

- Chairman Selection Committee to choose site for 1985 FWIC Convention in Ontario 1982 & 1983.
- Chairman 85th Anniversary Committee 1980-1982 (2 years).
- Chairman McKercher Scholarship 1983, committee member 1981 & 1982.
- Committee member Finance 1983-1986 (3 years).
- Committee member International Scholarship 1983-1986 (3 years).
- Committee member Officers' Conference 1983-1986 (3 years).
- Committee member FWIO Scholarship 1983-1986 (3 years).
- Committee member McKercher Scholarship 1983-1986 (3 years).
- Executive member 1983-1986 (3 years).
- Committee member FWIO Handbook 1981 & 1982, 1986 & 1987 (4 years).
- Committee member Tweedsmuir History 1980-1986 (6 years).
- Committee member Steering (Committee Planning FWIC 1985 Convention 1983-1985 (3 years).
- Committee member W.I. Hall 1984 & 1985.
- FWIO representative to Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Association of Canada; elected Director of RAWF 1981, 1982 & 1983.
- Resolutions Convenor 1983-1986 (3 years).
- FWIO representative to the Rural Development Outreach Advisory Council, at University of Guelph, 1981 & 1982.
- Provided guidance for the FWIO "Quilted Wall-hanging" Bicentennial project, 1983 & 1984. The Presentation to the Province of Ontario took place in the Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, June 11, 1984. This is the "Resting Place" for the FWIO Quilted Wall-hanging made by the Ontario Women's Institute members.
- Chairman Centennial Plate Committee 1989-1994.

1981 FWIO theme: "The W.I. Working Toward: Barrier Free Communities for the Disabled Person".

1982 FWIO theme: Promote W.I. and Support W.I. Projects
Recruitment Drive: Membership to be Increased.

1983 FWIO theme: "Women Unlimited Potential"

A packet of up-to-date topics, resources and films that convenors could use was mailed to each Ontario branch.

A brief on the Needs of Rural Women was submitted to the Advisor of Rural Women's Programs and Consumer Services, OMAF, in 1983.

Visiting each of the 14 Area Conventions each year during her term as Provincial President, gave her an excellent opportunity to meet the members and listen to their needs. Her W.I. column in Home and Country, "Between the Lines" appeared in each issue of the magazine during her term in Office. The 85th Anniversary of the founding of the W.I. was a great success when more than 1800 W.I. members came to the Constellation Hotel in Toronto, to hear the guest speaker Mrs. Ziny Westerbring-Muller of the Netherlands, ACWW President, give a wonderful address at this special "celebration", August 12, 1982.

In the early 1980's there was about 1200 branches and 26,000 members.

- * President Stoney Creek Charter Women's Institute 1981, 1982 & 1983.
- * Member Ontario Bicentennial Advisory Commission 1982-1984.

continued

J. B.

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada:

- FWIC Senior Board Director 1980-1983 (3 years).
- Member of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Committee 1980-1983.
- Member FWIC Nominating Committee 1981.
- Member FWIC Triennial Competitions 1982-1985.
- FWIC Junior Board Director 1984-1986 (3 years).
- FWIC Co-chairman for Senior and Junior Board Directors meetings June 17 & 18, 1984.
- FWIC voting delegate to the 9th National Convention held at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, June 13-17, 1982.
- FWIC Planning Committee member for ACWW Mini-Conference held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 12-14, 1981.
- produced a brochure "A Day of Discovery". This was a joint project of FWIO, FWIC & Ontario Agricultural Museum 1984 & 1985.
- FWIC voting delegate to the 10th National Convention, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, June 16-20, 1985.

Associated Country Women of the World:

- 1st Council member from FWIO to ACWW 1980-1983.
 - Attended ACWW Council meeting at Sussex University, Sussex, England September 22-25, 1981.
 - Attended ACWW Council meeting at Baden-Powell House, London, England, July 6-9, 1982.
 - Attended ACWW Council meeting at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, June 20 & 29, 1983.
 - Leader of the FWIO voting delegation to the 17th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, in Vancouver, Canada, at the University of British Columbia, June 19-29, 1983; and voting delegate from FWIO, a Constituent Society of ACWW.
- * Life Member of Elgin East District Women's Institute May 11, 1981.
- * Life Member of The Associated Country Women of the World January 12, 1976.
- * Life Member of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario October 11, 1990.
- * Recipient of Ontario Bicentennial Medal and Award of Merit, Dec. 9, 1984.

Janet has been dedicated to the Women's Institute for many years and has served faithfully "For Home and Country". The support of her husband and family has been a tremendous help to her as she carried out her many and various duties.

- * Advisory Board Member for the Ontario Farm Women magazine 1984 & 1985.

J. B.

Advisory Board Members

Attracting younger membership to WI a concern

By Robert Way

Janet Hiepleh frowns at the suggestion Women's Institute isn't keeping up with the times. It's an oft heard comment reported in the media — bad press some might say — but to the past-president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, the information simply isn't true.

And as one of Ontario Farm Women magazine's five female advisors, she hopes to set the record straight, making sure Institute members are given fair coverage for the many issues and concerns brought forth at area meetings.

