

GARDEN GUIDE

Geraniums For Indoor Blooming

By John Bradshaw

If only my geraniums would grow like grandmother's is the complaint of many an apartment or home window gardener. They remember with nostalgia that red geranium in grandmother's window which bloomed all winter despite light conditions which were far from ideal.

During the depression days the use of geraniums in the garden went out of style, and it was only about ten years ago that they were revived with enthusiasm. Since then the demand has been so great that it's been hard for the plant growers to keep up with the supply. These have been for outdoor planting only and geraniums as a house plant were almost forgotten.

Geraniums also became unpopular as house or apartment plants when varieties were introduced that had brighter and larger flowers. Unfortunately, these needed more sunshine to keep forming buds and stayed barely alive during the dark months of November, December and January.

Recent research has produced new kinds that will bloom well in the winter months when sunshine is at its lowest ebb. All of this is being helped along by the introduction of the special light-growing fluorescent tubes which duplicate quite closely the full sunshine conditions found outdoors in the garden.

With the new light tubes you will be able to grow indoors late-blooming varieties such as Alphonse Ricard, Red Lady, Mme Landry and Pink Giant. They need a long day to bring them into bloom and this means that the fluorescent lights will need to be turned on from four in the afternoon until nine at night to lengthen the day.

Two sets of tubes are now on the market. One is the wide spectrum Gro Lux, a new tube which is richer in red light, so important when growing geraniums indoors. The other is the Optima tube which provides the same sort of light conditions.

In homes or apartments without fluorescent lighting the best winter-blooming kinds are those that flower the earliest in spring. The various Irene geraniums are excellent. All of the Fiat group, except Red Fiat are also among the best. Fiat Enchantress, a fine salmon-pink is the most satisfactory winter bloomer of this class.

The ivy-leaved kinds vary a great deal in their ability to bloom during the short days of winter but are worth trying to see which does the best. Research has shown that the scented-leaved geraniums soon become lanky and look ugly. It's best to give this type a trial under the new fluorescent lights where better success can be expected.

You'll find that any geranium will grow better in a five inch pot rather than smaller ones. The trend for the past five years has been to use lighter and lighter soil mixtures. This has not worked out too satisfactorily either in the home or in the garden. A simple mixture consisting of three parts topsoil, one part humus and one part sand should grow a first class geranium indoors. For humus you can use peat moss, leaf mold or one of the composted cattle manures. To the amount of soil required for each five inch pot add one teaspoonful of a complete garden fertilizer.

The usual recommendation for watering geraniums is to keep them on the dry side. For those growing outdoors this works well but it must be modified indoors. Here don't allow the plants to be quite dry if you wish lots of bloom. A watering every other day will keep the soil moderately moist at all times. It's also important to keep the humidity around the plant up to 50 percent. A mechanical humidifier is the most satisfactory way of doing this. Standing the pots in a tray or pan filled with gravel and containing an inch or so of water will also boost the humidity in the air considerably.

During the next year or two there'll be important new developments in geraniums. New varieties will be introduced that can be grown from seed. Unlike Nittany Lion, an earlier variety grown from seed, these will be much shorter and earlier. Nittany Lion blooms late and makes a huge plant that's not suited for use as a house plant.

FARMING REPORT

by AL WALL

Hopes for a frost-free September partly went out the window early in the month. Frost last Monday and Tuesday hit some corn fields from Newmarket north. Damage was quite varied, and fairly serious in some fields to be harvested for grain.

Some corn was cut for silage last week. The early birds often come out second best when it comes to silo filling. Nice, fresh, green silage looks good but if the grain isn't mature and the moisture is too high, cattle won't eat it well and its value as feed will be low. The target for silage is to have the grain in full dent, and the plant matured and dried out to some degree at least.

Plants with the top leaves frosted and dry make good silage. However, if too much drying occurs, the fermentation doesn't work right and it may not keep well.

Additives for corn silage are always of interest. The two that we hear most about now, are limestone and urea. The reason for adding limestone is that it

is responsible for the formation of organic acids in the silage, which can be used efficiently by cattle for energy.

However, most feed trials show only minor improvements in beef cattle gains.

