



1974

Perfect attendance awards of Mapleton church, Superintendent David Stover, Rev. L. Nethercott. Back Row. 11 yrs. Mary Jane Stover. Joan Irish 11, Mrs. J. Erickson 4, Mrs. R. Stover 11. Mrs. P. Robinson 8, David Stover, Superintendent 19, Mrs. H. Stover 12, Mrs. S. Stover 16, Mrs. R. Finch 15 Mrs. K. Hiepleh 18, Mrs. L. Davies 1, Mrs. F. Brown 11, Middle Row- Stephen Robinson 3, Randy Sheils 3, Front Row- Billy Light 4, Brenda Sheils 3, Myrna Willsey 4, Cheryl Robinson 8, Mrs. D. Stover 22, Barbara Sheils 3, Brenda Willsey 4, Cathy Light 8, Lori Light 6, Marlene Pettit 1, Nancy Robinson 2, Wendy Davies 1, Michael Stover, 2, Roger Stover 6, Absent Kim Willsey 3, Dari Willsey 3.

1981 Rally Sunday Christ Disciples Church Mapleton

- 1 yr. Sharon Erickson, Shari Erickson. Lori Lewis, Kristen Wright, Cindy Charlton, Daryl McNeil, April Willsey.
- 2 yr. Douglas Legg, Bryan Millard.
- 3 yr. Brenda McNeil, Carrie Thomson, Esther, Jack and Bill Wackley, Donna McNeil and Beth Millard.
- 4 yr. Michael Millard, Craig Duncan.
- 5 yr. Scott Millard, Jamie Faulds, Kristen Bogart.
- 7 yr. Heather Robinson, Sarah Faulds, Shawn Goble.
- 8 yr. Darren Goble, Jamie Duncan, Lesley Stover.
- 10 yr. Nancy Robinson, Michael Stover.
- 12 yr. Bill Light.
- 14 yr Roger Stover.
- 19 yr. Betty Stover.
- 20 Yr. Marjorie Orris.
- 26 Yr. Janet Hiepleh
- 30 yr. Eleanor Stover.

1982

- Bill and Esther Wackley fourth bar.
- Kristen Bogart 6 yr bar
- Lesley Stover 7 yr bar
- Michael Stover 11 yr bar
- Bill Light 13 yr bar
- Betty Stover 20 yr. bar
- Marjorie Orris 21 yr. bar
- Janet Hiepleh 27 yr bar
- Eleanor Stover 31 yr. bar.

Bible class to honor their teacher, Mrs. V. Brown

Mrs. Violet Brown, a member of the Mapleton Church of Christ (Disciples) and a life-long resident of the area, began her public career as a school teacher in Mapleton. Mrs. Brown has a deep regard for others and her concern regarding people causes her to give of herself continually in ministering to those who she can reach.

Mrs. Brown has been the organist of her church for the past 43 years. She has held a weekly choir practice and has been at the organ for all the worship services in the church.

About 23 years ago, Mrs. Brown was asked to teach the Adult Bible Class which meets at 9 a.m. Sundays as a part of the Sunday school session. She has held this position continuously ever since.

Early this year this Adult Bible Class decided they would honor their teacher by raising the money needed and inviting her to share in a tour of the Holy Land in January, 1971. Recognizing Mrs. Brown's ability to make the Scriptures come alive as she teaches the lessons Sunday after Sunday, the class feels that this experience will not only enrich her life but expand her knowledge of the Bible in a wonderful and exciting way.

Many projects are under way by the class to raise the money. On Thursday, April 23, a coffee break and food sale was held from 9:30 to 11:30 at the home of Mrs. Gary Robinson who lives on County Road No. 52, just east of Highway No. 74.

On Sunday evening, April 26, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in pictures will be presented by the pastor, Rev. L. B. Nethercott, and Mrs. Nethercott and an offering consisting of special gifts from individuals will be received.

A lingerie party will be held on May 4 and the classes of the Sunday School are planning walkathons. A Use Your Talents project has produced and sold 126 pies in two weeks.