In her term of office, from 1980-83, one of Janet's main concerns was the disappearance of younger women from the W.I.'s membership rolls.

Area branches were subsequently encouraged to arrange their meetings at more convenient times, and a more aggressive approach was taken to attracting new members by picking them up for their first meeting.

The results showed up a year later, says Janet, when a survey showed that 1,300 new members had been attracted to join, and even two years later, in 1983, another spot survey indicated further participation.

"We're trying to keep a balance between the younger and more middle-aged women," notes Janet, "and it's working very well."

"Another thing we're trying to change is the archaic image of W.I.," she explained.

With public relations as the main topic of discussion at a recent W.I. officer's conference, Janet encouraged participants to take a close look at themselves.

"Each Women's Institute member is really a public relations person for the whole organization," she com-



Janet Hiepleh
Past-president
Women's Institute

mented. "What each one does has an impact on W.I. So, it's important each member remembers this ... and practices it."

Today, even though the past-president has stepped back from the spotlight, she is still very much involved in both local (Kingsmill-Mapleton branch), provincial, and national affairs. That's besides helping out on the family's 125-acre cash crop farm, just north of Aylmer, where she keeps the records and books for husband Keith.

Besides the countless number of local committees upon which she serves, Janet

educational organization," said Janet. "Issues outside the farm have to be more rounded to enthuse women living in the country."

Rather than center strictly on agriculture, the W.I. aims toward a much broader spectrum with its members, says Janet.

Yet, even with these current topics to attract support, "visibility" is still very much a problem — local chapters don't receive the publicity they deserve.

"We need more communication with our members, so they are much more aware of current issues," she commented.

With 26,000 of the organization's 48,000 Canadian members alone in Ontario, it's not always possible for everyone to know what each other is doing.

Hopefully, through Ontario Farm Women magazine, however, Women's Institute members will be able to do just that.

Ontario Farm Women

- news
- features
- profiles

See our first
issue coming
this fall!

is also still heavily involved as a national director, and resolutions convenor.

In her words, the latter position involves "a lot of letter writing". But being on top of the many issues brought forth through W.I. meetings across the province has also given Janet a clear understanding of the broad range of interests for which the Institute stands.

Such subjects as capital punishment, wife abuse, drugs, and family communication were just a few of the resolutions presented for review recently across the province.

"Primarily, we're still an

J. H.

East Elgin WI

by Betty Van Patter

The spring board meeting of Elgin East District Women's Institute was held in the afternoon of March 29 at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer.

Madeline Jenkins presided, assisted by Secretary Grace Blewett and Treasurer Bernice Taylor.

Correspondence included: an invitation to Sparta's Dafodil Tea on April 3; a thank-you from Melissa Volekaert, winner of the Janet Hiepleh scholarship; a letter of appreciation from past board director Eleanor McMillan; and a letter from Elgin County clerk announcing the appointment of Marion

McKenzie, a member of Yarmouth Glen Women's Institute, as East Elgin's Women's Institute representative to the Elgin County Museum.

Pauline Lindsay, Board Director Subdivision 22 F.W.I.O., gave her report. She urged branches to support the Parkhouse Foundation Fund.

The London Area Convention is October 14 in Mt. Brydges.

Marion McKenzie reported for the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. She announced the Strawberry Social is June 23.

The executive committee

of the museum includes: Clarence Willsey, chairman; John Fisher; Marion McKenzie; Rena Campbell; William Haight; Jessie Charlton; Jeannie Leach; Eleanor McMillan; and Don Vickerman.

The next museum committee meeting is April 20 at 9:30. Branches are urged to send their representatives.

The museum will be having lemonade Sundays again this summer. I have purchased a camera from profits of the Bingo money

The Elgin Manor Tea is May 5 with a bake sale and May 25 a sale of nearly-new clothes for the residents.

Farm Safety is offering to fund 50% to take a C.P.R. course.

The Treasurer reported on the financial success of Bus Trip to Cullen Gardens. The District donated \$250 to the Park House Foundation Fund.

The Program Co-Ordinator, Alma Penhale, gave the branches materials for "Pitch-In" week.

Plans were made for the District Annual to be held on May 5 at Eden Baptist Church. The hostesses for this meeting are Eden and Kingsmill-Mapleton branches.

Members are reminded of the pot-luck noon luncheon and to bring their own silver and china.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9:30.

Elgin East Women's Institute holds annual session in Eden



Madeleine Jenkins, left, past president, hands over the gavel for the Elgin East Women's Institute to Betty Van Patter, new president, observed by: Pauline Lindsay, Federated Women's Institute of Ontario director for subdivision 22; Eleanor McMillan, Elgin County Rally

chairman; Margaret Dale, London Area president; and Valerie Clark of Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Mrs. Van Patter was installed during the Elgin East Institute's annual meeting, held this year on Wednesday, May 5 at Eden Baptist Church.

by Betty Van Patter

The annual meeting of Elgin East District Women's Institute was held on Wednesday, May 5 at Eden Baptist Church with Madeleine Jenkins presiding assisted by Secretary Grace Blewett and Treasurer Bernice Taylor.

