

Farm Tribune

City Resident Turns White-Collar Farmer

The number of farms becoming weekend retreats and homes for city residents is causing some concern among farmers in some areas of Ontario where agricultural land is growing scarce and prices are soaring.

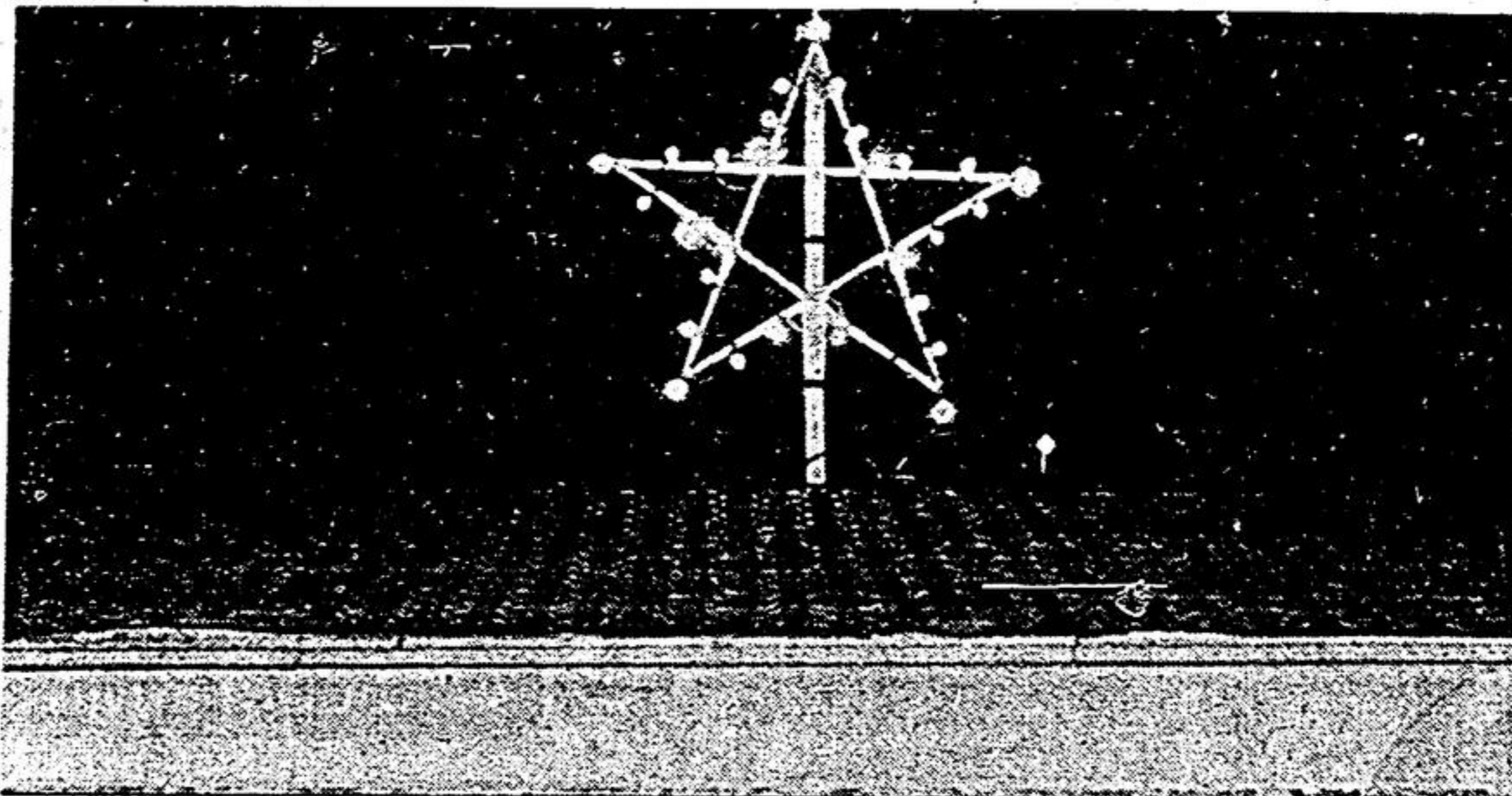
In York and Ontario Counties there has been enough concern for the soil and crop improvement association to take the matter up in their meetings.

Herbert Crown, Ontario

director of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Administration suggested the day will come when productive agricultural land will have to be made available for farming.

Although the problem is not acute in northern Ontario County and Peterborough, some farmers are renting additional acres of land for production. They rent land on a five-year agreement and farm it as they do their own.