Urea is a protein substitute that can cut the cost of supplements. There are drawbacks however. For early filling, silo may run with some urea going down the barnyard. Or it may seep down and become concentrated in the bottom. Mixing has to be well done. For large silos and well matured silage, urea is worth consideration.

More and more bunker and pit silos are being used, and some type of cover can solve the spoilage problem. To do the job, the cover has to go on just as soon as the silo is filled. If spoilage gets started, it will keep going.

Black plastic at about 2 cents per square foot works well. A newer idea, and one that works well too, is to apply a gallon of molasses per square foot of area.

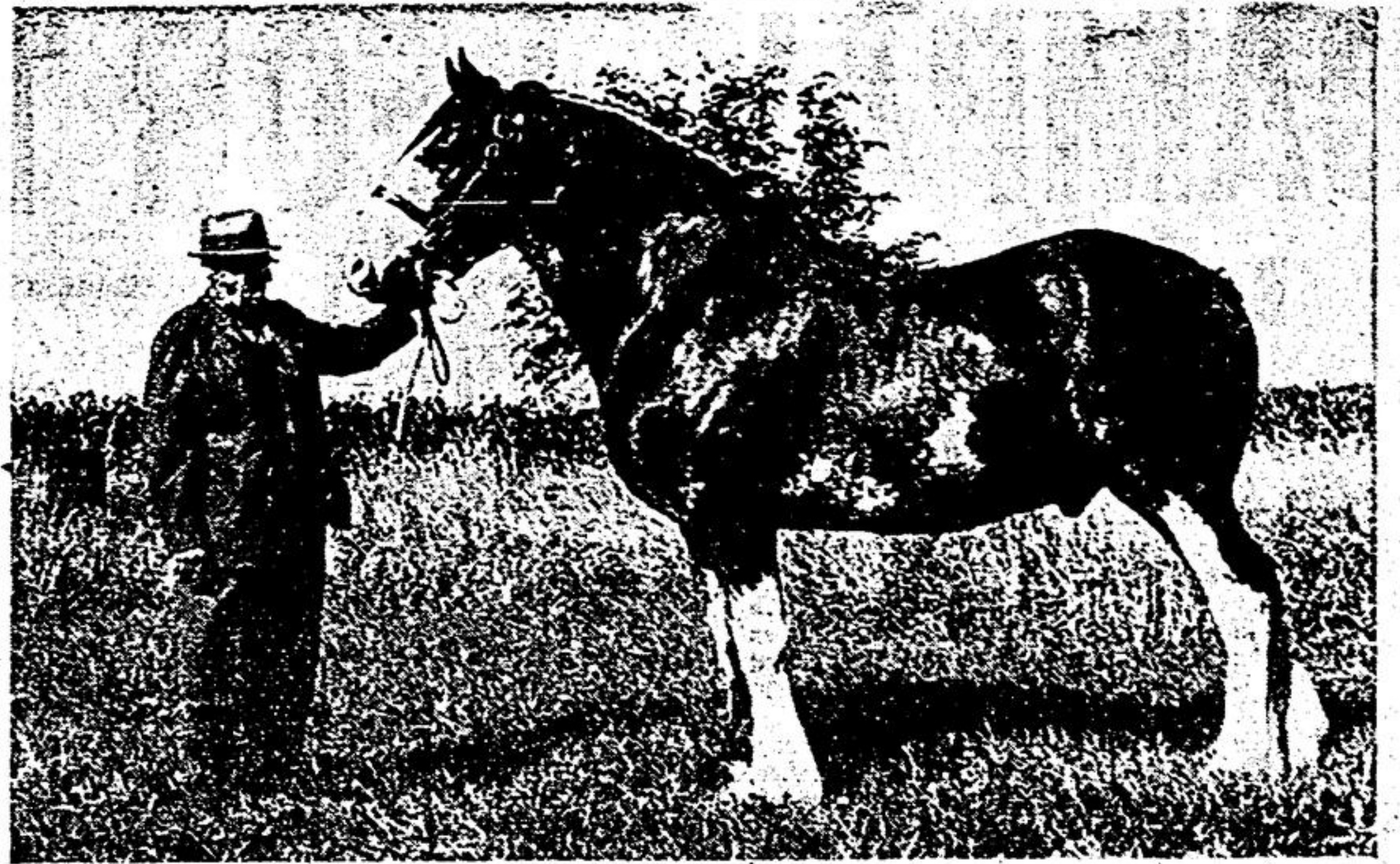
Prevent Alfalfa Winterkill

Alfalfa should not be cut or grazed during September in Ontario because this is the time when food reserves are being stored in the root. Food reserves are necessary for the plants to survive the winter as well as spring and aftermath growth. Each time alfalfa is cut, the food reserves in the root decline then build up again as the crop approaches the bloom stage.