Hostesses of this meeting were Kingsmill-Mapleton and Eden branches. A warm welcome was extended to the 50 branch members and their guests by Irene Anderson of the Eden branch.

The President opened the meeting with Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect.

District Directors were asked to come forward and in the memorial service place a yellow rose in memory of deceased members.

be in April and it will be Drama & Photography. Details will be available later.

The F.W.I.C. triennium will be held in June 1994 in Truro, Nova Scotia. Charlotte Johnson, a past F.W.I.O. president, is president-elect.

Valerie Clark, R.O.S. with O.M.A.F. spoke on how Women's Institute members could attract more 4-Hers to participate in the W.I. scholarship.

She told us 4-H is now for 10 to 21 year olds, the average age in Elgin is 12.5 years and the length of time they stay in 4-H is 2.48 years.

She had handouts and brought to our attention The Elgin County Rural Organization Contact List, Elgin Rural update and urged us to

Greetings were brought from London Area President Margaret Dale, Oxford District President, Tina Zomer, and Elgin County Rally President, Eleanor McMillan.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Penhale read her report and had handouts on Outstanding Programs including: a members' picture and armchair tour of her native Hungary; a demonstration of paper folding - a fine Japanese Art; talk and video given by a 4-H member who was a privileged visitor to United Nations; a program on maple syrup, including a video and maple syrup used in the lunch; a first of July celebration entertaining families and the planting of a tree; a program on Proud to be a Canadian; and a visit to the

Program Co-Ordinator Alma Penhale, Resolutions Madeleine Jenkins, Tweedsmuir Curator Margaret Craven, Ass't Tweedsmuir Curator Catherine McDowell, Representative to Pioneer Museum, Marion McKenzie, Auditors Joanne Erickson and Donna Penhale, Nominating Committee Isabel Martin and Mary Pressey.

Betty Van Patter, Madeleine Jenkins and Shirley Bechard were appointed to Scholarship Committee and the Delegates to Area Convention are Bl Van Patter and Audrey James.

Farm Safety Representative is Shirley Bechard.

A short business meeting followed. Madeleine Jenkins will work on an Education

Margaret Stewart read a poem "Time For Everything" and Mary Pressey closed this service with prayer.

Pauline Lindsay, Provincial Board Director of Sub-District #22, Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, ratified the seven district directors and one alternate district director. All branches were represented.

Bernice Taylor gave the financial report. The bus trip to Cullen Gardens and miniature village was a success.

Pennies for Friendship were well over \$400 up from the previous year.

Correspondence included a letter regarding the book "Silver Thoughts, Golden Words and a Nickel Worth of Stories" from the collection of Bernice Nobbitt.

A second letter from Y.W.C.A. asking us to nominate an active member to the "Women of Distinction".

Pauline Lindsay gave her board director's report. She told us the 3-year pilot project with Pass It On is being

continued and in its place the subdivisions and/or Districts will be encouraged to organize an educational committee and offer seminars or workshops relating to life skills to meet the needs in your community.

Volunteers from each district are to form an education committee with her.

A new branch has been formed in the Kingston Area.

The Conference '92 in Thunder Bay had a surplus \$12,178 and this has been donated to the Headquarters Fund.

The Charities Division of Revenue Canada Taxation has granted extension of F.W.I.O.'s charitable status to include donations to the Headquarters Fund, the History Book and Conference '97.

She reported that the Fall Winter Fair Women's Day is November 11. Theme for 1993 is "FOOD".

The wall hangings for the Agricultural Museum are to be in July 19.

Next year P.G. & R. will

use Elgin Community Calendar which is put out every other month.

Betty Van Patter, P.R.O., in her report thanked the branch representatives for the prompt return of their reports.

She said Women's Institute is an organization for personal growth and community action.

She said branches help furnish halls, donate to local Food Banks and canvas for Heart and Cancer Funds, make quilts and finger puppets, spend hours working on Aylmer Fair committee, reach out to their golden age members at nursing and senior homes, open their hall every Saturday in July and August for persons far and near to enjoy the museums, support local schools by giving awards and being involved in Golden Garbage, a community club awards project recycling and raising funds.

There were 126 members in Elgin East.

Marion McKenzie as Elgin East District representative to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum executive committee gave her report.

She told us the museum is ably headed by Director/curator Deborah Herkimer, and part-time staff Arnold McBay and Sherri Howard. Memberships remain the same at \$5 plus GST.

The museum has been invited to assemble a bilingual exhibit in the West Hallway of the Legislative Assembly, representing the 1890 era, to be on display for a 2 month period.

Recarpeting for the "Meeting Room" and stair case have been taken under consideration.

"Strawberry Social" is June 23, 1:30 - 4 p.m. at the museum, cost \$3.00. The Scholarship presentation will take place on that date.

A bountiful potluck luncheon was enjoyed at the noon hour. Alma Penhale, program co-ordinator, introduced the head table guests.

farm museum at Port Bruce.

Shirley Bechard gave a Farm Safety report for Elgin County. She is a director of Provincial Farm Safety.

