

Stranded Farmers South of the Border

Farming, it has often been said, is not just a way of making a living; it is a way of life. It represents, probably, the chief survival of personal business enterprise. Anything, therefore, that takes people off farms does a good deal more to a nation than affect a change in jobs.

Farm population has been dropping in the United States since 1916 (by over 5,000,000 in the last 10 years) — dwindling in its ratio to the whole for more than 100 years. And White House recommendations just sent to Congress, if carried out, would accelerate this trend.

If these proposals would result simply in taking families indiscriminately out of farming, they certainly should be questioned. But they have to be with farmers who, because of sub-marginal soil, climatic conditions, lack of capital, or of skill constitute one of the lowest income groups in the country — less than \$1,000 a year.

Such people, says Secretary Benson, are helped little by price-support programs. Their production is so small per farm that price supports add only a few dollars. They are not the ones who pile up the big surpluses. A good deal of price-support exploitation comes from so-called corporate "farming."

Yet it is consideration for these "little people" that has supplied a good deal of the humanitarian stream behind high-support legislation.

Helping the chronically uneconomical farmers on the dry plains to move elsewhere or to other callings would make some contribution to relieving distress in the Dust Bowl. Many of the bigger operators have been beautifully well financed to weather droughts or to cut their losses and start up again on their own.

But the recommendations, as the President's message stresses, are of a "long range nature." They are not substitutes for things that must be done to meet emergencies. — From The Christian Science Monitor.

TABLE TALKS

Jane Andrews.

Let's talk about strawberries for a few moments. As far as myself and family are concerned we're satisfied to eat them either one of two ways. Plain, with sugar and plenty of rich cream poured over; or as part of a shortcake—and I mean the old-fashioned kind made with biscuit dough and not the fancy structures that are sold in the strawberry shortcake in these effete days.

Still, there are occasions when you want to serve something more elaborate—and the following three recipes are just what you need at such a juncture.

For this strawberry Heart Meringue, the berries can be hulled and sweetened ice cream made or bought and the meringue shell prepared, all before-hand. The scoops of ice cream could be taken from your own freezing tray, for the second recipe is a delicious combination of chilled evaporated milk, meringue and crushed strawberries frozen to a velvety smoothness.

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Fell Madly In Love With Old Painting

Officials at a Rumanian art gallery were intrigued until recently by the daily appearance of a young man who acted very strangely.

He would stand in front of a full-length portrait of a lovely woman by an unknown artist, obviously rapt in admiration. Sometimes his lips would move as he uttered words of love — all addressed to the scantily-clad girl the original model for whom lived more than 300 years ago.

It was clear that the romantic-looking stranger had fallen in love with the picture. One day he stopped coming to the art gallery, but the authorities received a letter from him — a love letter addressed to the woman in the picture. In it he poured out his devotion, praying that one day he might meet her in eternity.

A strange story — but no stranger than others of people who have fallen in love with pictures immortalized by the old masters.

Titian, the great Venetian artist, lavished all his skill upon his beautiful picture of "Laura de Dioni." Her figure is sumptuous, her face of wonderful purity and innocence.

When this portrait was first exhibited in Italy, a young French count spent forty days sitting before it. And the gallery authorities took swift action after an official had had to restrain him while he was trying to kiss the lovely Laura's left hand when he thought he was with her.

The love-sick count's parents were told of his infatuation for the picture. They were alarmed by his queer behaviour, but found he was quite sane. At the same time, they made sure he paid no more visits to the art gallery.

Love-letters and even gorgeous bouquets of flowers were sometimes surreptitiously thrown on the floor in front of Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece, "Mona Lisa."

In the days of the French regime its navigation west of Quebec was always troublesome. The ships from France were not able to sail to Montreal. Travelers and goods of trade all had to be transferred to small, specially constructed vessels which could make their way through the shallow waters between the low lying islands in the river and could be rowed, or pushed, or tugged from a towpath on the bank, up through the famous St. Mary's Current which guarded the island of Montreal from intrusion.

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Island of Montreal

The Island of Montreal is set like a giant gem in a medallion of elaborate Florentine silver work, for there lies all about it a network of turbulent and celebrated waterways that throughout its history have been beautiful, dramatic and tragic as man attempted their conquest.

Great as the St. Lawrence River, in the days of the French regime its navigation west of Quebec was always troublesome. The ships from France were not able to sail to Montreal. Travelers and goods of trade all had to be transferred to small, specially constructed vessels which could make their way through the shallow waters between the low lying islands in the river and could be rowed, or pushed, or tugged from a towpath on the bank, up through the famous St. Mary's Current which guarded the island of Montreal from intrusion.

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When Two Hundred Dogs Come To Town

By PHIL CARSCALLEN

Probiar, Sask., literally goes to the dogs in September. Less than 20 miles from the U.S. border and about 60 from the Manitoba boundary, Probiar normally has a population of about 200 people and 50 dogs. During September the census jumps to 300 people and some 250 dogs.

