



Few men in Markham Village or Township are better known than Gordon Lunau, 16th Avenue. Mr. Lunau has been a drover for 40 years, starting out April 29, 1927. During this period, he has driven more than 800,000 miles. He is pictured here with his constant travelling companion 'Jimmy', a springer spaniel. —Staff Photo.

Gordon Lunau

Markham Area Drover 40 Years

MARKHAM — Gordon Lunau, 16th Avenue, Markham, could almost drive to and from the Toronto Stockyards with his eyes closed. He's been making the trip three times weekly for the past 40 years. He's the longest active drover in the district.

Mr. Lunau, now 64, was born at lot 17, conc. 8, Markham Township, the present Joe Knobbs farm. His father, Reuben Lunau was in the same kind of buying and selling business.

It was April 29, 1927, that Gordon Lunau drove his single-tired, 1½ ton Chev truck on its first official trip to market. "Part of the road wasn't yet paved," he recalled, "you'd meet about ten cars along the way. Now you meet more than that in less than a mile."

TIMES HAVE CHANGED Mr. Lunau can recall cattle selling for 2½ cents a pound in 1930 and cartage rates of 15 cents a hundred. Now, the sale price is about 22 cents per pound and cartage is 40 cents a hundred.

In more than 800,000 miles of truck travel, Mr. Lunau has been involved in only two minor accidents. He has owned three

It may be significant that you rarely encounter the old know-it-all.

If you can take a deep breath and hold it when you're about to blow your top, you've got self-control.

Chevs, a Ford, an International and a Rugby.

Another drover of the pre-'30 era was William McNecley, a Markham Village butcher. He owned a Model 'T' with solid rubber tires. Another was the late Alex Boyd.

"Loading facilities were often tough," he said, "but once a cow or bull was in the truck, I had no trouble. They had to spend too much time trying to stand up, to worry about breaking out." He can recall shooting one steer that went completely wild. "In those days," he said, "a farmer kept ten cows, it was a lot. Today, they keep 40, 50 or even 100."

Farmers have learned to respect Mr. Lunau's opinion on market prices and will often enquire about

price trends before making a shipment.

ORIGINAL CALLS Looking back over the past forty years, brings to mind the names of some of the original farmer customers of 1924 including the late Leonard Hoover, Amos Grove and Allan Lewis; Russell Grove, Albert Wideman, Ora Ramer, Max Reesor and Ralph Westland.

"We travelled some awful roads and lanes," he recalled, "but there was always a team of horses handy if we needed a pull." He received his first P.C.V. licence in 1932.

Mr. Lunau seldom travels alone. For seated up front is his trusty Springer Spaniel, 'Jimmy'. Trips into the country is about the extent of 'Jimmy's' travels.

There might be too many distracting attractions in the big city.

The rural scene is changing rapidly and, no one knows it more than Mr. Lunau. He counted on his fingers the number of active farmers south of Steele's Avenue. "They're selling out and either retiring or moving north. Who can blame them: The land's too valuable to farm anymore and besides, who can afford it." He said that on his own property, the taxes amount to \$10 a week.

Mr. Lunau opened the truck door and gave a whistle. Out of the house bounded 'Jimmy', ready and raring to add more years, more miles and more farm friends to an already enviable record.

Legion Member Receives Twenty-five Year Pin

By ELEANOR JOHNSTON STOUFFVILLE — Comrade Fred Castle of Stouffville was presented recently with his 25 year pin. He first joined the Legion in 1942, while stationed at Camp Borden. In recognition of his many years as an active member of this branch, he was given a cigarette lighter bearing the Legion Crest.

The Ladies Auxiliary entertained the Branch at a Social evening on April 14 to celebrate their 20th anniversary and presented them with a built-in flag cabinet in the Club room to store and display all flags and accessories.

The bowling is over for another season and congratulations go to the Merymakers, captained by Marion Crowder for finishing first in the league and also to the Maggies, captained by Opal Lehman for being first in the play-offs. The awards were presented to the winners by President Aurelia Smith at the banquet, held at the Town and Country restaurant, May 2.