The Tweedsmuir History report was given by the Curator, Margaret Craven. Six branches had programs and displayed their book at a meeting.

Margaret Dale conducted the election and installed the following officers:

Past President Madeleine Jenkins, President Betty Van Patter, Vice-President Pauline Lindsay, Secretary Grace Blewett, Treasurer Bernice Taylor, Public Relations Officer Marjorie Andrews,
columns 1, 2, 3, 4 continue from previous page.

committee with the Board Director and representatives of the other two districts.

It was decided to have a bus trip to Cullen Gardens and Cullen Barns on June 21. The President and Treasurer will be in charge of arrangements.

Jean Gooding gave the courtesies. Next year's district annual will be hosted by Yarmouth Glen and North Yarmouth branch.

Song leader for the day was Shirley Lunn and pianist Marion Irwin.

The President will have the District Fall Board Meeting on October 4. time and place to be announced.

J.A.

-AYLMER EXPRESS—Wed., March 23, 1994.

East Elgin Women's Institute winter picnic

by Marjorie Andrews

On March 2, 36 Women's Institute members from East Elgin district enjoyed a winter picnic at Eden Baptist Church. Hostesses were members of the Eden and Calton branches of W.I.

Following this W.I. grace, all present tucked in to an abundant pot-luck meal and conversation.

The past president, Madeleine Jenkins, chairman, welcomed all present and opened with the poem "I took the time to say hello to someone I didn't know."

Members were reminded of the spring East Elgin W.I. board meeting to be held at 1:30 p.m., at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer, on March 28.

Also on April 7, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., a workshop will be

held at Centralia to provide and promote leadership.

The next Elgin W.I. Rally meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. at O.M.A.F. offices on April 12.

Guests were introduced by Mrs. Jenkins, including Betty Walther, P.R.O. for London area.

Mrs. Walther urged branches to get their orders in as soon as possible for W.I. supplies they will be available at area convention.

Mrs. Walter closed her remarks with the humorous reading "Ten Commandments for Farm Women."

Dorothy Waite brought greetings from Oxford W.I. District and closed her remarks with the poem "God gives us a day each morning."

Regrets were received from Jean Leitch, Margaret Dale, and Eleanor McMillan.

A short program followed with readings, some humorous and some beautiful, given by Margaret Stewart for Corinth W.I. and Mildred Owen and Gracey Purdy for Springfield. For Yarmouth Glen, a skit in honour of nutrition month was presented by Marion Facey, Shirley Bechard, Marilyn Taylor and Marjorie Hedger.

For North Yarmouth, Grace Blewett prepared a challenging contest on towns and W.I.'s in Elgin County.

The get-together concluded with fellowship, renewed acquaintances and the Queen, with Mrs. Walther as pianist.

Elgin East District W.I. holds annual meeting

by Marjorie Andrews

"The International year of the family" was the theme of the 82nd District Annual of the Elgin East District Women's Institute, held at St. James Presbyterian Church in North Yarmouth.

Hostesses were the Yarmouth Glen and the North Yarmouth branches of the W.I.

The meeting began with the 40 in attendance singing the Institute Ode and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect.

The president, Mrs. Betty Van Patter, was in the chair, assisted by the secretary, Mrs. Grace Blewett.

The Reverend Gloria Langlois, welcomed the W.I. to St. James Church, commending the W.I. for its role in nurturing, sustaining, and educating the family unit.

A touching memorial service for all W.I. members deceased in the last year was conducted by Muriel Carrel with Evelyn Hoshal as pianist.

Mrs. Carrel asked each member present to think of a deceased member of their branch, and of what she did and accomplished.

"I scan the room but do not see your face

To-day we think of you - we hear again your voice

You, who are a part of us forever."

The president of each of the 8 branches placed a flower in an arrangement between 2 lighted candles in memory of those departed.

The district directors or alternates of each branch were ratified by the board director of subdivision 22, Pauline Lindsay.

Mrs. Bernice Taylor, treasurer, read the financial statement for the year, including pennies for friendship.

Correspondence, read by secretary Mrs. Grace Blewett included a letter of thanks for the Janet Hiepleigh scholarship, from the winner, Trudy Hickson, a graduate of Annandale H.S., Tillsonburg.

In her address, the president, Mrs. Betty Van Patter reminded members to use their handbooks as a guide.

Mrs. Van Patter said the W.I. is an organization to promote personal growth and community action, and to assist women to become more knowledgeable citizens.

Remember today's family is tomorrow's future.

Mrs. Van Patter hoped that each member would go home thinking they had learned at least one thing.

Mrs. Pauline Lindsay, F.W.I.O. Board Director for subdivision 22, reported the F.W.I.O. board director's

visit to the new F.W.I.O. office, in Guelph Township.

The A.C.W.W. president, Valerie Fisher from Australia, will be visiting Canada for the first time to attend a F.W.I.C. convention in Truro, N.S. in June.

She will arrive in Ontario on Saturday, May 28 and will visit the Erland Lee Open House 2-4 p.m.

