

Celebrating Their 70th Anniversary

Historical Highlights Of Bayham Women's Institute

In June, 1941 members were still making jam. From 10½ crates of strawberries they made 408 pounds of jam. They bought 8½ crates for \$21.75 and the other two were donated. The following month 408 pounds of jam were made from 9½ crates of raspberries. Nine crates cost \$35.20 and the ½ crate was donated. On August 25 and September two members met again at Mrs. A. Benners and made 340 pounds of plum jam from 5½ bushels of donated plums. The following week on the 10th, 12th, 16th, 896 pounds of peach jam were made. Total—2,052 pounds for 1941.

Christmas boxes in 1941 were sent to Dick Minor, Jim Humphrey, Fred Procnier, Gordon Procnier, Arthur Winters, Frank Wrathmall, Hugh Woodworth, Fred Dawes, Bob Johnston and F. Burman. The boxes contained two pair of sox, tooth paste, peanut butter, tin of jam, shaving cream, chocolate bars, Christmas cake, razor blades, gum, cigarettes and maple sugar. Letters were received from the boys thanking the Institute for their kindness.

Each year one notes an increase in the pounds of jam produced. In 1942 a total of 2,344 pounds were sent away and members voted to pledge 2,500 the following year. There were 358 sewed articles and 135 knitted articles.

This year Eden W.I. celebrated its 25th anniversary. "On the afternoon of May 21, 1952, 12 Bayham W.I. members motored to Eden when the District Officers and Mrs. Ward Benner organized the Institute for them.

Contests were frequently a part of the social occasion. At a picnic at Waterworks Park Mrs. Jess Van Patter won the prize for the most seeds in her piece of watermelon. At a Grandmother's meeting, Mrs. Fred Bowes won the prize for the grandmother with the most girlish figure. Other zany contests were carrying peanuts on a spoon and walking on paper plates.

In June 1954, members gave unanimous support to the District Annual for an Institute Museum for Elgin County. It was only through the tireless efforts of members that the museum be-

came a reality and is one of the tourist attractions for Elgin. Beside canvassing for funds, rags were cut and made into rugs and ladies even proved their aptitude for remodeling and plastering to ready the museum for its opening.

Nostalgia is very much in evidence throughout this report but many memories will be recalled when one reads of the tea the W.I. member served at the Crystal Palace. This wooden building was demolished and replaced by the steel structure which presently houses the Women's Fair displays, school displays and flower show.

The Bayham Women's Institute was organized in 1907, but minutes are available from 1917 on:

In October 1917, an entry is made, "Instead of a formal meeting we packed seventeen boxes for boys from our own community at the front. Socks and fruit cake furnished by the Women's Institute while the contributions for the boxes from members and women of the community were generous and good." This is quite typical of the community support given to local lads in not only World War I but World War II as well.

From canvassing for funds to buying wool for soldier's socks, in 1919 we read where W.I. members canvass again — "to purchase a monument to be erected in the cemetery in memory of our fallen heroes".

Frequently, as part of the program a member would play a piano or violin selection or sing a solo, but in April 1921, "members were entertained by a number of selections on the victrola". One leaves it to their imagination to try to comprehend why one expenditure in November, 1918 was "For damage done to magic lantern night for Dr. Benner's lecture".

An apron social was held in January 1924. The women displayed their workmanship and the men acted as judges. Each man was to place a ten cent piece in the pocket of the apron of his choice. The winner was Mrs. V. Brown who received the glory while the W.I. was \$12.05 richer (who placed the five cents in the pocket?)

The Bayham W.I. made its feelings known when in May 1925 it passed a resolution "that the members of the Bayham W.I. do not trade at groceries where 4.4 beer is sold." This motion was moved by Mrs. Ward Benner and seconded by Mrs. Von Brown.

