the barn or stacked outside. Gene filled his barn with nearly four thousand bales of hay and rather than build an outside stack, he prepared an open trench silo.

Most silos of this type are large holes dug in the soil near the barn, an expensive operation. As a matter of experiment in building a cheap silo, Gene Lemon used fence rails and posts to build a rough retaining wall against which he piled bales of old hay to act as barriers against the free passage of air. It would not give an airtight seal but the hay has served its purpose. The chopped fresh grass was blown into the enclosure and packed by running the tractor back and forth. When we scraped away four or five inches of waste material on the surface we found underneath a moist, light brown silage with a peculiar odour that we were told was much relished by cows.

It was estimated that this silo contained 90,100 tons of silage representing a lot of low-cost feed. There was no expense for building materials and it took two men one day to get the silo ready. One has to recognize a farmer's ingenuity in handling in a short time tons of green feed that otherwise could not have been stored in the barn. As to its feeding value, three pounds of silage is said to be equal to a pound of dried hay.

It seemed to us that Gene Lemon was a typical Ontario dairy farmer and an exponent of conservation farming. Early in life his father firmly impressed the basic principles of soil conservation on Gene, and as if to make an expression of good faith wrote into a land lease the unusual provision, not to break out of sod two particular fields. Today Gene's simple conservation is very simple: keep the soil in the field. If you were thinking of contour plowing as a means of achieving conservation, then this farmer catches you off guard by a further statement that he does not believe contouring is necessary on his farm and that he has not used a plow for three years.

Soil erosion, as manifested by thinly covered hillsides, shallow rills like wagon wheel marks, or deep gullies, is evident when excess surface water accumulates in large enough volumes to erode or carry away the topsoil. It has often been said that if all the rain soaked into the soil there would be no erosion problem. A farmer has several ways of managing a soil so that more water is absorbed and less available for surface run-off. The soil on the Lemon farm is a fine sandy loam characterized by plenty of soil humus in the surface layer while underneath are permeable subsoils that offer little resistance to percolating waters. A farmer must keep the surface soil loose and open. If a soil is allowed to bake or become very hard, water cannot enter the surface layers and should a heavy downpour occur soil erosion would be serious.

No Plowing Here

As we study the soil conservation methods of Gene Lemon we learn that through experience or by observation he realized that it was nearly im-

possible to set furrows on their edge in his sandy soil. The soil went one of two ways, either completely inverted and buried all the surface organic debris, or rolled back leaving a miserable example of plowing with stalks and stubble shaken up a bit but still on the surface.

With the bare inverted soil exposed to heavy rains, erosion occurred but the poorly plowed land weathered the storms with less soil and water losses. Several years of observation convinced our friend that the poor type of plowing was better for his land and that in fact he could accomplish the same effect by a stiff-toothed or deep cultivator. This implement loosens the soil several inches deeper than the ordinary plow and leaves most of the straw and stubble on the surface to act as a mulch soaking up water and allowing more to trickle very gently into the soil. You leave the Lemon farm convinced that he doesn't need contouring or the moldboard plow; the absence of erosion and the good crops are adequate proof.

Many farmers, mostly those who have never tried it, are sure that they could not operate a grain drill through the mulch. Gene Lemon recommends coulters on the drill to move the mulch from the path of the drill shoe or to cut through the debris. Other farmers have heard that it is difficult to control weeds when a deep cultivator is used exclusively. Our friend admitted that without the plow as a tillage implement you were more dependent on the weather for killing the weeds. The cultivator covers very little of the weed roots but leaves most of them on the surface and if the weather is wet the roots begin to grow. If warm and dry weather follows your cultivation, most roots lose their vitality and are no longer a problem. We were told that a field might be gone over several times depending on the weather before the weeds and cultivated grasses were dried up enough to be sure they would not start growing and compete with the wheat or oats.

Among his off-farm activities, Gene Lemon has contributed his talents as a director of the York County Crop Improvement Association. This group serves as a county nucleus of farmers who are often the first to introduce new crop varieties or to adopt different farm management practices such as strip crop farming or changes in rates and methods of fertilization. For the past three years he has taken a four-day holiday early in January and attended the short courses at the Agricultural College in Guelph. Besides contributing at these sessions, he becomes acquainted with the newer things in agriculture.

Try Tribune scratch pads for convenience.