On May 29 she will be at the Adelaide Hoodless Home open house 2-4 p.m.

A busy time is coming up with the official opening of the F.W.I.O. office near Guelph on August 21. Also, Centennial 1997 Plate has been unveiled and ordered plates will be shipped in early June.

The entries to the centennial song competition must be received by November 30, 1994.

There is a quilt competition, and also a coffee table book is being published in honour of centennial. More pictures and artifacts are needed.

Branches are invited to make a quilted wall hanging to include the W.I. insignia for the country quilt fest at the Agricultural Museum at Milton from August 12 to 21.

There is concern about possible closure of this museum. Although the outcome looks hopeful, members are

urged to write individual handwritten letters to support keeping it open.

Address letters to Mr. Lindsay Barfoot, Price Waterhouse, Canada Trust Centre, 55 King St. W., 9th Floor, Kitchener, N2G 4W1.

A lively sing song was enjoyed with Jean Phoenix at the piano and Evelyn Hoshal as song leader.

Valerie Clark, Rural Community Advisor, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs, spoke of her duties to provide a leadership voice for agricultural and rural affairs.

Valerie works with many community groups such as 4-H, violence against women and violence in sports.

Valerie spoke of the video "Fear on the Farm" and the necessity of everyone becoming involved in solving this problem of violence.

Isabel Martin on behalf of the nominating committee, herself and Mary Pressey, presented the nominating report for Elgin East District W.I. for 1994-95.

Margaret Dale, London Area President, brought greetings from the area and installed the district officers as follows:

Past President, Madeleine Jenkins; President, Betty Van Patter, First Vice-President, Pauline Lindsay; Secre-

tary, Grace Blewett; Treasurer, Bernice Taylor; Public Relations Officer, Marjorie Andrews; Program Co-ordinator, Alma Penhale; Resolutions Convener, Madeleine Jenkins; Tweedsmuir History Director, Margaret Craven; Assistant Tweedsmuir Curators, Evelyn Hoshal and Catherine McDowell; Museum Representative, Marion McKenzie; Farm Safety, Shirley Bechard; Auditor, Joanne Erickson; Assistant Auditor, Donna Penhale; Nominating Committee, Isabel Martin and Mary Pressey; Scholarship Committee, Betty Van Patter, Madeleine Jenkins and Shirley Bechard.

Mrs. Dale spoke of our need to conserve water as part of our concern for the International year of the family.

Following the W.I. Grace,

a bountiful pot luck meal was enjoyed.

Madeleine Jenkins on behalf of the education advisory committee, of herself, Pauline Lindsay, and Eleanor McMillan, reported 108 attended T-shirt magic course. Stenciling was most popular choice for next time.

New business included Bernice Taylor's financial report. Pennies for friendship totalled \$354.19.

The courtesies for the day were given by Margaret Stewart from Corinth W.I.

The Corinth W.I. and the Springfield W.I. will be hostesses for the Elgin East District Annual at Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, Corinth.

The Elgin E. Fall Board Meeting will be held at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer, October 3, 1:30 p.m.

Elgin East WI board meeting

by Marjorie Andrews

President Betty Van Patter, chaired the Elgin East District Women's Institute fall board meeting Monday, October 5, at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer, welcoming all present, and opened with the poem "October."

The provincial board director for sub #22, Pauline Lindsay, brought greetings from the FWIO, and gave a first-hand account of the official opening of the new FWIO office in Guelph Township on August 21, with photos.

Big things are coming for the FWIO with the centennial in 1997.

District past president Madeleine Jenkins presented Mrs. Lindsay with a gift of appreciation for all her time, effort, and skill in serving as provincial board director sub #22.

Reports were given by Marion McKenzie about the Elgin Co. Pioneer Museum. The curator now works 35 hours a week and Sherri Howard works 14 hours per week.

Volunteers are needed for varied jobs at the museum.

A committee of curators Deborah Herkimer, Alma Penhale, Mary Durkin, Bertha Vickerman and Dorothy Van Patter has been appointed to plan the redecorating of the museum.

District program co-ordinator Alma Penhale urged members to get their monthly program report in promptly to their branch program co-ordinator. Marjorie Andrews, public relations officer, questioned volunteer hours reported in WI work.

President Van Patter said each member should enter

volunteer WI hours every day, including meetings, meeting planning, travel time and writing up meetings.

Rally president Eleanor McMillan was unable to be present but sent a report.

The Elgin WI Rally social evening was held October 18 at Yarmouth Centre Church.

The Elgin WI Rally Farm Safety Poster awards are to be presented at 2:30 p.m. November 5 at the OMAF office. Yarmouth Firemen will give a presentation.

Ammie Lunn was the 1994 WI scholarship winner.

Tweedsmuir Curator, Margaret Craven spoke of the Tweedsmuir workshop held in August at Komoka. She had an interesting day touring an old railway station museum and seeing a display of bridal gowns, quilts and house logs.

The district annual will be held at the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints on May 9, 1995.

It was decided to try something new and hold the district annual in the afternoon only, commencing at 1:15 p.m.

Springfield WI, with only six members, is busy preparing a History of Springfield, which they hope to complete by Springfield's centennial.