Socials were always a way to make money. It was decided to have a Valentine

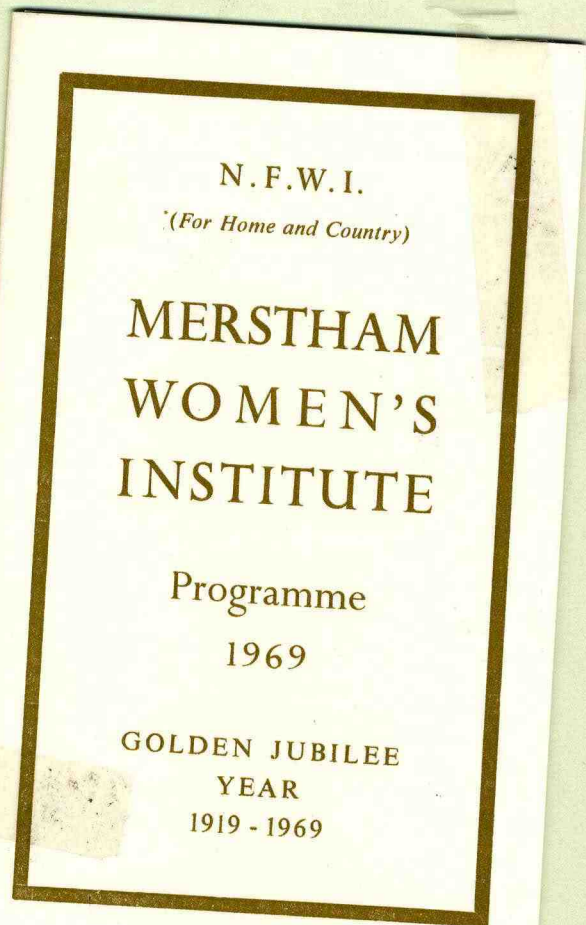
social in February 1926 and members were to make miniature aprons and place as many pennies in the pocket as the size of their waist. Before the social, this motion was ammended that they pay according to height at 3 cents a foot. Quite a saving for some. Proceeds from the social were \$11.55. One lunch served at such a social was "weaners and baker's bread, small cakes, candy and tea." Frequently they had box socials. All was not true profit since the Institute made a motion "to pay \$1.50 to the ladies aid to help pay the expenses of light and fuel at the time of the Valentine social". A notation of the financial section shows they received 25 cents from the "sale of weiners left from the social."

In July 1928, it was moved that "10 minutes of each meeting be devoted to studying the temperance problems of the day". No mention of this being part of the programme was made after 1928, however.

The district president, Mrs. Firby, urged the women during her visit in 1932, not to let the depression make a difference about joining the Institute as it meant just half a cent a week.

During the war Christmas cards were sold, newspapers collected and sold to raise money for Red Cross work, teas were given, quilts made and jam (especially strawberry) made for the Red Cross.

Christmas boxes were packed for the local boys overseas including home-made Christmas cake. Members busied themselves knitting extra socks. A summary of Red Cross donations was included for 1940-41.



This was Bayham W.I. friend in England & we kept in touch with them for many years

LIST OF OFFICERS

President: MRS. L. H. GREENWOOD-BARTON
Heronswood, Rockshaw Road, Merstham
(Tel. Merstham 3167)

Hon. Secretary: MRS. J. A. TAYLOR
11 South Close Green, Merstham
(Tel. Merstham 3409)

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. B. COOK
103 Brighton Road, Hooley
(Tel. Downland 55422)

Vice-Presidents: MRS. STEPHENS, Merstham 3991
MRS. MILES, Merstham 3188

Hon. Asst. Secretary: MRS. WIGINGTON, M. 3253

Hon. Asst. Treasurer: MRS. SIMON, M. 3900

Drama Secretary: MRS. WASSELL, Reigate 43213

Handicrafts Secretary: MRS. KEMPSON, M. 2559

Produce Secretary: MRS. WALEY, M. 3801

Tea Hostesses: MRS. EMY, Merstham 3214
MRS. RAE, Reigate 43692

Outings Secretary: MRS. BEARD, Downland 54119

Press Secretary and Competitions:
MRS. DIXON, Merstham 2609

Literature Stall: MRS. VAN SICKLE, M. 3258

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENT

Magazine Secretary: MRS. SANFORD, M. 3168

Register: MISS JUPP, MISS SMALE

Market Stall: MRS. LAWRENCE

Produce Stall: MRS. PARTRIDGE, MRS. TULLETT

Redhill Friendship Centre Rota:
MRS. KEMPSON, Merstham 2559

Netherne Hospital Rota:
MRS. CULLEN, Merstham 2832

*Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the
SECOND Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
prompt.*

Annual Subscription: 10s. 0d.

Visitors' Teas: 6d.