GLOBE & MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

New or Renewals, may be paid at the office of the Stouffville Tribune.

MT. PISGAR

Mr. Metro Sudeyko underwent an operation at Toronto General Hospital on Monday. Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Smith and girls visited Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ferguson at Ringwood on Saturday.

Former pupils of Mrs. Walter Craig will be pleased to know she is able to be at her home at Buttonville now, following several months spent in St. John's Convalescent Hospital at Newtonbrook.

Mr. and Mrs. George Boynton and boys visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Sullivan and family at New Toronto. We congratulate Mrs. Leigh Baeristo on winning the "Pop-up Toaster" at the Canada Packers Cooking School on Tuesday night last week.

Keep Sunday, February 20, open for the Andrew Service at church. Come and bring a friend.

The Home & School Assn. will meet at No. 7 School on Monday night, Feb. 14, at 8:30 Dr. A. W. Boland of Aurora will speak on Dental Care. Also at this meeting will be a White Elephant Sale. No clothing, please.

The trustees and some rate-payers of No. 7 School visited Ballantrae school on Wednesday night of last week.

Fourteen young people gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Pattenden last Saturday evening for a party in honor of Miss Doris Chambers' and Mrs. Pattenden's birthday.

Pays a Visit To Gibraltar

Dear Editor and Friends

Well, we've just had the best night's sleep since we left home. The sea is calm or at least looks calm. The ship rolls to and fro but it doesn't bother us much.

We left Africa at night. The lights along the shore were beautiful, so bright and so many of them. We got through the straits of Gibraltar, passing the rock on our right. The town of 22,000 people is at the bottom of the hills close by the seaside.

On top of the Rock is one cannon and all down the sides of the hill are a lot more on terraces. In the harbour we had a funny experience. I looked over the side and there was a whole fleet of row-boats coming toward the ship. The moment they got close, wooden things started flying over the deck-rail with cords attached. We must have been about fifty feet above the water. With these cords they conducted a sort of market. They waved their hands and kept shouting "dollar" and they waved bright colored scarves. If you shouted back they put a scarf in a rush basket and sent it up to you. You put your dollar in the basket and send it back. One woman pulled up two or three and then remained a free one commission. She got it too—I wouldn't have had the gall. Anyway, we got two of them for \$2 just before the police boat came along and chased them away. A hard way to make a living. They rowed out a mile, rowed back a mile, two men in a boat.

The harbour of Gibraltar is very big and very deep. Our ship was able to turn around without backing up. We sailed around the Rock and viewed it from three sides. It is not a port in the accepted sense. We didn't dock. We just anchored and a tender came out and took the passengers off. The weather was warm, the water very blue and the tops of the mountains were covered with snow.

From Gibraltar we travelled up the coast of Spain and we keep getting glimpses of the mountains. There were eight stops up the coast and each time passengers got off but none got on. Ours was the seventh stop and so we arrived at Barcelona about 3 p.m. We got what seemed to be the only English-speaking taxi driver and he said he would take us around for two hours for \$3—cheap. The taxi must have been fifteen or twenty years old but we got there. We had trouble with the police over our guide who was apparently an unofficial guide and couldn't sit up with the driver.

The streets are all cobblestones. We visited a sort of model village where girls were making nice fancywork. Their weaving is very pretty to watch. We passed a huge coliseum but I couldn't make the driver understand that I wanted to stop and take a picture. We drove by the bull-fighting arena and a beautiful cathedral. There seemed to be every kind of automobile about, from a Cadillac to a little Austin. We were in a Plymouth. There were no mules or donkeys and all the horses were good. We passed banks, a stock exchange, British and American embassies. The driver laughed when he showed us a huge sign, "Coca Cola". American movies were advertised.

The policemen stand in the centre of a box framework in the centre of the intersections. They're all painted up like barrel poles. Only in Belgium have I seen the same idea.

—Frederick J. Vacher
(To be continued.)

this week's patterns...



Born at Lemonville 71 Years Ago

Born at Lemonville seventy-one years ago, Earl Melville Pipher passed away Feb. 2, 1953, in York County Hospital, Newmarket.

Son of the late John Pipher his early years were spent in this community. Forty-two years ago Mr. Pipher moved to Newmarket where for many years he was connected with the Office Specialty. He was an ardent church worker and only a few weeks ago was made an honorary deacon of Trinity United Church.