The enthusiasm of the Adult Bible Class in the

Mapleton Church is registering not only through the church but in the whole community as people from every walk of life are expressing in words and gifts their appreciation to Mrs. Brown and wishing her God's blessing in this exciting experience in her life.

Everyone is invited to share in all of these projects and a special invitation is extended to everyone to see the pictures on Sunday night, April 26, at 8 p.m. in the church.

1970

KINGSMILL

KINGSMILL — The Mapleton Bible Class are holding a Pot Luck Supper on Tuesday, Sept. 29th, at 7 p.m. to honor their teacher Mrs. Violet Brown. On this occasion, Mrs. Brown, who has been teaching the Bible Class for approximately a quarter of a century, will be presented with tickets that will take her on a trip to The Holy Land at the beginning of the year.

Mrs. V. Brown returned from her trip to The Holy Land and Greece recently. Their plane from Paris to New York was an hour late therefore their plane for Toronto had gone and they were forced to stay over night in New York. When they arrived in Toronto there was no plane for London so they were taxied home from Toronto. They had no winter coats or snow boots. When Mrs. Brown arrived at her driveway she had to wade through snowdrifts to get to the house. However she had a marvelous and enjoyable trip in spite of the fact that the weatherman was a bit uncooperative.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Bible Class of the Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples, to the Friendship Circle, to those who gave personal donations and to any others who helped in any way to make possible my trip to the Holy Land. — Violet Brown.

Jan 1971



ANNUAL CONVENTION — Members of the "Disciples of Christ" chatting after the opening session of their five-day annual convention in Mapleton last night. From left: Lorne Nethercott, minister of the Disciples of Christ Church in Mapleton; Mrs. Victor Beachin, secretary of the Ontario Women's Work for the church; Mrs. Kenneth McNeil, president of the Ontario Board of the church; and guest speaker, Mr. Walter Cardwell from Indianapolis.—(T.-J. Photo)

May 23/48



AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP- Mrs. Keith Hiepleh of R.R.#2, Springfield, received a life membership in the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute at a special presentation meeting held in Lyons, Ont. Mrs. Hiepleh is a past president of the institute and has been active in many of the institute undertakings. *JULY 1973*

Janet Daphne Howe was born in Malahide Township, Elgin Co. of Ontario. She is the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Howe, R.R.#5, Aylmer West, Ontario. She has one sister, Muriel (Mrs. Tom Carrel) R.R.#4, Aylmer West, Ontario.

Janet attended a one room rural Public School at Luton, High School in Aylmer and graduated from normal school, London, Ontario in 1946. Prior to her marriage to Keith Hiepleh, she taught school at Dunboyne for four years. She and her husband live on their farm at R.R.#2, Springfield, Ontario. They have a son, Wayne who is actively engaged with his father in farming.

1. 3rd generation of Institute Women
2. 1941 joined Junior Home-Makers Club
3. November 20, 1946- Joined East Elgin Junior W. I.
4. November 30, 1946- The Elgin Co. Junior W.I. was formed and Janet became director.
5. April 20, 22- 1947- Delegate to Ont. Jr. Farmers Conference, Guelph.
6. November 12, 1947- Sec. Treas. of East Elgin W. I. (Jr.)
7. November 10, 1948- President of East Elgin Jr. W.I.
8. 1948- Vice President of Radio Committee
9. 1949- Director of Elgin Co. Prov. Board of Jr. Farmers.
10. April 3, 1952- Joined Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.
11. At Branch level served as flower convenor, Director and Vice President.
12. 1962-64- President of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.
13. May 1965-1968- Elected 2nd Vice-President then, 1st. Vice President for Elgin East District W. I. as Director.
14. 1965-1968- Director of Elgin Co. Rally
15. 1969-1970- 1st. Vice President of Elgin Co. W. I. Rally
16. 1969-1971- President for East Elgin Co. District
17. 1969- no Rally
18. 1971-73- Alternative Rep. to the Federation Representative of Elgin Co. Pioneer Museum.
19. 1971-73- Member of Elgin Co. Pioneer Museum Advisory Committee.
20. 1971-73- President of Elgin Co. W. I. Rally
21. 1971-73- Member of Centennial Scholarship Committee
22. 1971- Convened a large Hobby and Craft Show
23. 1971-72- Presented \$100.00 Centennial Scholarships to Pupils from Elgin County W. I. and Plaques to winners of Farm Safety Posters.