Delegate to area convention from Elgin East district is Betty Van Patter, with Grace Blewett as alternate.

The next board meeting of the Elgin East District WI will be held at 1:30 p.m., March 27, 1995, at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer.

Winter picnic for Elgin East WI is on February 22.

Meeting adjourned.

Elgin East District WI spring

by Marjorie Andrews

The Elgin East District Women's Institute meeting was held on March 27, at Terrace Lodge, and opened with the president, Betty van Patter, welcome to all in attendance.

The secretary, Grace Blewett, read the minutes of the fall board meeting and the winter picnic.

The Roll Call, a suggestion for a district project in June to raise funds for FWIO Board office, brought the idea of selling 50 more Environmentally Friendly books to be distributed to branches at the District Annual.

The treasurer, Berniece Taylor, gave a financial report.

Correspondence included letters of thanks from Pauline Lindsay for her retirement gift, from Leanne Baldwin for the Janet Hiepleh scholarship, and from Janet Hiepleh herself, in appreciation of her enjoyment in attending the awarding of the scholarship.

Members were reminded of the T-shirt workshop, at the Aylmer Baptist Church at 12:30 p.m., on March 30. Appreciator to Madeleine Jenkins for making arrangements.

Also remember the workshop at Coldstream, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on April 6, with the theme "At Your Request."

The Past Board Director, subdivision 22, Pauline Lindsay, was commended on her work and congratulated on her appointments as second vice chairman of the London Area Convention of the WI. She is also chairman of Erland Lee Museum Board for the next two years.

The new FWIO Board Director for subdivision 22, from Oxford South District WI, Margaret Armstrong, was welcomed to the meeting, by the president.

Mrs. Armstrong brought greetings from the FWIO, urging those present to support WI organizations, give WI gifts to special speakers, strive to promote the WI, and encourage candidates for WI scholarships.

WI members should stress reduction of waste and management of pesticides.

A new WI tea rose has been developed in honour of the 1997 centennial, a pale pink flower. By 1997, 4,000 roses should be available for planting.

Money left over from ACWW conference has been

donated to "Women Feed The World" and "Water For All."

Shirley Bechard reported for Farm Safety that the Provincial Farm Safety theme is "Child Safety on the Farm."

New "Bernie and the Cat" child farm safety posters and stickers have been printed.

There will be another Kids Safe Camp Day on July 5 in Lyons, at South Dorchester Volunteer Fire Department Hall.

Public Relations Officer, Marjorie Andrews, reminded members that every WI member is a Public Relations Officer.

Toot our own horn - we are too modest. Show enthusiasm, be active, wear your WI badge, and smile.

The reported volunteer hours in 1993-94, given by members of the FWIO, were over half a million.

About resolutions, Madeleine Jenkins voiced concern that the guilty got off punishment for crimes on grounds of intoxication.

The T-shirt stencilling class arranged by Mrs. Jenkins was enjoyed by over 20 participants at the Aylmer Baptist Church on the afternoon of March 30.

board meeting

The nominating committee of Isabel Martin and Mary Pressey reported they are working on officers for the coming year.

Plans were discussed for the Elgin East District Annual on May 9 at the Reor-

ganized Church of Latter Day Saints, Corinth.

Registration is at 12:45 p.m., with meeting to begin at 1:15 p.m.

Please bring your own mug for tea break.

At-

1996

East Elgin WI spring board stresses volunteer hours

BY MARJORIE ANDREWS

The Elgin East District Women's Institute spring board meeting held April 1 at Terrace Lodge was chaired by District President Betty Van Patter, who welcomed all present and opened with the poem April.

Due to the unavoidable absence of secretary Grace Blewett, Shirley Bechard acted as secretary.

All seven East Elgin branches had members in attendance and the roll call was answered by the district director (or alternate) of each branch with a suggestion for the theme of the 1996 district annual on May 8.

District treasurer Bernice Taylor gave the financial report.

Each branch is reminded to send in its donations report to Mrs. Taylor.

Correspondence, read by Mrs. Bechard, included a letter of thanks from the Janet Hiepleh Scholarship winner Ruth Strickland.

A letter from Doreen Pearce of Winchester, England, said she would be in St. Thomas Oct. 8-10 and would be willing to speak to a WI group. It is hoped Mrs. Pearce will speak at the Elgin WI Rally social evening Oct. 8.

Elgin WI Rally will be hosting the London Area Convention at St. Anne's on Oct. 24. Elgin EWI District asked by Aylmer Fair Board to help with prizes for the safety Poster Contest. It was moved to meet this request.

The provincial board director of Sub. 22, Margaret Armstrong, brought greetings and best wishes, with a report of the most recent FWIO board directors meeting.

Mrs. Armstrong stressed keeping track of our volunteer hours, which gives credit to the WI. Also, if your branch needs one of the three exhibit display boards available at OMAFRA, Guelph, get your name in early. Now the borrower has to pay

the cost of returning them to Guelph.

Note that the Tweedsmuir History book does not belong to the Tweedsmuir History convener in the event of a branch closing.