Stouffville will be the host auxiliary for the annual rally of auxiliaries in Zone E2 on Monday, May

15, at 8 p.m. Zone Commander Gloria Sandford will preside and there will be a Provincial Officer as guest speaker.

The regular monthly social of the branch will be held Friday, May 12 at 9 p.m. Members and their friends are welcome.

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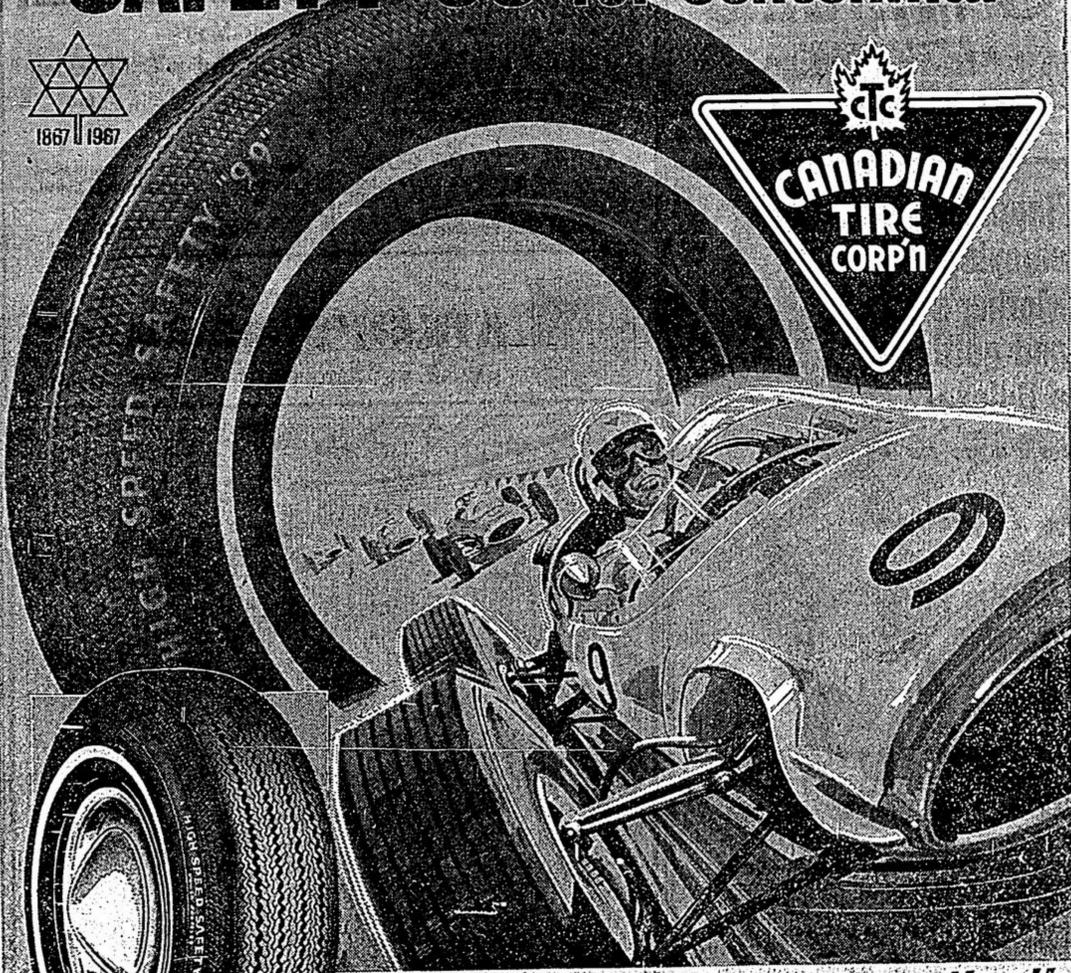
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5.60/15 (6.00/15)	35.60
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