

Erland Lee Home

WI members interests diversified, province-wide project includes museum

By HELEN GRAWBURG
T-J Lifestyles editor

Women's Institute members are known for their great diversity of interests.

They are equally adept catering to a local banquet or helping someone in need in the community; writing to a member of parliament or an official concerning a product or advertising they believe is not suitable, or holding a fund-raising event to support a cause at home, or across the world.

Recently we have seen many references to the Erland Lee Home at Stoney Creek in WI meeting reports, so we decided to investigate and find out just what the home means to local WI members.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that the home's secretary-treasurer lives fairly close to St. Thomas. Mrs. Earl Morden of Rodney recently accepted the post.

CO-FOUNDERS

She explained that everybody knows that Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was the prime force behind the formation of the WI, but that few realize that Erland Lee and his wife Janet were actually co-founders with Mrs. Hoodless.

Secretary for a farmer's group, Mr. Lee believed that the women should have a like group, so with his wife, pioneered the first WI, now world wide, at Stoney Creek, Feb. 19, 1897. In the Lee home, the first WI constitution was drawn.

In memory of the Lees the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have made a museum of the farm home which is located at the top of the Niagara escarpment.

LOG CABIN

Known as Edgemont, six generations of Lees occupied the property from 1801 to 1972, when FWIO purchased the property.

The first dwelling was a log cabin which was surrounded by cuttings of sweet mary, myrtle, yellow roses and snowball bushes.

Although the cabin has been



ADVERTISE HOME — Mrs. Earl Morden, left, secretary-treasurer of the Erland Lee Home at Stoney Creek, and Mrs. Herbert Jackson, look over a bookmark designed by Mrs. Jackson to advertise the home, a project of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Mrs. Jackson also painted a water color of the home and donated it for sale at the national WI convention in Saskatoon. "It lets the west know what we are doing in Ontario," she said. (T-J Photo).

replaced with a frame house, some of the original plants still flourish.

Cut from virgin pine on the property, the house, gothic in style, has hand-cut ornamentation around the outside.

The verandah has been replaced in original style, and door restored. All the hardware is original and the old iron latches and hinges are still there in the older part of the house.

HEIRLOOM FURNITURE

Much of the furniture has been

raise funds. WI areas have donated jams, jellies and hand-made articles for sale, for example

Articles are sent for sale to special events, such as the national convention in Saskatoon

Mrs. Herbert Jackson of Fingal, painted a water color picture of the Erland Lee Home for the local WI district, and donated it to the convention. "It's a good way to let them know in the west what we are doing in Ontario," she commented. Mrs. Jackson also designed foundation fund book-marks for the home.

Mrs. Morden pointed out that the principal is not used for the restoration and maintenance of the home; it is invested and the interest used.

VISITORS ENCOURAGED

All WI members are encouraged to visit the home, and many busloads have already gone from this district.

The home is open every month with the exception of February, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays.

A pilot project will be implemented Aug. 19 to Sept. 24, visitors will be welcome seven days a week, noted Mrs. Morden.

It is interesting to note that the home is staffed by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Beachin, on a purely volunteer basis.

They are provided with living quarters in the rear of the house, and Mrs. Beachin acts as hostess, and her husband sees to the maintenance of the property.

WI WEEK

During Ontario WI Week, June 5 to 9, visiting hours at the Erland Lee Home will be extended. Hand crafted articles, jams, jellies and relishes will be sold, and craft demonstrations in progress.

Mrs. Russell Campbell, Elgin West WI, will demonstrate spinning and weaving. Carving, corn husk dolls, bobbin lace and bread baked from stoned wheat will also be demonstrated for visitors to watch.

handed down through the generations. The walnut dining table was brought from England by Janet Lee, as a bride, and she and her husband wrote the constitution of the first WI on it. It is, of course, a treasured piece in the home.

The year 1978-79 was set aside by the FWIO to build up the Erland Lee foundation fund to \$100,000, and WI branch districts and areas are responding admirably, said Mrs. Morden.

Various means are used to

80th Anniversary of Women's Institutes

Under sunny blue skies, over 1300 Women's Institute members from across Ontario arrived at Bingeman Park, Kitchener, by bus and carloads, July 13th, 1977, to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the founding of Women's Institute groups.

