

May 16, 1990

# West Elgin District W.I. annual meeting

West Elgin District Women's Institute held their annual meeting in the Shedden United Church with the Shedden branch as hostess. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Bruce McMillan chaired the business meeting.

Mrs. Betty Walther, Provincial Board Director, after ratifying the District Directors, brought everyone up to date on the happenings at the Provincial level. Of particular interest was her report on the "Blue Bag Project", and the induction of Mrs. Annie Haggerty, Past President of Federation of Women's Institute of Ontario and Canada, into the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame at Milton on June 3rd, 1990.

Several visitors in attendance that spoke during the meeting were London Area

Convention President Mrs. Oliver McIntosh, President of East Elgin District Mrs. Madeline Jenkins, and President of Oxford South Florence Buchner.

Rural Organization Specialist, Miss Valerie Clark, spoke on the up-dating of the 4-H program in regards to making it more appealing to prospective participants.

## Installation of Officers

Past president, Mrs. John McIntyre; president, Mrs. Bruce McMillan; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Ron Leitch; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Nelson Johnston; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Horace Jewell; public relations officer, Mrs. John Hauser; program co-ordinator, Mrs. Leonard Palmer; Resolutions Officer, Mrs. Walter Robson; Museum

Delegate, Mrs. Duncan McCallum; Farm Safety Delegate, Mrs. Ivan Beecroft; Tweedsmuir History Convener, Mrs. Albert Auckland; auditors, Mrs. George Lippold and Mrs. Art Humphries; nominating committee, Mrs. Winfrid Leipmann, Mrs. Gordon Gow and Mrs. Keith McLean.

Members of the Shedden Branch were thanked for the delicious "Coffee Break" served in the basement of the church.

Program Co-ordinator, Mrs. Pat Palmer, and helpers presented a skit of "Misconceptions Explained" much to the enjoyment of all.

After the completion of the various reports and courtesy remarks given by Mrs. Ron Leitch, the meeting was adjourned.



May 16, 1990 "Misconceptions Explained" From Left: Jean Palmer, Carol Gordon, Pat Palmer.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
Tweedsmuir History Curator  
Dora McArthur 1991



# PEOPLE

ERIC  
BUNNELL



OF ST. THOMAS AND ELGIN COUNTY ...

October 12, 1990

## Janet's Saturdays make a comeback

Shedden Women's Institute is bringing back Saturdays.

Of course, it's not that Saturdays actually ever went away. But for a good many people, they just haven't been the same since Mary Jane McIntyre died Nov. 10, 1963, at age 78.

You see, for 40 years of Saturdays in The Times-Journal until her death, Mrs. McIntyre was Janet, the proprietor of a pleasant column of essays about life in the country - on the farm at RR 3, Shedden, a mile out of the hamlet, where Mrs. McIntyre lived for more than 50 years with her husband, Arthur.

"Everyone read them," remembers Dora McArthur. "Everyone in the area read them. We just waited with bated breath until Saturday came, to see what she wrote about."

Now, Shedden WI has selected 102 of Mrs. McIntyre's pieces and has republished them as The Janet Columns.

They will be part of the WI's Tweedsmuir History - Mrs. McIntyre was first curator of the Shedden history, starting in 1948 when Lady Tweedsmuir suggested WIs across the land preserve their communities' pasts.

Dora McArthur, a retired school teacher and present curator of the Shedden history, says the Janet columns were so popular because Mrs. McIntyre wrote about a world that was familiar to her readers.

"She wrote about everyday things - tending the garden, the mail delivery, going to the store. Just everyday things that everybody knew about because everyone lived the same lifestyle."

But Janet wasn't Janet for nothing: although her subjects were familiar, her observations were - and remain - quite compelling.



MARY  
JANE  
MCINTYRE  
...she  
was  
Janet

### FIRST COLUMN

Janet's first column was The Farmer's Wife, in which she said that if a farm wife is "the miserable, worked-out slave" she often is portrayed to be, she has only herself to blame.

"If a woman will make a slave of herself to her husband and family, they will soon accept it as their right and she gets no thanks and they do not even respect her."

And, remember, this was 1924.

Mrs. McArthur nominated a favorite of a different flavor: Janet's recollections of Christmas at her grandparents' home in north Dunwich Township.

"You ride right along in the wagon with them, you go into the house and you can smell the fowl cooking."

Mrs. McArthur, Margaret Turner (Mrs. McIntyre's daughter), Pat Palmer and Beth Vicary constituted the committee in charge of the WI project. They and four others selected their favorite Janet columns, and the 102 were retyped and assembled in a looseleaf binder.

The Janet Columns is available from Palmer Bros. Red and White, and from the Village Pantry Boutique, Shedden. It's \$15.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INST.  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR - Dora McArthur  
May 1991

A parting thought from Janet:  
*I know I could never be happy living off a farm for I just have to be where I can walk in a field, not on a cement sidewalk or pavement. And if I took one of those notions to walk around, I wouldn't want to have to go hunt up a field and then it wouldn't be a field and folks would think I was somewhat demented.*

### NOTICE

The Janet Columns by Mary Jane McIntyre compiled by Shedden Women's Institute are available at Palmer's Red & White and The Village Pantry Boutique or Call: Dora McArthur 764-2583, Pat Palmer 764-2368. Cost \$15.00

## Early writings of Mary Jane McIntyre in booklet form

For some 40 years, Mrs. Mary Jane McIntyre captured her readers with her column which appeared in the Saturday edition of the St. Thomas Times-Journal on the women's page.