Whether it is more profitable to rent or own land depends on the use to which it is put. Speculation is forcing the prices beyond the \$200 per acre mark even in these outlying areas. Such prices make it hard for people to expand very much.



Lighted Roof Star Visible For Many Miles

Gaily decorated homes at Christmas time is no longer a practice adopted only by residents in cities and towns. The country folk are doing it too. Such a display on the roof of Edgar Evans' farm house near Claremont is visible for a considerable distance.

—Staff Photo.



FARMING REPORT

By AL WALL

Agricultural Representative for York County)

As the year ends, it's interesting to look back at it, from the farm angle. We usually say we never have an average year but from the standpoint of crops, I think 1966 came close to it.

Yields were not sensational in any crop. Good first crop hay was offset by lower yields for the second crop. Generally, grain was normal but we had some low yields caused by a long dry period in the growing season. Our best corn didn't match previous records but with good maturing weather this fall, the crop came off well with satisfactory yields.

Price changes were encouraging. They may not be where they ought to be yet but at least they are in the right direction. Threats from surpluses diminished further in 1966. The beef, pork, egg and poultry industries are more stable now than on many previous occasions.

Government support of the dairy industry has been a key feature of 1966. In other years, dairying was gradually losing ground in comparison to other farm sectors. Increases in subsidies this year, as well as a moderate increase in the price of fluid milk, has firmed the foundation of the dairy business.

These improvements in prices of course, have been accomplished by similar changes in farm operating costs. Very careful management, plus larger and larger units is needed to make the books come out right. In York County this year, changes in size have been most evident on hog

farms. Many hog barns have been modernized, and many new up-to-date buildings have been put up. Our hog industry will strengthen as this pattern is followed in the next few years.

In my opinion, there are two crucially important issues in York to be dealt with in 1967. One is milk marketing. The situation in York is I think, more complex than in most other counties. Lots of hard thinking as well as tolerance, will be needed by the time pooling comes into effect on June 1st. The other is farm assessment. Events of the past few weeks have properly focussed attention on the problem. It is to be hoped that a solution can be found in 1967.

One of the first big events of 1967 will be the annual meeting of the Crop Improvement Association. The date is Jan. 11, and it is to be at Newmarket Plaza auditorium.

Courtship, like a football team, is most successful when it is founded on a good line.

Urge Fed.-Union Merge

Should the minister of agriculture force unification of farm organizations by special legislation?

This question was posed at the Ontario Farmers Union annual convention. Robt. Carbert, CBC farm commentator, suggested integration of the federation of agriculture and farmers union cult be along the same lines as the current legislation of Canada's armed forces.

Mr. Carbert, who was keynote speaker at the banquet, said he would

despair of the farm movement until the two groups unite their organizations.

Forced integration would evoke protests from "rural admirals, generals and wing commanders, but it might just happen to be in the best interests of the grass roots farmer,"

Mr. Carbert declared.

He told the convention that farm organizations have the responsibility to act in the best interests of all farmers. Farm groups must give their "single-minded attention to representing farmers instead of fighting over them."

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What Does The NEW YEAR Hold For You?

It will be a GOOD year in the view of economists. Consumer spending is at an all-time peak. Wages have registered the largest gain in a decade. Employment is relatively full.

A sampling of views at a recent convention of the American Bankers' Association favored a car purchase loan (76 percent) over a home purchase (27 percent), home expansion (52 percent), starting a small business (18 percent), or expanding a corporation (22 percent) under present economic conditions.

Auto makers are forecasting another banner year. Safer cars here on earth and new wonders in space are a part of our New Year. Let's hope too for a safer earth free from war.

Changes in transportation from computer-programmed highways to practical electric cars (There are already 50,000 in daily use in England with annual production scheduled for 100,000) are being reliably predicted.

May it be a year of safe and happy motoring for you. If you are celebrating this holiday season, use moderation. Or to "pun" it another way: "The drinking driver is putting the quart before the hearse." Buckle your seat belt and be extra cautious on the highways.

We hope the New Year is a banner one for you. May your road through life be straight and smooth... an enriching journey free of mishaps.

May you have a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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WESTON vs. MARKHAM
Friday Dec. 30th
GAME TIME 8.30 P.M.

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Welcome, New Year
May we continue building our good relationship.
Have a Happy New Year!
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INVESTMENT
In our opinion, the Chinchilla business is one of the easiest, and least costly in which to get started. If you are seeking wealth, security, happiness, success and are fond of animals and are interested in making up to \$3,000.00 per year in your spare time; then as little as \$700.00 invested now can start you on the road to independence.
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