The theme "W.I. SHOWS HOW AN IDEA GROWS." The president, Mrs. Herb Maluske, Chesley, expressed the fact that this was a most memorable moment to welcome all to this function; to be joined by representatives from other provinces and lands across the sea. "There cannot be a harvest of ideas, unless you plant seed." This seed has grown into a tree of many branches that has spread around the world. Eighty years ago Adelaide Hoodless had an idea of

founding an organization, to assist women in the efficient operation of their homes. Encouraged and aided by Erland Lee and wife Janet, she founded the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario, February 19, 1897.

Branches increased in numbers throughout Ontario and the remainder of Canada until in 1919 both the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada were formed. By the zeal of Mrs. Alfred Watt, a Canadian, who organized the first W.I. in England and Wales, the Associated Countrywomen of the World was founded in 1933. The W.I. has at all times stressed high standards in studies, projects,

courses — aimed at improving home and family life, in developing leadership in serving the community at home and abroad.

The gathering was indeed honored to have as head table guest, for the Smorgasbord luncheon, Mrs. Gordon Conant, who as a nine year girl, attended the very first W.I. meeting with her mother, Mrs. E. D. Smith, first president. She cut the Anniversary cake assisted by Mrs. Maluske, F.W.I.O. president.

For this special occasion, Mrs. Lyndsay Hacket-Pain, Sussex, England, who is honorary treasurer of Associated Countrywomen of the World was guest speaker. She has had a close association with the World of Finance, Banking, is also a char-

tered accountant, and a financial director for an engineering group. She brought greetings from her own Sussex W.I. branch and all members of England, Wales, and Scotland. Look up and Not down—We must counteract the anti social behaviour of some members of society. Look forward and not back — There is a new thinking in the community. With the emergence of working mothers, there is a freedom of choice, those who choose home and family are equally on par with those who choose a career. Look out and not in—Membership in a branch also brings automatic membership in Associated Countrywomen of the World, and one is part of eight million women around the world. It was during the war years that

Mrs. Godfrey Drage, had difficulty balancing the books. She had this dream, if every member gave one penny, with membership of 2000, would mean \$2000.00. So the dream materialized and is known as "Pennies for Friendship" to-day. So from small beginnings it helps run the Central office in London, England, support extension workers in underprivileged countries, where Nutrition Education helps raise the health and standards of family living.

Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, Ottawa, past President of F.W.I.O. presented the speaker with an engraved Sterling silver coffee spoon and the Ontario W.I. Story. Mrs. Hacket-Pain will be in Ontario for a three week period, and many

will have the privilege of meeting her as she tours Northern and Eastern parts of the province.

Greetings and congratulations were extended by Mrs. E. V. Fulton, Birtle, Manitoba, Area Vice president for Canada, A.C. W.W.; Mrs. Joseph Biêlish, Waspit, Alberta, president Federated Women's Institute of Canada. We were privileged to hear soloist, Mrs. Marianne Trifunovich in several numbers and her accompanist Mrs. Mary-Louise Vosburgh. Song sessions were lead by Mrs. Hugh Baird, and Mrs. William Stone, of the Central Area (Toronto).

This happy occasion brought together many former members of the F.W.I.O. Executive, past presidents, secretaries, others who could not attend sent regrets and good wishes. So another milestone of Women's Institute history will be recorded for posterity.



MR AND MRS JOHN MORSE OF RICHMOND CELEBRATED THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 1975. THEY WERE MARRUED ON AUGUST 10TH, 1915 BY THE REV. L.C. MCROBERTS, PASTOR OF CORINTH CIRCUIT. THE CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE HOME OF THE BRIDE'S PARENTS, MR & MRS. WILLIAM SCOTT OF NORTH BAYHAM. THEY HAVE RESIDED IN RICHMOND FOR 55 YEARS. THEY HAVE FOUR SONS, ALEX, STRATFORD; ROBERT, GLEN AND MAX, RICHMOND; 11 GRANDCHILDREN AND ONE GREAT-GRANDCHILD.



