

# Thoughts on family farm

By Wm. McGee  
In a recent television interview, a veteran entertainer described her childhood and her philosophy on life. She had been raised in a rather primitive area of the U.S.A.; a closely knit community where three generations could live together. The older people were loved and felt wanted, and so were the children. She thought that such happiness was worth far more than any worldly possessions. The hippies are trying communal living but they are overlooking many fundamentals. What has this to do with the Family Farm? Well, recently I had the pleasure of visiting several farms in this area and I was

impressed by the Family Farms in particular with the grandparents, the parents and the children living and working together. Sometimes the grandparents lived in a separate house on the same property or in the tradition of the Mennonites, lived in their own section of the family dwelling. The grandfather, usually past the time when he could perform the Herculean tasks and the long hours which are the lot of the active farmer, nevertheless was filling a useful role. He was doing those odd jobs that the busy farmer never seems to have the spare time to do; fixing a window or a lock or a latch.

mending fences, nailing back that loose board, a bit of painting, feeding the smaller stock and a bit of gardening. Perhaps he also gave sage advice based on years of experience and his knowledge of that particular land; fundamental advice which was invaluable even though the son was using much more modern methods than he did. The grandparents enjoyed that great reward of parenthood, the pleasure of grandchildren, teaching them childhood skills and the lessons of life. The Government pensions enable the grandparents to make their contributions and avoid the feeling that

they might be a financial burden. The modern "Sunset Villas" are fine - certainly far ahead of the lonely garret but I too think they are happiest who spend their declining years living useful lives in the surroundings to which they are accustomed in an atmosphere where they are loved and respected. We seem to be working at cross-purposes. The governments talk of and spend large sums looking after the aged yet by ending the Family Farm through income taxes and succession duties they are destroying a most rewarding way of life. The so-called factory farms are not an unqualified success and indeed raise

problems of pollution and the rapid spread of diseases among stock because of close confinement. The Russian communists found that the productivity of the small areas around the homes of the farm workers was many times that of the government farms where they were obliged to work most of the time. If we were required to pay the farmer for a 40-hour week with double time for overtime, I'm afraid food would be so expensive that overweight would not be a problem. It is to be hoped that the bureaucrats have second thoughts before destroying the Family Farm by their unproven theories.



Carefully fitting an iron horseshoe to the hoof of an animal is a highly skilled craft which few men today still practice. One of those who does is Norm Rose, of Nobleton, the blacksmith at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Here Mr. Rose is filing the hoof of a horse to flatten rough edges and ensure a snug fit for the shoe which he then nails on. Black

Creek is located at Jane St. and Steeles Ave. Mr. Rose is a third-generation blacksmith and the shop in which he works at Black Creek is the same one in which his father and grandfather also practised their craft. It was brought to the Village in 1961 in two parts.

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## Pioneer village blacksmith is 3rd generation

Not too surprisingly, Norm Rose, the blacksmith at Black Creek Pioneer Village has a high regard for the skills of the pioneer blacksmith which were so important to the early communities in which they lived. "They were the engineers of the country", Mr. Rose says with pride, and he should know. He is a third-generation blacksmith himself and now works in the blacksmith shop where his father and grandfather worked before him. The building was brought to Black Creek in 1961 in two parts from its location in

Nobleton, and Mr. Rose came with it, bringing the skills he learned as a boy. Black Creek is administered by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and is located in northwest Metro Toronto at Jane St. and Steeles Ave. The Pioneer blacksmith's skills were many and went far beyond the well-known shoeing of horses and other livestock. In addition, he made all metal parts for the settlers' homes, such as hinges, cranes, fire tools, and farm implements. As well as repairing

cooking utensils and making the nails used in the pioneer community, the blacksmith also made most of his own tools. Before carriage makers came to a village, he would help build the carriages, including the wheels to carry them. Mr. Rose is also a wheelwright and sets the iron tires around the wooden wheels of the carriages at Black Creek. Almost anything made from iron could be repaired by the village "smithy", and horse shoes were made from a bar iron. Now horseshoes are bought ready-made and then fitted to each individual horse.