The sudden—and vocal—increase in canine population heralds the beginning of one of the continent's top hunting dog trials—the Border International Field Trials—which start on Labor Day and continue for about two weeks.

The dogs, mostly from Georgia and Alabama—include some of the finest pointers and English setters anywhere.

The trials are big business, not only in Probiar but in international dogdom; first prize money can run to \$1,000 or better. They are held around Probiar because its flat, gently countryside is ideal for the prairie chicken. There is little brush and not too many fences. The Sunday before Labor Day, a weird assortment of trucks, some big, some small, but all fitted with dog cages, starts to arrive in Probiar. By five o'clock that night the town is in an uproar.

The 50 town dogs come out to howl, yip and bark a welcome to the 200 guest visitors, who yip right back. Trainers, handlers and scouts, some with their families, crowd the small hotel lobby and overflow into the streets.

For the dog men, it's dog talk for the dog men. It's dog talk for breakfast, dog talk for dinner, dog talk all the time—all in southern accents and drawls. A Canadian in the crowd sounds like a foreigner.

The trials are important to dog owners because they prove the worth of the dog, the trainer. Let's say you are one of the 50-odd Americans who has a training camp in eastern Manitoba or Saskatchewan where you bring your dogs every July, August and September because it's too doggone hot to train dogs down south. You have a very expensive dog — perhaps worth as much as \$5,000 — with a fancy name like Sattila Wahoo Pete. You've trained him since he was a pup and he's ready for the all-age stakes. You enter him and the owner pays the shot, \$30. If it were a championship the entry fee would be \$50.

The Sunday night before Labor Day you crowd into Probiar's Canadian Legion Hall with all the other trainers for the draw. All the dogs' names are put in a hat, and are then drawn in pairs. The dogs run in pairs or packs. Pete's name is in the hat. You sit there just a-praying that he will be paired off with a good dog and that Pete will get one of the good courses. You are at the Border International last year and know which courses have lot of birds and which haven't.

You're lucky. Pete's name is drawn along with that of another good dog. The course is one of the best. Now all you have to do is wait for the weather, deer, rabbits, porcupines, and hope that Pete feels like working and not just rattling his bones.

The 15 or more trial courses, each three-quarters of a mile arranged by the Border International, for the next year, make notes and then dog owners which of these smart dogs isn't trying to pull a fast one. Then off the dog goes again, looking for more birds.

The dogs are judged for knowledge of what to do for their bird work, finding and pointing birds; on class, for the way they carry themselves, speed and stance in pointing, and for handling, way they will range but still obey the trainers' commands. The dog has 30 minutes to show his stuff in a state and an hour in a championship event.

By the time the fourth or fifth brace is on the run it's 9 a.m. and the less hardy have arrived. The horse gallery has grown to quite a size and the truck gallery is in full array. There is no standard design for the trucks; they are of all shapes,

operating with interested groups in the safe use of agricultural chemicals. However, officials of the Plant Products Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, point out that for the most part, the essential information is on the label. All farmers and agricultural leaders have a great opportunity to help establish 1955 as a year which sets new records in safe use.

Harmful ingredients in feeds are rarely the cause of serious declining performance or mortality in poultry flocks, states C. R. Phillips of the Plant Products Division of the Federal Department of Agriculture. When losses occur, a few affected birds should be submitted to a poultry pathologist for laboratory examination, because the cause of death in nearly all cases is disease.

It is recognized that poultry diets are sometimes deficient in vitamins and minerals, which may affect the health of the birds. Such health changes, however, do not occur overnight, and an observant poultryman will notice these changes before they reach serious proportions.

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THE EARM FRONT

John Russell

A good deal of attention is being focused on the hazards attending the use of agricultural chemicals, especially pesticides. Not the least of the efforts for safe use is made by industry in determining the potential danger of the chemicals sold, and in putting practical precautions and directions on the labels, that if followed, practically eliminate the possibility of harmful effects.

The following list of general precautionary measures taken from the National Agricultural Chemical News and Pesticides Review adds emphasis to the need for careful use of pesticides, and group of agricultural chemicals which are an essential component of the farmer's production program.

1. Read the label noting particularly the warnings and cautions before opening the container and before each use.

2. Keep the pesticide out of reach of children, pets, and irresponsible persons. In case of accidental poisoning, call a physician or get the patient to a hospital at once.

3. Always keep the pest control materials in original, closed and properly labelled containers.

4. Never give a neighbour or anyone a portion of a pesticide in an unlabelled container.

5. Store in a safe, separate room, cabinet or closet, or on a high shelf and where not exposed to excess sun or cold.

6. Do not store pest control materials where food or feed stuffs are stored or handled.

7. Observe cautions to mix and mix residues on edible portions of plants.