24. 1972- As President of Rally, poured tea at Anniversaries and Elgin Manor. Also, presented 4-H Certificates and pins on Achievement Days.
25. May 1972- Gave the Gift, Presentation Speech to Mr. A.V. Langton on retirement as Elgin Co. Agricultural Representative.
26. June 1972- Presided at the 75th Anniversary Party of the F.W.I.O. for the 30 Elgin W. I. Branches.
27. 1971-73- Convened the June Teas at the Museum
28. 1973-4 Convened for the London Area of Families and Consumer Affairs
29. Janet has worked in the Women's Division of the Agriculture Society of Aylmer and East Elgin County since 1965.

Although Janet did join her Branch in 1952 through the many, many points gained in her Junior Home-Makers Club and Junior Women's Institute more than equalled her to the 25 years Branch Institute. Consequently, she became eligible for her Life Membership Pin from the Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch at the Lyons Community Hall, July 11, 1973 where a marvellous surprise awaited her. Therefore, these credits entitle her to be a Life Member of the District and also a Member of the Provincial Board in due time.

Janet's Church Activities at the Mapleton Church of Christs Disciples-

1. Taught Sunday School class for many years.
2. A faithful member of the W. M. S.
3. 1959-61- W. M. S. President
4. 1967-73- Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer of W. M. S.
5. Served as Secretary, President and Treasurer of Friendship Circle
6. Her busy schedule shaped her life but her most important duty is being a Christian homemaker, mother and wife.

A Continued W.I. History of Janet Hiepleh, Feb 10, 1976.

- 1972-75--Assistant Secty-Treas. for K.M.W.I.
- 1975-76--Resolutions Convener for K.M.W.I.
- 1971-73--Resolutions Convener for East Elgin District W.I.
- 1972-73--Federation Representative for East Elgin District W.I.
- 1973-76--Nominating Committee for East Elgin District W.I.
- Oct 16/75-76--East Elgin District Executive as Federation Representative



Mrs Janet Hiepleh with Messrs E. Madden &
Shirley Willson at Sparta Sorosis W. I. 50th An.
Tea held in the "Ye Olde Forge and Anvil"



Intermediate students of Sparta Public School put on as part of their annual Commonwealth and Citizenship Day on May, 19, 1967. About 50 parents turned out to watch the program of songs, dances, and recitals.

Flower Girls- Karen Free and Marlene Shelley.

Crown Bearer- David Drake.

Attendants- Debbie Phillips & Ellen Marshall.

Queen - Nancy Mc Kenzie.

Lord Mayor- James Greer.

Holding flags- Kim Smale and Jerry Warren.

* 3 are Mapleton Children-(Karen Free, David Drake and Nancy Mc Kenzie.)



Queen- Miss Nancy McKenzie
She is the daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Earl McKenzie
Mapleton, Ontario.



FLOWERS AND PAGEENTRY- This was the official party who watched the Commonwealth and Citizenship program at Sparta Public School on May, 19th, 1967. Three Mapleton children are (front row) centre: crown bearer, David Drake, (right) Flower girl, Karen Free and behind is Queen, Nancy McKenzie. At the back, holding flags are Sparta children.

The first school building in this section was built of logs and was situated on the north side of the 13th concession road. This building, which was built on a low piece of ground, stood just about where the C.P.R. tracks cross the road. It is thought that this school was built in the early 1850's.

At that time George Skelding owned the north half of Lot 14, Concession 12, and he donated the land on the north-west corner of his farm on which a new school was to be erected. The lot was three chains deep, and one chain (sixty-six and three quarter links) across the front on the south side of the 13th concession road. The land was deeded June 14, 1860. The school, a frame building, was given the name of the donar of the site, and was known as *Skeldings School*.