Food reserves are very important in fall. Their storage must be completed before the leaves stop manufacturing food as the cold weather approaches. Studies to date indicate that little food is stored after mid-October.

Research currently under way shows the crucial date in the fall storage of food reserves varies in different areas of the province. Although these areas cannot be clearly defined at present, results indicate that the critical storage period may be 3 to 4 weeks earlier in the cooler, short-seasoned areas of the province than in the longest growing season areas. For example, at Guelph, the most severe winterkilling has occurred when alfalfa was cut about September 20th; at Mount Forest, greatest damage occurred 10 days earlier; at Brantford, 10 days later.

Resting alfalfa in the fall is good insurance for stand persistence and also insures higher yields of alfalfa the following year.



Prize Kinsale Horse 'Floated' Across Atlantic From Scotland

Heber Down of Kinsale is the proud owner of a 4 year old Clydesdale gelding, a class champion purchased in Scotland and brought to Canada by boat. The cost of transporting the animal was \$460. It weighs 1,900 pounds.

some suggestions from horticulturists with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

Treat the stump with an herbicide. Stump treatment is particularly useful in preventing the vigorous regrowth that is the characteristic response of many species after cutting. Moreover, killing the stump is the first step toward encouraging it to rot. All the below stump treatment must be applied to freshly

exposed wood, and may be applied at any season of the year. The best time is right after the tree is cut.

If you are treating an old stump, here's how to go about it. With a wedge or drill, put holes into the stump to expose fresh wood for the chemical to work on. If there is any regrowth, treat it as well as the stump proper.

Any of the following chemicals will work on most species:

—2,4-D-ESTER or 2,4,5-T, 2,4-D MIXTURE 3 ounces acid in 1 gallon fuel oil. Spray or paint on.

—AMMATE X, 2 1/4 pounds in 1 gallon water or 1 (dry) per inch of stump diameter. Spray, paint or dry application.

—SODIUM CHLORATE MIXTURES, 1 1/2 ounce per inch of stump diameter, dry application.

If you spray, treat all surfaces of the stump. Editor's Mail

Junior Farmers Urged To Compete

UXBRIDGE—Two Junior Coaching and Plowing Matches will be held in Ontario County on Saturday, September 23, at 10 a.m. at the farm of W. F. Dally & Son, Brooklin; and on Saturday, September 30, at 10 a.m. at the farm of Mr. Kaj Have, Udney. They are open to all farm boys and girls in Ontario County who are 12 years of age, but have not reached their 23rd birthday by October 11, 1967.

Winners will be selected from these classes to represent the North Ontario Plowmen's Association and the South Ontario Plowmen's Association in the special Junior and Intermediate Classes to be held at the International Plowing Match October 14, near Barrie in Simcoe County.

