

## O.P.A. Report On 1970 Plowing Events

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During 1970 the branch plowing associations continued to hold plowing matches, demonstrations and junior events.

Worthy of note is that during 1969 and 1970 the Agricultural Representative for Manitoulin arranged coaching classes on the Island which created a great deal of interest among the younger farmers. At these

classes instructions were given in the proper adjustment of plows, etc. Statistics indicate there is an increase in the number of junior events, also in the number of entries in the tractor classes. The number

of entries in the horse classes is holding steady. Prize money paid by branches totalled \$27,262 in senior events and \$1,011 in junior and home plowing competitions.

The 57th International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Demonstration took place on the Claire Farr and neighbouring farms at Lindsay, in Victoria County, from October 13 to 17. In spite of the inclement weather and muddy conditions the Match was very well attended and proved to be a success.

The Ontario Plowmen's Association is indebted to the Victoria County Local Committee, under the chairmanship of Cam Kennedy and the citizens of Victoria County for their wholehearted co-operation. The exhibit area, known as Tented City, covered approximately 75 acres and was occupied by 350 exhibitors and 30 caterers. The displays of machinery and equipment and items of interest to both urban and rural people were very well received by all who had an opportunity to attend this great agricultural event.

The prize list included 41 plowing classes.

The Ontario Senior Championship Class had 24 entries and it was won by Douglas Reid of Bramalea with Ralph Yule of Hagersville in second place. These two plowmen will represent Ontario in the 1971 Canadian Championship Plowing Contest which will be held in conjunction with the International Plowing Match in Haldimand County.

A total of nine counties entered teams of two plowmen each in the Inter-County Competition - Gulf Oil Canada Ltd., competition. The winning team from Ontario County was composed of Brian DeGeer of Mount Albert and Bill Tran of Claremont. The second place team was from Haldimand County

and competitors were Charles Montague of Jarvis and Bruce Peart of Hagersville.

Nine schools entered teams in the Inter-Secondary School Competition. First place went to Haldimand County Board of Education and contestants were James Weatherston and Craig Huffman, both from Hagersville. The second place team representing the Mount Forest District High School was composed of Ted Hodges and Stephen Hodges of Mount Forest.

The Eatons' Junior Championship had 23 entries and was won by Bill Tan of Claremont with Daryl Hostrawser of Belwood in second.

There were 12 entries in the Esso Champions Class and Barry Timbers of Sandford was declared the Esso Champion. Runner-up was Ralph Yule of Caledonia. These two plowmen, together with Jack Taylor, president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, will be making a trip to another Canadian province, courtesy of Imperial Oil Limited.

The 1970 Canadian Championship Plowing Contest was held near Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in June. Seven provinces were represented in the competition and Gerald Lyttle, Foxwarren, Manitoba, was declared the Canadian Champion. In second place was W.O. (Bim) Smith of Portage la

Prairie, followed by Edwin Mills of Bay of Quinte and Prince Edward Island. A survey made some time ago in Ontario showed that only one representative from a province participated in the World Plowing Contest. October in England will be held by Gerald Lyttle and C. Edwards of Hagersville. George Thomson of Chilliwack, B.C., will accompany them as team manager.

A number of Ontario Warden's accepted the challenge of Warden Stevensen of Victoria County. The competition was won by Warden Stevensen with S.G. Nesbitt of Haliburton County in second place.

Mayor John F. Eakin of the Lindsay challenge the Mayors of Ontario and 33 accepted. The winner was Mayor Gladys Roling of East Gwillimbury, with second place going to Mayor Brian Best of Milton.

Fifteen plowing branches entered a contest in the Queen of the Furrows Contest. It was won by a representative from Peel County, Miss Mary Dolan of Brampton, with Brant County's entry, Miss Kathy Thomson of Brantford, as runner up.

Future Plowing Matches will be held in Peel County, 1971; Lambton County, 1972; Haldimand County, 1973; and Ontario County, 1975.

## Adjustments Important For Good Plowing

your plow poorly adjusted? A survey made some time ago in Ontario showed that only one representative from a province participated in the World Plowing Contest.

With the International Plowing Match lending prominence to good plowing from Oct. 12 to 16 near Jarvis, all farmers might take a look at the adjustment of their plows to

bring the standard of their plowing up to that of the experts. Basically there are three adjustments to a plow, notes the Department of Engineering Science,

University of Guelph. These are: the heel clearance adjustment, the landside pressure adjustment, and the coulter adjustment.