Centennial WI awards may be awarded to someone who has done a lot for the branch.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

A special centennial program has been sent to each WI branch to be used for a meeting on Feb. 19, 1997. It is hoped this date could concur with the Elgin East District Winter Picnic.

Centennial plates are still available and the fashion book, *A Century of Fashion*.

A rural heritage preservation committee has been formed to try to save the Ontario Agricultural Museum at Milton.

Ag. Care hopes farmers will install an emergency tube on their main transformer pole telling location of water supply and storage of dangerous chemicals. People from many countries visited the WI booth at the Royal Winter Fair.

The ACWW convention 1998 will be in South Africa. The FWIC Bob the Beaver project is in need of donations. Many squares have been knitted and sent to Zambia.

Women are reminded to remember breast screening.

Also, WI is urged to promote ethanol.

Remember Ridgetown's Safe and Healthy Communities promotional days, July 12-14.

And remember that the WI is now a big, big business and the board directors are needed to keep us in contact with what is going on at the FWIO board office.

The Elgin Pioneer Museum report was prepared by Marion McKenzie and read by Alma Penhale. It regretted the elimination of support by city council. The second floor of museum has been freshly painted and repairs to exterior of museum will be made in better weather.

Executive committee request cheques for museum membership made out to museum be sent directly to County, c/o Linda Shewfelt, 450 Sunset Dr., St. Thomas, N5R 5V1.

Shirley Bechard, secretary/treasurer of Elgin Farm Safety Association, announced three children's day camps (ages 7-11) for farm safety on July 3 at Lyons, on July 27 at Shedden, and on Aug. 17 at Dutton.

Brief reports were received from Ms Penhale, program coordinator, from PRO Marjorie Andrews, from Betty Van Patter re: Janet Hiepleh Scholarship (continuing for 10 years), from Madeleine Jenkins re: resolutions and the scarf workshop and from rally president Pauline Lindsay.

WRITE

WI members are urged to write a letter to the mayor of St. Thomas objecting to closing of courts in St. Thomas.

Evelyn Hoshal, the district Tweedsmuir history convener, noted that the London Area Tweedsmuir History Workshop will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 13 at the Wallacetown Community Centre. Bring brown bag lunch and coffee mug. All interested are welcome.

The nominating committee of Isabel Martin and Sylvia Cerna are busy filling the district offices. PRO folders and literature were distributed to the PROs of each of the seven branches and each branch is requested to send \$5 to district annual to cover cost.

The 84th Elgin East District Annual to be held at Sparta United Church at 1 p.m. on May 8 was planned. Please bring your own mug.

Would you like a bus trip to the Erland Lee Home during the summer? - the Lee June 22, 23; the quilt and craft show, Aug. 17; Pioneer Days, Sept. 24, 25; Harvest Festival Luncheons.

Fifty additional Environmentally Friendly books are available.

Institute abroad is shared here

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally held a social evening recently with Doreen Pearce, a member of Twyford Institute near Winchester in the County of Hampshire, as special guest and speaker for the evening.

She told us of her village of 1,200 with its school of 1861 still in use with some modernizations. They have a post office, grocery store, petrol station, a church and two pubs. The branch of which she is a member was formed in 1917.

As there was high regard for social class in those times, the vicar's wife was the first president of their women's institute. They have approximately 10 institutes in their district and no institute more than six miles apart. England and Wales has more than 213,000 members.

Their subscription is divided three ways, half for their own Institute and a quarter to each the county and national. Their meetings commence by singing Jerusalem.

Their resolutions made at the grass-roots level go on to national and can pass or not pass at local, but can be voted on differently at national level.

Their institutes, under the Voluntary County Organizer (VOCs) organize courses for the members. These might include computer skills, the art of money management, highlighting

new diseases, food technology and handling of food courses as well as microwave cookery.

Their institute encourages women to speak out in public and they have public speaking courses. Their own college called Denkam college offers courses in garden design, bicycle maintenance, money management and writing course which our speaker was a participant in.

Grace Campbell expressed appreciation to Mrs. Pearce and presented her with a gift.

Pauline Lindsay welcomed members from east and west Elgin. A bounteous pot-luck meal was enjoyed at St. James Presbyterian Church hall hosted by Kingsmill-Mapleton and Yarmouth Glen branches.

The next Rally meeting is Nov. 2, at 1:30 p.m. at Yarmouth firehall. At 2:30 p.m. the Farm Safety Awards will be presented to the competition winners and a fire prevention officer will be guest speaker.

We were reminded of London Area Convention at St. Anne's Centre Oct. 24. Branches are asked to bring two dozen muffins.

If enough interest is shown in the Centennial Celebration at Hamilton, Ont., in June of 1997, a bus could be chartered for this event.

A sing time led by E. McMillan and J. Phoenix highlighted The Centennial Song. O Canada closed a successful evening.

WI prepares for centennial

1997

By MARJORIE ANDREWS

What were the thoughts and needs and dreams of the women who gathered at Squires' Hall in Stoney Creek on Feb. 19, 1897?