LEON AND LELA CARTER CELEBRATED THEIR 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WITH A FAMILY DINNER MARCH 10TH, 1974. THEY WERE MARRIED IN ST. THOMAS AND HAVE ONE SON RALPH AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN, TAMMY AND CARMON. ONE GRANDSON KEVIN ROBERT DIED IN 1964.



O.O.

1976

These are the cold statistics
104(40-9) inches of
snow in January.

Beating previous record of
903/40.6 inches set in
snow banks on ^{side of road} 9' 23" high
Normal snowfall for Jan ^{9' 10" high}
is 49 cm - 19.3 inches

Jan 24 - fog rain freezing rain

Feb 2. Tubundhog Day
" saw his shadow

Feb 2. 6 wks more winter
Schools closed factory closed
to base auctions closed

Our Nydro was off from Tues
Feb 15 - Beautiful weather ^{through about 2}
Snow mostly gone ^{until Wed.}

Mar 1. Came in like a lion ^{the next}
with more snow ^{week.}

Mar 2-5 - It broke trees etc
Worse ice storm in over 25
years, ^{even ice 17" thick} Nydro & Telephone crippled
Malahide township a
Ice got 1 1/2" thick disaster area
Seat Belts enforced in 1976.

HISTORY OF JESSE VANPATTER FARM



FARM HOUSE



HOUSE IN AYLNER

JOHN KINSEY GAVE HIS SISTER MRS ABRAHAM VAN PATTER 12 ACRES AND WHEN LEONARD VANPATTER "JESSE FATHER" BROUGHT IT, HE BOUGHT 40 ACRES MORE FROM JIM BACON. AND JESSE TOOK THE FARM OVER WHEN HE WAS 21 AND HE BOUGHT 25 ACRES MORE FROM PHIL LEARN AND THEN 10 ACRES MORE FROM CLARENCE ANDERSON. JESSE MARRIED MAE STURGESS 50 YEARS AGO THIS AUGUST 29 -1925 AND HE HAD HAD THE FARM 58 YEARS AND HAS SOLD IT TO MURRAY LAIDLAW. HE GETS POSSESSION JAN 1, 1976.

EIGHT YEARS AGO THEY MOVED INTO A HOUSE ON TREELAWN IN AYLNER BUT JESSE WENT BACK AND FORTH TO THE FARM.



FIFTEITH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 29, 1975



MR & MRS WARD BENNER CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING WITH
A DINNER AT MIL-MAR MANOR IN 1974 FOR ALL THE FAMILY AND
RELATIVES

THE WARD BENNER FAMILY



TAKEN DAY OF GOLDEN WEDDING
THEIR SON MURRAY AND HIS WIFE ANITA, WARD BENNER AND ANNIE,
THEIR DAUGHTER JEAN AND HER HUSBAND MAX MITCHELL.



Sept 22 1973

1 PAMELA JANE WINTERS AND LEONARD ABELL EXCHANGED WEDDING VOWS IN AYLMER BAPTIST CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1973.

THE REV GORDON WOODCOCK OFFICIATED AT THE 4 P.M. WEDDING.

THE BRIDE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS ARTHUR WINTERS, 18 DUFFERIN STREET, AYLMER AND THE GROOM IS THE SON OF MR AND MRS RUSSELL ABELL, R.R. # 1, AYLMER,



IN THE RICHMOND UNITED CHURCH ON OCTOBER 19, 1974 MISS JENNY ATKINSON BECAME THE BRIDE OF RUSSELL MCKIBBON. THE AFTERNOON CERMONY WAS PERFORMED BY REV. DON PARSONS OF ST. THOMAS AND MR. ALFRED BOWDEN OF RICHMOND UNITED CHURCH.

A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE BRIDE, MRS. FENNEL HEWBANK WAS MATRON OF HONOUR.

THE BEST MAN WAS CHARLES PHILLIPS, SON-IN-LAW OF THE GROOM.



THE WEDDING OF SUSAN BENNER TO MR. DAVID GOLD

THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1975 WITH THE REV. GORDON WOODCOCK OFFICIATING.

THE BRIDE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS KEITH BENNER, R.R. # 1, AYLMER AND THE GROOM IS THE SON OF MR AND MRS HARRIS GOLD OF 5 PARKWAY FOREST DRIVE, WILLOWDALE