Mr. Pipher is survived by his widow, the former Mary Winterstein, two daughters, Mrs. P. Penrose (Lella), Mrs. W. Brown (Dorothy), Mrs. W. H. Brown (Dorothy) and a son, William, who was killed in World War II with the R.C.A.F. There are five grandchildren. A brother Clifford, Stouffville; a sister Mrs. Mames (Eva) of Newmarket, and Melbourne of Toronto.

Funeral services were conducted from the Chapel of Roadhouse, Rose, on Monday, Feb. 7, 1953, with interment in Newmarket Cemetery. Pallbearers were Walter Pipher, Ken Pipher, Melbourne Haines, Harry Haines, Dr. M. Eagleson and Dr. Douglas Marriott, nephews.

Births

TEW—Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Tew (nee Doris Vague) are happy to announce the birth of a son, Brian Edward, on Feb. 3, 1953, at Toronto East General Hospital.

SYMES—To Mr. and Mrs. Victor N. Symes, Claremont, Ont., on Saturday, Jan. 29, 1953, at the Ajax General Hospital, a daughter, Sheila Marilyn.

WIDEMAN—Mr. and Mrs. Grant Wideman (nee Darline Gray) Markham, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Donna Joanne, on February 8, 1953, at Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville.

JENKINS—Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Jenkins, Markham, are happy to announce the birth of a son, Randolph David, at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, on Feb. 2, 1953; a brother for Ronald and Derek.

MCGINTY—Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McGinty, Gormley, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Donalda Shirley Mae at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, on Feb. 3, 1953.

VANDEBEEK—Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Vandebek, Stouffville R.R. 2, announce the birth of a son, Ronald, at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, on Feb. 4, 1953; a brother for Bert, Magda and Jeannie.

YAKELEY—Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Yakeley, Goodwood, are happy to announce the birth of a son, Lloyd Joseph, at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, on Feb. 4, 1953.

\$40,000 For Police In Markham

The Police Committee for Markham Township presented their report on Monday afternoon for formal reading. A few of the outstanding recommendations contained in the report were made known to council last week but the full text recommending a budget of \$40,000 was read on Monday.

This budget figure is about double that of last year and reeve LeMasurier asked that further consideration be given the report next week. Both deputy-reve Clark and councillor Griffin were absent from Monday's meeting.

The report in its entirety as presented by chairman A. G. Little and Councillor Deacon is as follows:

The Police Committee has carefully considered the recommendations made by Chief Constable Clarence Wideman in his report to the 1951 Council in November last. These included the installation of a radio communication system in three circuits and the addition to the force of four men.

Until 1947, the Township got along with only one constable. An increase of 100% in the population as well as the expansion of Metropolitan Toronto have greatly increased the demands on the force in an urban area, adequate police protection requires one man to every 1,000 population. In a rural area one can get by with one man for every 5,000 people. Unfortunately, although Markham is still largely rural, some sections are close to heavily developed areas and the whole territory is affected by its immediate proximity to a city of 1 1/2 million people.

In 1951, the police force in Markham consisted of the Chief and four constables, one of which was assigned to Markham Village. They gave us excellent protection, especially when one considers they did not have any means of inter-communication and all calls after hours had to go to their

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MIDTOWN GARAGE

Stouffville Ontario

PINE ORCHARD

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. J. Lundy in the death of her sister, Mrs. Wagg, of Stouffville.

Miss Jean Johnston of Toronto was a weekend visitor with her brother, Walter, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Rae McClure, Myrna and Danny were Sunday guests with Mr. and Mrs. J. Franklin of Toronto.

Mrs. Wm. Galley visited Mrs. Wesley Lundy over the weekend.

Miss Beth Johnston visited her parents a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Dobby are spending a time with Mr. Clarence Preston and boys.

Mr. Harold Eveleigh spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Chapman.

The W.W. was well attended at Mrs. Roy Cody's home on Wednesday despite the cold weather and a nice lot of sewing and quilts were completed.

Mrs. Edson Johnston has been in Newmarket taking care of her aged aunt, Mrs. Breckon who injured her shoulder.