In the early days the pupils, numbering about one hundred, sat on benches around the wall. The blackboards were just painted boards and they were given a fresh coat of black paint from time to time. The students did their lessons on slates, and text books were unknown. George Skelding, Jr. had a tin box made at the blacksmith's shop, complete with lock and key. It was eighteen inches long and six inches deep. It was to be used by the Secretary for the storage of documents and was in his possession for a number of years, but no one seems to know now what happened to it. In 1899 a box of chalk cost 20¢, a new broom 25¢, and the teacher's salary for the year was \$250.00.

The period from 1901 to 1911 was a period of change at the school. In the spring of 1901 a new well was dug and a new pump installed. In 1903 a new fence was built to replace the old rail fence and the old well was filled in. In 1906 the blackboards were given a fresh coat of paint. In 1909 the school was shingled and the chimney repaired. The building was put on a new cement wall and new steps were built. It might be interesting to quote the costs of these improvements.

The shingling cost \$48.86, the chimney \$6.00 for labour and 50¢ for bricks, the new steps \$14.63 and \$105.00 to put the building on the new cement wall. In 1910 the school and schoolroom were painted and the following year new slate blackboards were installed.

In 1912 Angus Taylor, who now owned the Skelding Farm, deeded one rod by one chain for \$12.50. This was added to the south side of the lot and this portion was used for individual gardens kept up by each pupil. Colin McIntyre was hired to move the fence and he also plowed up and disced the garden plot. An Agricultural Grant was given the board each year and the money was used to buy seeds, tools and a wheelbarrow for the gardens as well as some agricultural books. These grants seem to have been given from 1917 to 1929 and again from 1937 to 1940. At the same time a Domestic Science grant was given from about 1922 to 1936, and this was used to provide hot lunches to the students at the noon hour during the winter months. An oil stove was used in their **preparation** and the work was done by the students under the supervision of the teacher. While we are speaking of grants, the money came in to the Treasurer in the fall. Meanwhile he had to have funds to pay the expenses of the school so it became customary for the Secretary-Treasurer to forward the money required by the board on a loan which would be paid back as soon as the grant came in. This went on every year until 1927, when rising school costs made it imperative to find some other methods of financing the board and then they started borrowing the money from the Bank of Nova Scotia in Belmont.

Communicable diseases were a problem in that day and the school was closed at various times due to outbreaks of scarlet fever, whooping cough and diptheria. After one particularly bad outbreak of diptheria in 1921, Dr. Beattie came down from Belmont and fumigated the school.

It is not known exactly when the first desks were bought for the school, but new desks were purchased in 1924. In the same year a new floor was laid at a cost of \$158.50, and the trustees decided that this floor would be oiled three times a year with the board supplying the oil and the janitor applying it.

In 1928 some changes were made in the building. The two windows on the south side were boarded up, and the three windows on the west side were closed by heavy blinds. Four new windows were added on the east side and the building was given a coat of paint. The interior of the school was painted in 1930, the colours chosen were cream and gray. In January 1934 the stove that had heated the building since it was built was replaced by one of the same type. It cost \$25.00 and was purchased from Medlyn Bros. Wood was the fuel used to heat the schoolroom. Inside chemical toilets were built in 1936 and the next year the building was painted white with gray trim, a new fence with a new gate was built across the front of the yard, and the other fences repaired. A small Union Jack was purchased for the classroom.

A library had been started a number of years before and books were added to it periodically, including a set of the Books of Knowledge. In 1938 the board began to supply the pupils with all their books and supplies and a number of new books were bought to help with the new course of study.