*County Secretary: MISS YATES
26 Stoke Road, Guildford*



JERUSALEM

AND did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the Holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!
Bring me my Chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

HIEATT, PRINTER, REIGATE

N. F. W. I.

(For Home and Country)

MERSTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Programme

1969

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

1919 - 1969

PROGRAMME 1969

JANUARY

Annual Subscriptions due

- 9th "W.I. Challenge"
v. Blechingley Afternoon W.I.
28th Demonstration Day, Dorking Halls.

FEBRUARY

- 12th Regional Round of N.F. Music Festival,
Porchester Hall, London, W.1.
13th "Japanese Flower Arrangement":
MRS. THELMA DE MEL.
20th New Members' Tea Party, Village Club.

MARCH

- 13th U.N. Film: "Food or Famine."
Competition: Tea Cosy (to be donated
to May Fair).
14th Jumble Sale, Canada Hall, 2.30 p.m.
21st Group Meeting, Merstham, 2.30 p.m.
24th County Annual Meeting, Dorking.
(*Evening*)

APRIL

- 10th "A Hundred Years of Moss":
MR. J. W. W. CASSELS.
24th JUBILEE PARTY, Village Hall, 7.30.

MAY

- 8th N.F.W.I. Resolutions: MRS. I. VAINES,
V.C.O.
Competition: Largest variety of Wild
Flowers.
14th Coffee Morning at Sunacre, Quality St.,
by kind invitation of MRS. SIMON,
at 10.30 a.m.
31st MAY FAIR in grounds of Merstham
Primary School.

JUNE

- 3rd Finals, "The Brilliant and the Dark,"
Albert Hall.
4th N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, Albert Hall.
12th "London Livery Companies":
MRS. V. G. STEWARD.
12th *Exhibition of Work*
- 21st *of Women's Organisations*, Bentalls,
Kingston-on-Thames.
18th Coffee Morning at Home Cottage,
Quality Street, by kind invitation of
MRS. ROSE, at 10.30 a.m.

JULY

- 10th "B.B.C. Effects Department."
16th Coffee Morning at 11 South Close Green,
by kind invitation of MRS. TAYLOR,
at 10.30 a.m.
22nd Countryside Day, Dorking Halls.

AUGUST

- 14th GARDEN PARTY.

SEPTEMBER

- 11th Fashion Show: "Knitwear"
by BELLMANS.
25th Whist Drive, Village Club, 2.30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 9th Musical Afternoon.
Competition: Ugliest piece of China.
13th Group Meeting, Blechingley Afternoon,
2.30 p.m.
13th (*week beginning*)
Dramatised Performance:
"The Brilliant and the Dark,"
Dorking Halls.
27th Half-Yearly Council Meeting, Dorking
Halls, 11 a.m.

NOVEMBER

- 13th Annual General Meeting.

DECEMBER

- 4th (*N.B. First Thursday*)
Spelling Bee.

Mrs Percy Gibson

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO

Brampton, R.R.No. 2, Ontario, April 14th, 1953.

Dear Conference Delegate:

I am glad to know that you, Branch Convener of Home Economics and Health or Branch Convener of Resolutions (or Alternate for one of these Conveners) wish to attend our F.W.I.O. Provincial Conference at O.A.C. Guelph, May 7 and 8 1953.

I note that you will be arriving at Guelph on

Room Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6th.. On Thursday, May 7th, room registration will be from 9.00a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and from 12.00 noon to 1.30 p.m.. If arriving during room registration hours, please go direct to the Administration Building and register for your room. (There will be a one-dollar deposit for each room key. This dollar will be refunded when key is turned in at close of Conference.). Enclosed find the necessary room reservation credential. This credential must be presented at the room registration desk to procure your room reservation at O.A.C. If you wish to room with a friend who has a credential for room at O.A.C. , please plan to register for room at the same time as your friend, as I have nothing to do with the allotting of rooms at O.A.C..

Your living expenses at O.A.C. will be \$2.50 per person per day (3 meals and bed for one night). A Branch Convener attends this Conference at her own expense (or the expense of her Branch). She, or her Branch, does not forward any money, but pays her living expenses, while at O.A.C., Guleph, direct to O.A.C. when registering for her room. As you very probably know, we will be staying in the boys' residence, recently vacated by the boys, as we did last year. (These will, I understand, be the only rooms available for us as most of the girls will still be in residence.).