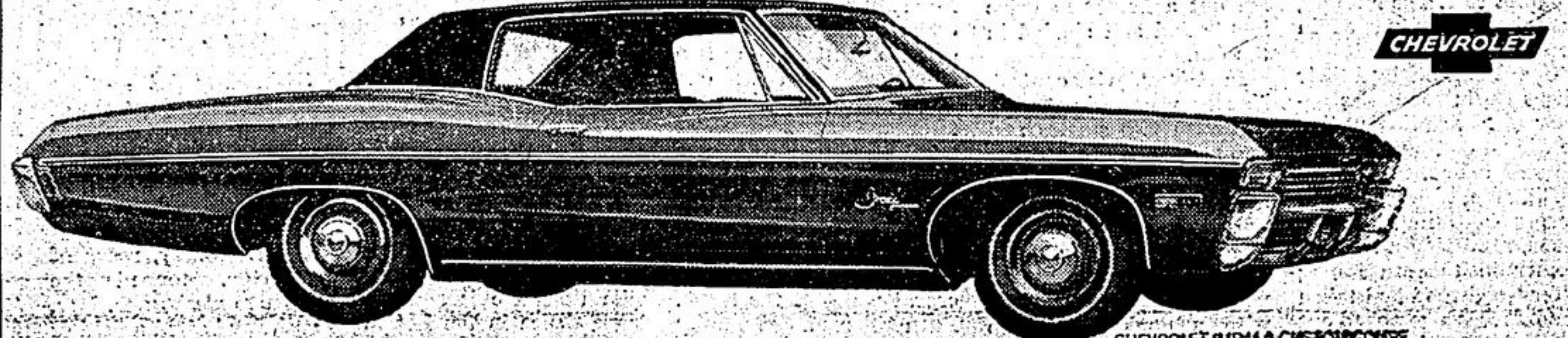
The members of the Ontario County Plow Team, who will take part in the Inter-County Competition at the International, will

also be selected at these Junior Matches.

The Junior Champion and Intermediate Champion Inter-Branch Competitions were new at the International Plowing Match last year, and worked out very well. To compete, a Junior must be 14 years of age and under 19 years of age at the time of the International, and for the Intermediate Competition, he must be 19 years of age and under 23 at the time of the International.

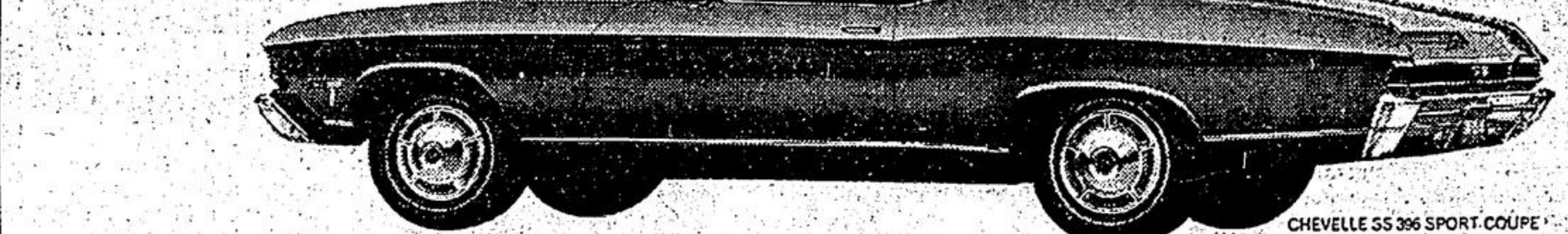
All Junior Plowmen, between the ages of 14 and 23, are urged to attend these Junior Plowing Matches in the County on September 30 in order to qualify for the Special Championship and enter County Classes at the International. A Queen of the Furrow Class is also being included in the junior prize list this year.

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80th Birthday
On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lemon had a party for Mrs. Austin Wagg on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lemon, Morrisburg; Mrs. Art Storey, Mrs. Wagg, Unionville, Mrs. Harry Gilbert, Mrs. Joe Winterstein, Mrs. D. Burnett and Mrs. Ernie Morgason, Goodwood.



How Do Dealers Lose Female Customers?

Well, like women themselves, the answer is sometimes puzzling. But mostly, it must be said, they forget they're dealing with women.

A remarkable number of women are loyal to their service station man who sells them gas and answers their questions with patience. That is really the key. Female customers judge a salesman or a dealership by the way their service wants are attended to and the extent to which they can rely on them to see that their cars are taken care of properly without taking advantage of their normal female mechanical ignorance.

While dealership policy usually reflects itself in the salesman's attitude to his customers, it is even more the case that female customers judge a dealership on the personal level of the salesman who sold her car to her.

Women car buyers often return to their selling salesman with service problems rather than go direct to the service department. They are expressing their confidence in the salesman to protect their interests.

The greatest number of service problems women experience arise around warranty guarantees. A salesman who explains the manufacturer's warranty thoroughly to his female customer and then later guides her in abiding by its requirements is likely to be rewarded by her customer loyalty and recommendations to her friends.

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