A Music Grant was begun in 1934 and a piano was purchased for the school in December of 1933. The first music teacher was Mrs. Grandy and in 1938 Mr. James Medlyn was engaged to teach music. On June 2nd 1939 the children sang at the Music Festival in St. Thomas, entering a chorus, duet and two solos. On June 7th they were taken to London for the Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Mr. Medlyn seems to have been the music teacher until about 1942. Mrs. Inez (Barons) Smith was the next teacher and Mrs. McLachlin of Glanworth was engaged as music teacher in 1949. In 1952 the pupils sang at the St. Thomas Music Festival entering a chorus and two solos. Mrs. McLachlin was their pianist. They entered again in 1953 and took second place in the category of One Room Rural School singing in unison. Mr. Carl Edmonds was the next music teacher and the pupils continued to take part in the festival each fall. They entered in 1961, and again in 1962, taking a second place in Rural School Choir, one room, (unison) and a third place in two part singing. In 1963 they took second place in two part singing. Mrs. Ternyck of Aylmer was music teacher in 1965 and the pupils entered in the St. Thomas Festival taking first place for two part singing in the one room division. They also entered the Rotary Club's Festival at Tillsonburg the same year taking a second place in Rural School Choirs. Mrs. Lancaster was the last music teacher at the school. The present piano was purchased in October of 1963.

In March of 1940 the hydro was installed in the school. In January of 1944 the board decided to take advantage of the Elgin County Library Association's Travelling Library Service, and in this way a good supply of books was made available for the children's reading pleasure. War Savings Stamps were bought for the pupils during the war years but early in 1946 it was decided that this practice would be discontinued as soon as their present books were filled.

During 1943, '44 and '45 only seven pupils were enrolled and the trustees gave serious consideration to closing the school. In the fall of 1946 only six pupils were attending, but in November two new pupils were added. In September of 1947, twelve pupils were attending. Two more families with children moved into the section, and the school took on new life. From that time on

there was never any difficulty about not having enough pupils.

The water situation here had always been troublesome and as early as 1942 the board had given consideration to drilling a well. Somehow this matter was always deferred and water was carried in a pail from various neighboring farms for drinking and other purposes. In 1948 it was decided that it would be the janitor's responsibility to see that there was an adequate supply of water at the school each day. This continued from year to year until a ratepayer's meeting was called in February 1957. Mr. Rawlings, School Inspector, was present and spoke of the advantages of having an adequate supply of good water on the school grounds. It was decided at that meeting that the board would drill a well, the expenses of the drilling to be taken care of by a five year debenture.

Another ratepayer's meeting was called in March of 1962. 35 ratepayers met to discuss plans to remodel the present building which was then over 100 years old. Mr. Green, Architect, displayed three different plans that could be used. Mr. Rawlings (Inspector) and Mr. Carl Voaden (Health Inspector) also addressed the meeting. It was voted upon and the board of trustees was authorized to spend up to \$9,900.00 to remodel the school. An addition was to be built to house toilets, teacher's room, and a furnace room with an oil furnace to be installed. The above costs were to include the renovations to the present classroom. Another meeting of the ratepayers was called for the evening of July 16th. Dugald Campbell, Chairman of the board explained that the tenders submitted for the renovations to S S #27 were above the amount first specified. Mr. Fred Green explained briefly blaming rising costs of construction. A motion was made that the board be allowed an additional \$4,500.00. A poll was taken - the results: For 19, against 4. It was moved that debentures be taken out for a

period of ten years if approved by the Department of Education.

A social evening was held in the school on Friday November 30th so that the ratepayers would have a chance to see the school now that the renovations were complete.

In 1963 four students were accepted from S.S. #22 at Mapleton. In 1964 a new fence was built around the school yard and it was decided to move the woodshed to the south-east corner of the yard. A telephone was also to be installed in the school. It was decided that a social evening would be held in the school following the annual meeting on December 30th. This was the last gathering at the school under the auspices of the local school board as the Yarmouth Township School Board took over control of the schools in January 1965.

Through the many years of its existence Skelding School has always been a polling division of North Yarmouth.

The day of the country schoolhouse has come to an end. Rural schools such as #27 have played an important part in moulding the character of its graduates, and Skeldings is no exception. Students have gone on to higher education and then to important places in the world of Commerce, Science, Education, Medicine and other professions. We look back with affection and pride to the teachers who have taught here and the pupils who have passed through this building under their guidance. We look to a new era in education in which our children will progress along with the advances being made in every field of endeavour. And so it is with pride and sorrow that we bid adieu to the country schoolhouse.