The F.W.I.O. has arranged for reduced train rates for those attending this Conference, whose reduced round-trip train fare is \$1.40 or more. This year these reduced train rates are being granted on the identification Certificate Plan. Enclosed find the Identification Certificate. This Identification Certificate, signed by you (or your Alternate) and presented to your station agent entitles you (or her) to a round-trip ticket for the full single fare to Guelph and one-half fare home plus .25¢ The advantage of having the Identification Certificate is that you pay all to your local agent and receive the round-trip ticket from him. Please do not heed the instructions for reduced train rates sent out earlier by Mrs. Purcell and Miss Lewis as those were the instructions for reduced train fares for last year's Conference.

Quite a number from Northern Ontario are this year coming to our Conference. The reduced train rates will mean much to them. Therefore, if you are coming to Conference Wednesday, May 6th, and there is a train to Guelph available that will get you there that afternoon or early evening, or if you are coming to the conference Thursday morning and there is a train available that will get you there that morning, and a train available to get you home when you wish to return there, and your reduced round-trip ticket will be \$1.40 or more, we shall appreciate very much your coming to Conference by train.

If you are planning to reach O.A.C. Guleph, on Wednesday evening in time for the evening meal, may I advise you that the O.A.C. Dining Hall closes at 6:00 p.m.

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The "Get Acquainted Party" on the evening of May 6th will begin at 7.30p.m. in O.A.C. Gymnasium.

The Conference will open at 9.30a.m. Thursday, May 7th, in Memorial Hall.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you at the Conference,

Sincerely yours,

Mary G. McCulloch

(Mrs. John H. McCulloch),
Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, F.W.I.O.

Note: If you find that you will be unable to attend Conference and your Branch has not named an Alternate to take your place, please return the enclosed room reservation and Identification Certificate to my promptly as requests for over the 500 reservations, available for this Conference, have been received.

M.



MRS. JESS VAN PATTER WITH HER BROKEN WRIST AND MRS. FENNEL HEWBANK WITH HERS AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY 1976 OF THE WOMENS INSTITUTE AT MRS. ALLEN CROSS'S.



Nancy Humphrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Humphrey of RR 1, Aylmer, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing on June 11th from the University of Western Ontario, London.

PANORAMA *May 7, 1977,* with Alice Linden

WI 80 years old

"Happy Birthday" to members of the Women's Institutes, whose organization celebrates its 80th anniversary this year.

A cairn near the Brant County birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless records that it was on February 19, 1897 — 80 years ago last Saturday — that this remarkable woman established the first unit of the WI, at Stoney Creek, between Hamilton and St. Catharines.

Today, the Canadian organization has close connections throughout the world, through its affiliation with the Associated Country Women of the World. The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, alone, has a membership estimated at about 30,000.

Mrs. Herb Maluske of Chesley, heads the Ontario group, and Mrs. Earl Morden of Rodney, is secretary-treasurer. Members identify themselves by the wearing of a gold and blue pin including in its design the WI motto: "Home and Country."

Members of the FWIO are planning an observance befitting the occasion, to take place during the summer.



Reference to the anniversary is made in the latest edition of Home and Country, now going out to members throughout the province. Through pictures and messages the publication heaps praise on a longtime friend and worker for Women's Institutes, Helen May McKercher, honorary president of the FWIO who has retired after 20 years as director of the home economics branch of the Ontario ministry of agriculture and food.

Born on a farm near Seaforth, Miss McKercher has spent most of her adult life — aside from a stint in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, during which she was one of four dietitians advising on food preparation for all Canadian naval ships and establishments — working on behalf of some aspect of rural living.

Home and Country editor Margaret Zoeller writes, in her tribute to "A friend":

"Miss McKercher's goals were always superior and she encouraged all to give of their best. She was an image-maker and expected all to uphold the high standards of lifestyles that were worthy of the Ontario Women's Institutes. She fostered co-operation and a sense of responsibility at all levels."

WI members are now wishing Miss McKercher a happy retirement at her home in Stratford, across the river from the Festival Theatre.

Programs that fall upon difficult days all too often have a habit of disappearing completely despite the proven value of the contribution they have been making. News from two London organizations that are back in operation after surviving their own particular crises is therefore especially welcome, and should give encouragement to others.

First, from Louise Davison, president of the board of Whitehills Pre-School Association, comes word that the Whitehills

Day Care Centre will re-open next Monday.