Some of our junior crowd have measles.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER GROVE'S CHICKS

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WED., FEB. 16

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Black & White Cow, 6 years of age, pasture bred
Black & White Cow, 8 years of age, full flow
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Black Heifer, bred
Red Heifer, 3 years of age, full flow
Black & White Heifer, bred
3 Black & White Heifers, open
Black Heifer, open
Red Heifer, open
Black & White Heifer, open
Roan Shorthorn Bull, good
2 Black & White Heifer Calves
Durham Heifer Calf
Pile of Scrap Iron

SALE AT 2 P.M. SHARP

TERMS: CASH

OWNER RETIRING

LLOYD TURNER, Clerk
S. D. POLLARD, Auctioneer.

THE FOLLOWING PLANO PUPILS OF BERTHA STOUTFER HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT THE FEBRUARY EXAMINATIONS OF THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC: GRADE IV—Elaine Forsythe (hon.); Joan Gayman; Grade VI—Lois Stoutfer (hon.)

EASY DOES IT

SAVE your tissue paper from packages throughout the year and you'll find that crumpled, it's ideal for cleaning and polishing mirrors and glass.

When shoes have become soaked or even damp from the weather, do not place them too close to registers or heaters for drying. This will parch leather. Let them dry at room temperature.

Save yourself steps by placing chenille or lintless dusting cloths in drawers in every room in the house. You can then dust while you're in the room rather than having to go to get a cloth.

Nutcrackers are helpful when kept in your kitchen cutlery drawer. Use them for opening small screw topped jars and bottles.

If brass or copper fixtures on lamps, doors or drawers tarnish readily, polish them thoroughly, then apply clear lacquer to them to prevent tarnish from forming.

Decorative ceramic coasters in sizes to fit can be placed under flower and plant containers to prevent moisture from seeping on to window sills or table tops.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Banana Tea Muffins
(Makes 16 small)

1 1/2 cup sifted cake flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1 cup mashed bananas
Sift together flour, baking powder, soda and salt. Beat sugar gradually and continue beating until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat well. Add flour mixture alternately with bananas, mixing until batter is smooth. Turn into well greased muffin pans and bake in a moderately hot (400° F.) oven about 20 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Remington Portable TYPEWRITERS

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THE STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

PUZZLE No. 228

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

- ANSWER to Puzzle No. 227
- HORIZONTAL**
- 1 Striped
 - 2 Instrument
 - 3 Facing direction
 - 4 Use from which glacier
 - 5 Impulses
 - 6 Rhymester
 - 7 Song
 - 8 Hacked
 - 9 Female
 - 10 Fortune teller
 - 11 Troubled
 - 12 Measure
 - 13 Separating
 - 14 Appearances out
 - 15 Sum up
 - 16 Cane
 - 17 Male duck
 - 18 Abstract being
 - 19 Desires from exertion
 - 20 Distinct
 - 21 Unit of energy
 - 22 Lorry
 - 23 Code of Honor
 - 24 Breakfast
 - 25 Measure
 - 26 Wing
 - 27 Pertaining to
 - 28 Wind
 - 29 Part of mouth
 - 30 Part of coat
 - 31 Guide
 - 32 Base war
 - 33 Hindward stick
 - 34 One imperious
 - 35 To pain or
 - 36 Measure
 - 37 Beside
- VERTICAL**
- 1 Metal class
 - 2 Extent of land
 - 3 Whole of each
 - 4 Take a portion
 - 5 Herman erect
 - 6 Part of coat
 - 7 Lubrication
 - 8 Liquid
 - 9 Part of boat
 - 10 Placed in
 - 11 Placed in
 - 12 Short for
 - 13 Compound
 - 14 Arrow
 - 15 Broad sweep
 - 16 Change
 - 17 Suggestion
- 25** Like a celestial being
- 26** Weight unit
- 27** Securely
- 28** Unaccompanied
- 29** Writing table
- 30** Make mistake
- 31** Lines of juncture
- 32** Appellation
- 33** Kind of fish
- 34** Kind of fish
- 35** Bird's home
- 36** Cut, after
- 37** River island
- 38** Silkwoom
- 42** Assaying
- 43** One who propels boat
- 44** Title of respect
- 45** Extinct bird
- 46** Fruit
- 47** Vehicles
- 48** Appellation
- 49** Falling moisture
- 50** Pintail duck
- 51** French river
- 52** Bird's home
- 53** Cut, after
- 54** Enick
- 55** Silkwoom