

Creative Threads

'A warm thing, a feeling of accomplishment'



Jackie Petrie of Edward Street is one of 20 local women taking the "Creative Threads" class offered by Seneca College. Here, she works on a hand loom.

STOUFFVILLE — In an age of high speed machinery and department stores, 20 local women have been learning to use primitive looms for weaving.

They are members of the Seneca College "Creative Threads" class, meeting weekly in two classes at Latham Hall.

The weaving process, which was first used by South American Indians, is one of the three techniques learned in the class. They also learn the rudiments of crocheting and macrame in the 10-week course.

The weaving and so on "is a form of expression, like writing or music," according to Beverly Smith, who teaches the class.

For the class members, it was their first introduction to crocheting, weaving, and macrame. Nina Zlotkin said she likes "doing something with my hands," and Arlene Holden of Tyndale Road felt it could be "a good way of spending time when you're retired."

Most class members had done sewing or knitting before taking the class, so it is an extension of their natural interests.

There seemed to be no age limitation to the class. They ranged from their early 20's to retirement age.

As to why weaving and other crafts have become popular today, Miss Smith said that "everything has become so unhuman in society... This is really kind of a warm thing, there's really a feeling of accomplishment."

Instead of "a machine to you", this is "from some person to you," she said.

For inspiration, Miss Smith shows the class slides of some of the best crafts that have been made, "because there's a lot of garbage in crafts," she said.

Miss Smith studied design at Sheridan College and weaving in Sweden for a year. "I wanted to experience a European school and old traditional techniques," she said.

Now, working in a business with a friend, Miss Smith has been commissioned to make 10 large wall-hangings for Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.

As a hobby, she says, weaving doesn't have to be too expensive. "If they were to get into it

seriously with a floor loom, the initial cost would be fairly expensive," she added.

Since most of the women taking the course are primarily interested in weaving and other crafts as hobbies, the expense can be kept to a moderate level.

Because of the interest shown in the course in Stouffville, a second instalment is being offered in January.

Seniors receive grant

UXBRIDGE — Norm Cafik announced recently that the Uxbridge Senior Citizens Group has been given a "New Horizons" project grant in the amount of \$12,305.

This grant will be used to expand the activities of the Uxbridge Seniors and augment membership in enlarged quarters provided by the local Kinsmen.

The present program of card parties, potluck suppers and social evenings will be increased through this grant to provide a newsletter, movies and an assortment of sports and games.

Farm report

Contradictions in beef picture

By A. A. WALL
Agricultural Representative for York Region

YORK REGION — Despite a lot of uncertainty, most of our beef feed lots are filling up, often with more lighter cattle than usual and more calves. The

condition of our corn crop has had more to do with this than the prospect for beef prices in the next twelve months.

There are all sorts of contradictions in the beef picture. We are on the downside of the cycle and total cattle numbers are very high but grain prices

are slowing up the finishing rate. Some cattle are bound to spend a long time as stockers on low cost roughage rations.

With the present cost of grain at or higher than finished beef price, feeder cattle prices have to be lower than the finished price, and the lighter the cattle, the lower the price has to be. Our break even tables for example, show if we expect to sell for 45 cents, with grain costing 50 cents, then we have to buy 700 lb. feeders at 41 cents or 400 lbs. calves at 35 cents.

Our trials have shown consistently that cost per pound of gain goes down with the rate of grain feeding. The cheapest gains usually are when grain is fed at only half a pound per 100 lbs. live weight, well into the finishing period.

When grain was cheap, getting down to the lowest possible feed cost had to be weighed against keeping a steer around longer than necessary. But now, cutting feed costs is all important so the move is to more roughage, less grain, and longer finishing periods.

Dairymen are affected by the beef situation too. The market for bull calves is a disaster, and dairy beef is

discounted heavily right through the feeding calf and yearling stages to finished beef.

Many will be raising their bull calves for beef, which is probably the best way out. They have to be sold though, at fairly light weights to make a profit. Daily gain on a Holstein, stays fairly constant at around 2.5 lbs. per day, right from 200 lbs. to 1000 lbs.

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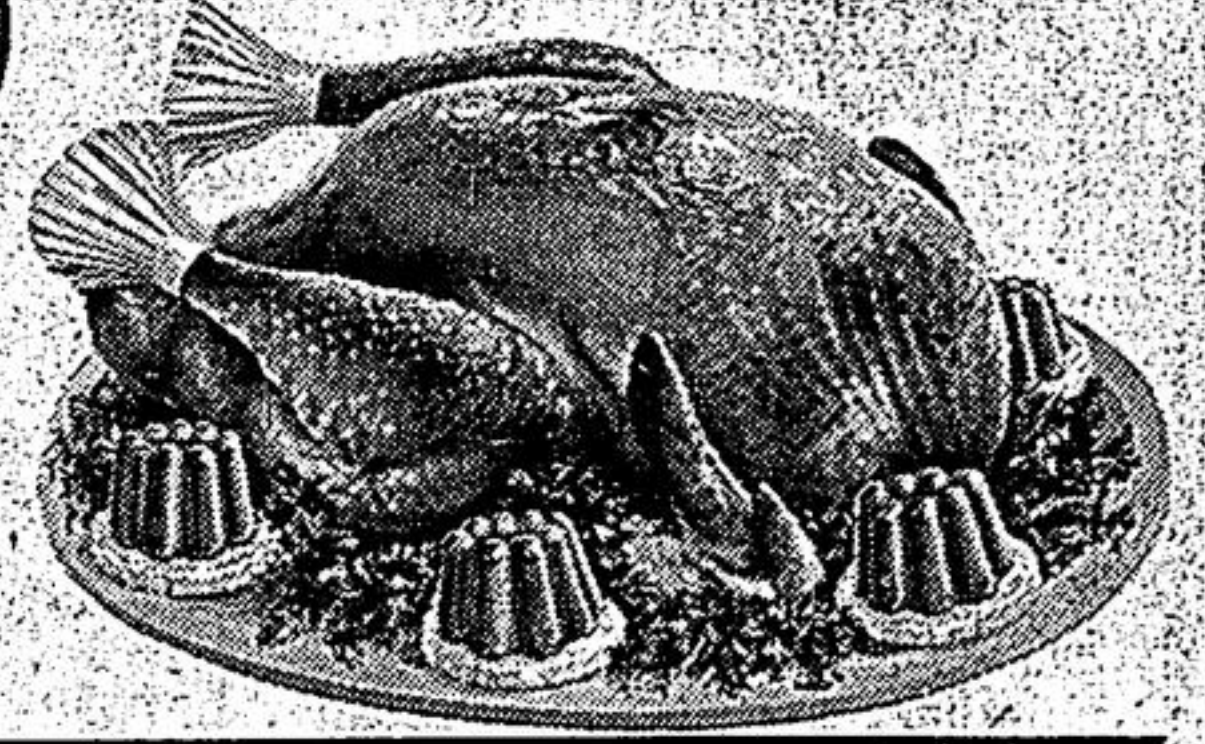
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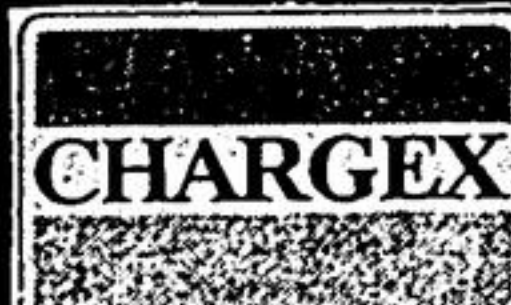
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