In the fall of 1896, Erland Lee of Stoney Creek, attended a meeting of the Farmers' Experimental Union at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He heard a stirring address by Adelaide Hunter Hoodless of Hamilton. She spoke of the tragic death of her 14-month-old son and several other babies who died from drinking raw contaminated milk. She also spoke of the need to better educate girls and women in rural Ontario. Hoodless accepted an invitation from Lee to speak at the Ladies Night at Saltfleet Farmers' Institute. In the following wintry February week, Erland Lee and his wife Janet, travelled the roads of Saltfleet Township encouraging women to attend a meeting the following week. This meeting on Feb. 19, 1897, resulted in the formation of the first branch of the Women's Institute in all the world. 101 women attended.

The WI movement grew steadily from one community to another, throughout Ontario, and from Ontario, from one province of Canada to another.

The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) and the Federated Women's Institute of Canada (FWIC) were both founded in 1919. To further relations at the international level, the associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) was founded in 1930. To meet the needs of the younger women in rural Ontario, the Junior Women's Institute was organized in 1915.

Now on the brink of the celebration of the WI centennial, members are excited that a special Women's Institute rose has been propagated. There is a FWIO tartan registered by the Scottish Tartan Authority in Pitlochry, Scotland. Also there is a WI jingle on radio stations and a special WI medal struck by the British

Royal Mint selected as this year's subject of its centenary medal. This medal features a design depicting five women representing different aspects of the WI — a symbolic portrayal of the WI's history from its founding in Stoney Creek, 100 years ago, to the well established international organization of today, now the largest international organization of rural women and homemakers in the world.

East Elgin District WI will begin its celebration of the 100th birthday of the founding of the WI with a gathering of Elgin East District WI branches on Feb. 19, at noon, at the Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples.

Hostesses are the Kingsmill-Mapleton branch of the WI which is also celebrating the 90th anniversary of its founding. Any community woman interested is invited to join the celebration which will begin with a pot luck lunch featuring a typical menu of the day — i.e. sandwiches, beef or chicken or egg or watercress and cucumber, buttermilk biscuits with strawberry jam, Johnny cake and maple syrup and ginger bread and whipped cream, served if possible on dishes of that period. Please bring your own cutlery, dishes and cup.

On Feb. 19, Women's Institute members around the world will celebrate the centennial of the formation of that first branch of the WI in Stoney Creek, all using a common program. There in Elgin County we salute all the remarkably brave and wise pioneer women who have paved the way for the women of today. We look forward to future women of vision to carry on the needs and dreams of the women of 1897.

The committee responsible for the planning of the Elgin East District WI centennial celebration is comprised of: Betty Van Patter, president of Elgin East District WI; Grace Blewett, secretary; Sylvia Cerna, program co-ordinator; Gerry Jenken, president of Kingsmill-Mapleton WI.

WI Centennial Song

It's a hundred years since
 Adelaide Hoodless was convinced
 That milk should be pasteurized.
 Then Janet and Erland Lee
 Found it easy to see
 That women should organize

For Mrs. Hoodless knew
 That informed women grew,
 So they did mobilize,
 Hundred and one women came
 And things were ne're the same,
 For they formed the WI's.

So this idea spread,
 Round the world it shed
 its light. Things modernized.
 Then women's homes improved,
 And country's laws were moved,
 Their knowledge exercised.

To encourage, help and share,
 Build a better world with care
 is the work of the WI's.
 Now a hundred years young,
 Still there's work to be done,
 Women's lives to be vitalized.

Now it's time to celebrate:
 Achievements commemorate
 With honour and with pride,
 The Centennial salute
 of the Women's Institute.
 Women of the world, Arise!

Words and music by Marie F. Harris
 October 1994

ELGIN EAST DISTRICT
 PROGRAM FOR
 100TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1997

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Hostess: Kingsmill-Mapleton branch
at Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples

Welcome: Betty Van Patter

Ode, Mary Stewart Collect

Grace: Sylvia Cerna

Smorgasbord luncheon

Introduction of head table quests

Greetings from:

Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I. Gerry Jenkin

Chairman of Church Board Jim Thompson

Reeve of South Dorchester John Wilson

Bd Dir. Sub.22, FWIO Willa Johnston

Collection - Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute

Intermission 15 minutes

UPSTAIRS IN THE SANCTUARY

Motto - Joan Mansell
- Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future

Roll Call - What Have I accomplished with a
Women's Institute Lifeskill?
one from each branch

Centennial Song - Piano - Esther Humphrey
- Song - Jean Phoenix

Program - Lighting of candle - Betty Van Patter

Original minutes - Grace Blewett

Information - Betty Van Patter

The Women's Institute.... Do you know that?

Person 1 Betty Van Patter

Person 2 Gerry Jenkin

Persons 3-12 Elgin branches taking part

Calton, Corinth, Kingsmill-Mapleton, North Yarmou
Sparta Sorosis, Springfield, Yarmouth Glen

Recognitions - Bernice Taylor

Courtesies - Grace Blewett

Queen -

Announcements - In Fellowship Hall to celebrate
Kingsmill-Mapleton's 90th Anniversary