## Approve 'bending' snowmobile bylaw

UXBRIDGE TWP. - Recent snow storms have been followed by a storm of protest over a bylaw that prohibits the use of snowmobiles

on County roads. In two cases, outlined by Reeve Bob Nesbitt, the bylaw had been enforced so rigidly that OPP officers, themselves, refused to use their snowmobiles to travel blocked County roads in emergency situations. The general dissatisfaction of snowmobile owners with the bylaw, as it now stands, and its obvious lack of flexibility under certain conditions, has prompted the County Board of Roads and Bridges to ask the Townships concerned, for a reassessment and

any recommendations for change. Councillor Hendy and Dep.-reeve Don Jackson wanted the bylaw "thrown-out" but, in the end, it was Mr. Hendy's resolution, recommending that the bylaw be rescinded, that was thrown-out by an opposing vote from Reeve Nesbitt and councillors Murhead and Higgins. Later the same 3-2 split vote passed a resolution recommending the bylaw be amended to provide that Police, while on duty, be authorized to use their snowmobiles on County roads;

citizens, when the roads are impassible to motor vehicles, due to snow and ice and that restrictions, in any case, should only apply to snowmobiles on the road surface or shoulders - not the remainder of the road allowance. Reeve Nesbitt, the Township's representative on the County Board, will attend the next meeting when the fate of the bylaw will be discussed. Representatives from Whitby and Brechin detachments of the OPP will also attend to air their views.

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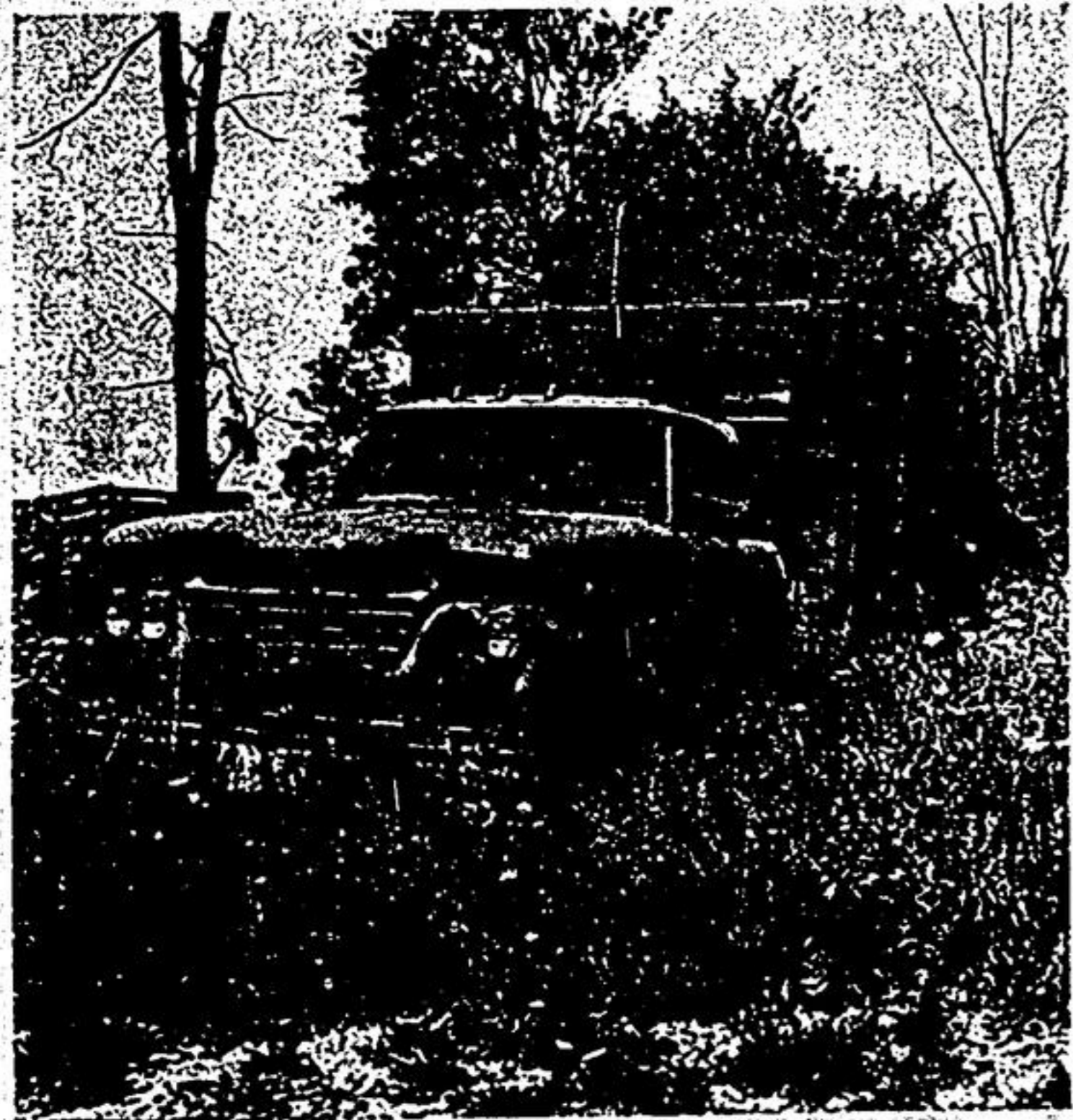
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