In what is believed to be a "first" in London, the centre will operate in a shopping centre, Sherwood Forest Mall, on Hutton Road, in the northwest end of the city. The association has signed a five-year lease with mall operators, Group R, of Toronto, according to Mrs. Davison. Preparation of the new centre has put the association deeply in debt, according to the president, while Group R has thrown itself wholeheartedly into the project, and shown itself "really super" about providing the kind of highly-specialized quarters needed for a day care centre. A temporary licence will allow the centre to operate while an area of the parking lot, directly behind the centre, is converted into a fenced-in, well-protected play area Mrs. Davison says.

The centre, which has weathered a variety of storms since its inception a few years ago, faced its most severe challenge last fall when it was forced to close because its temporary quarters, in a semi-detached house, did not meet various fire and zoning requirements.

The 20-plus children attending the centre were transferred to other centres, while association officers tried to make other arrangements. Sherwood Forest Mall provided the solution. In recent weeks children having been trooping into the centre with their parents, to check on progress in the preparation of "their" school.

Most of the children enrolled early last fall, plus a number of newcomers, will be on hand Monday, when centre director Heather Nichol rings the bell, to re-open Whitehills Day Care Centre.

Time Out, another project which has had its share of difficulties, is back in operation in its homey setting at Medaille House, on Windermere Road. The retreat house is made available to this very worthwhile project by the Order of St. Joseph, which also assists with staffing.

For the past couple of years, Time Out has provided much needed mini-holidays to mothers badly needing respite from difficult home situations. Last year it looked as if the program might have to be abandoned, for lack of funds and volunteers to help the professionals who organized Time Out and made large personal contributions to its success.

Publicity about Time Out's problems struck such a responsive chord, however, that contributors appeared throughout London and Southwestern Ontario, with offers of help and money.

Thus bolstered, the first in a new series of Time Out holidays took place early this month and went very well, according to Sister Renee Stevens, director of Medaille House. Barbara Grindlay, new volunteer program co-ordinator, and other volunteer assistants participated in the 48-hour program.

April's Time Out has been reserved for a group of young mothers, but program organizers would like to hear from women interested in attending in May. Applications may be obtained by telephoning Medaille House, 432-9379.

You may phone a letter to Panorama by calling 679-0230 in the London area and 1-800-265-4105 in all other areas. There is no toll charge.

Bayham W. I. members receive Life membership pins

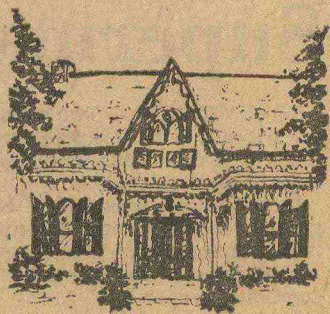


Irma Volkart Mildred Owen Isabelle Hewbank
Reta Jackson May VanPatter
1977

Everybody helps

... province-wide project

It's no small undertaking to purchase an old home and property, restore it, and maintain it as a museum. However, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario did just that when they purchased the six-generation Erland Lee home in Stoney Creek, near Hamilton. With the help of every WI branch in the province, it is hoped to build up the foundation fund to \$100,000 by 1981; FWIO is three-quarters of the way already!



ERLAND LEE HOME
(MUSEUM)
STONEY CREEK

See story on page 24



ANNOUNCE WEDDING PLANS—Donna Marie Jibson and Harry Armstrong Lossing plan to exchange wedding vows on Saturday, October 15, at three o'clock in the Eden Baptist Church. Miss Jibson is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Jibson, R.R. 1, Aylmer, and her fiance is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Lossing, Norwich.—(Photos by Mudge Studio).

1960



Donna Jibson, her dad Percy Jibson
Oct. 15 1960



Art. Iva Hayman 1982



Donna Lossing
Iva's daughter

In the fall of 1938
Percy + Iva Gibson rented Melvin
Laur's farm for four years + then they
bought Stanley Cotts farm on corner of
Carters side road just off of no 3 highway
The Malahide + Bayham Baptist Church was
on the farm on the corner + on highway 3
They had one daughter Donna she went
to the little white school opposite the church
Went to high school in Aylmer + graduated
Worked in the bank of Montreal for twenty
Five years + a half. she died with cancer
age forty two years old

²
She married Harry Rossing in 1960
they had no family her dad Percy Gibson
died in 1978. Iva sold the farm and
moved to Aylmer. Donna died March 28 1982
In September ¹⁹⁸² 11th. Iva married
Arthur Hayman and they live on Spruce St.
in Aylmer The year of 2000