Heel clearance is the measurement between the bottom of the landside and the bottom of the furrow. If the landside does not have a replaceable heel casting, the clearance when measured on a hard surface, should be one-quarter of an inch for soft moist soils. If the landside does have a replaceable heel casting, the casting should leave a slight mark in the bottom of the furrow when plowing.

The landside pressure adjustment when adjusted properly on three-wheeled plows reduces the draft by causing some of the side thrust of the plow to be carried on the rear wheel instead of being carried on the landside of the plow bottom. On two-wheeled plows, as well as on mounted plows, there is usually not special adjustment for landside pressure.

On three-wheeled plows the landside pressure is checked by laying a straight edge against the point of the share and against the rear wheel. Then the distance from the rear of the landside to the straight edge is measured. The measurement should be between a quarter and three-eighths of an inch.

The coulter adjustment is important. The adjustment of any rolling coulter is affected by the condition of the soil to be plowed and the sharpness of the coulter itself. The coulter can be adjusted three ways:

The first adjustment is the depth of cut. The general setting is one and a half to two inches clearance between the point of the share and the cutting edge of the coulter blade. If the soil is very hard or the coulter dull, it will be necessary to increase this clearance so that the plow

will not "ride" on the coulter and thus not allow the plow to penetrate to the desired depth.

The second adjustment is the position of the coulter on the plow beam. The usual position is to have the bearing of the coulter directly above the point of the share.

The third adjustment concerns the clearance between the coulter and the landside. The easiest way to set the coulter to the land is to hold a board, which is three-eighths to

three-quarters of an inch thick, on edge against the landside and extending forward beyond the point of the share. Then the coulter shank should be adjusted until the coulter is parallel to the board.

These basic adjustments should be made before the plow is taken into the field. Then these adjustments can be modified in the field to suit various soil conditions.

The instruction booklet obtained with the plow should be followed closely.

## International Famous For Its Tented City

In addition to the plowing competitions, the International is famous for its tented city as well as for its displays and demonstrations of the latest in farm equipment.

Each year the headquarters area takes the same form and has become known as the Tented City, one of the most popular places for the manufacture of equipment for the farm and farm home to display their wares.

Arranged in the form of streets, with frontage on each side of the street, the Tented City provides nearly two miles of frontage for exhibitors and caterers.

Despite the fact that this Tented City is literally out in a field, good facilities are available. Hydro power lines are run down each street and there is running water on tap close to the exhibitor's and caterers' space. In addition, telephone service is available on the ground.

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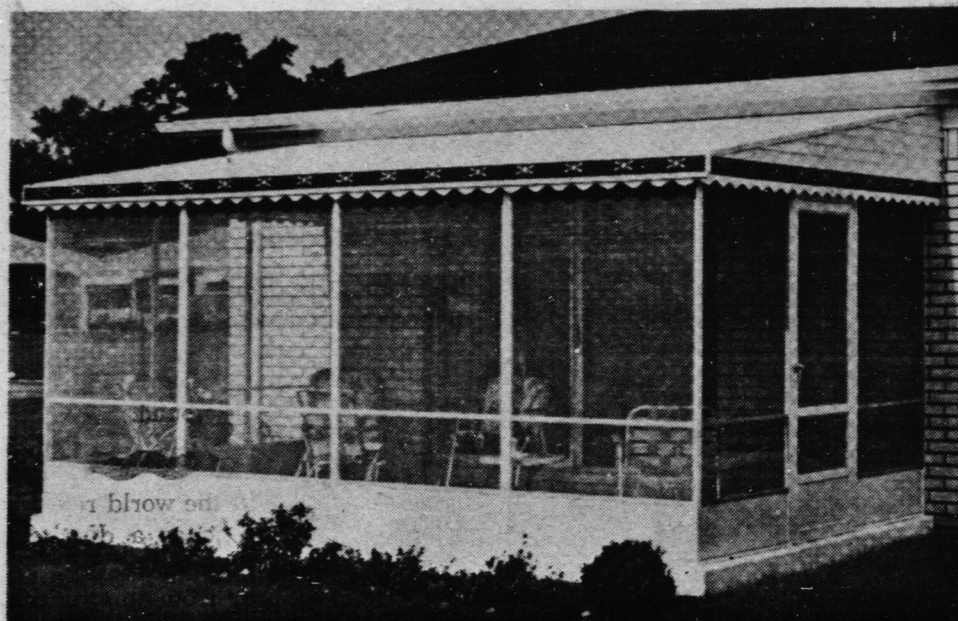
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