Mrs. McIntyre, whose columns attracted readers from 1924 to 1963 lived for more than 50 years about 1 mile north of Shedden with her husband, the late Arthur J. McIntyre who was well known throughout West Elgin as a farmer.

Mrs. McIntyre's articles were published and read by the urban communities by both men and women on a regular basis. Her articles were of varied subjects - many told of the many goings-on in a typical country home and life on a farm.

Her family saved her many hundred columns for 40 years and the Women's Institute decided to compile a book with approximately 100 columns. The booklet has been completed as part of the Shedden Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History, and can be obtained at Palmer Bros. Red & White and the Village Pantry Boutique. Or call Dora McArthur 764-2583 or Pat Palmer 764-2368.



July 10, 1990 - Assembling the "Janet Columns"



Beth Vicary, Margaret Turner, Dora McArthur



Back: Pat Palmer, Pauline Silcox, Dorothy McLaughlin Margaret Carder  
Margaret Turner, Jean Palmer  
Beth Vicary

SHEDDEN W.I.  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR - Dora McArthur  
May 1991



200 copies of the "Janet Columns" Assembled, numbered,  
labeled and READY TO GO

Back: Brenda Silcox, Pauline Silcox, Pat Palmer

Front: Dora McArthur, Beth Vicary, Jean Palmer, Margaret Carder

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR - Dora McArthur  
May 1991



CLOTHING CLUB GIRLS

A group of homemaking club girls being given training in the art of making their own clothes, under the guidance of a capable leader.

From the left: Joyce Stafford, Dorothy Irons, Mary Ellen Carroll, Catherine Beer, Nancy Jane Bogart, Hazel Koyle, Shirley Henry, Catherine Braddon, Mrs. George (Mary) Ayling - LEADER, Marilyn Marr  
Front: Marion Ayling, Marleen McIntyre, Marion Kilmer.

The above picture appears in the Women's Institute Book "Fifty Years of Achievement". It was published in 1948 by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Women's Institutes of Ontario.

NOTE:

This Book was placed by Payne's Mills Women's Institute in Shedden Public Library in March 1991.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR - Dora McArthur  
May 1991





**CAN DRIVE** — The Shedden 4-H Club Can Drive will be held Saturday. Among the club members canvassing, from left, will be: front — Karey Logghe, Lindsay Lynch, Kelly Palmer; back — Marcia Carr, Jerry Silcox and Jody Pennings. — (Staff)

## Shedden 4-H Club holding can drive

**SHEDDEN** - The Shedden 4-H Club is conducting a food collection drive this weekend.

"Our Achievement Day Can Drive will be held this Saturday," Pat Palmer, Shedden 4-H Club leader, said this week. She and Karen Lynch share the leadership responsibilities for the club's 15 members.

Goods collected in the village during the two-hour canvass, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, will be donated to the Caring Cupboard food bank.

Residents missed during the 4-H canvass are asked to drop off any donations at Palmer's Grocery Store, located at the village's main intersection.

*Apr. 19, 1991*

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR - Dora McArthur  
May 1991





## Members awarded

Members of the Shedden 'Cuddly Critters' Animal Friends Club' 4-H handed out awards to first-time members and long-time devotees. Back from left Lucinda Kellestine, sixth club award, Diane Utitvlugt, five-year leader, Amy Utitvlugt, Amanda Kyniski, Jennifer

Bole, Anne Doelman, Brent Dawdy, Wanda Schram, leader, and Krista Schram. Front from left Kendra Hitchman, Donna Virag, Darryl Glover, Malinda Braam, Cherie Wilcox, Chad MacPherson and Sara Webster. Very front Meghan Wilkin. - (T-J Photo)

## Women's institutes still recording history

The mention in the May 28 London Free Press about the Tweedsmuir histories in the article *Sleuthing skills help dig up home's past* needs some explanation.

While her husband was governor-general of Canada, Lady Tweedsmuir became concerned that the histories of the farm and rural communities were being lost. She also realized there was one organization that had branches throughout all the rural communities of Canada, the Women's Institute, which not only had the interest and the knowledge but also the skills necessary to record local histories.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, as well as all the other provinces, accepted the challenge and have faithfully recorded the histories of the farms, buildings, industries, historical happenings and points of interest, people and folklore by word and picture.

In many cases, the "Tweedsmuir histories" as they are now known have reached many volumes. Many Women's Institute branches have microfilmed their Tweedsmuir histories and

placed copies in local libraries, while others have published them in book form. Many have been used as the basis of research for other books or articles.

With 1,000 branches throughout Ontario, many communities have been well served by Women's Institutes. Recording local history is just one of the ways.

The Women's Institutes are approaching their centennial celebrations in 1997 with a theme for the decade of women and the environment, which not only includes the usual environmental issues, but also the personal environment and also the historical environment.

The institutes are proud to have faithfully researched and compiled their local histories which will be used for generations to come. Without an understanding of the past we cannot hope to have a successful future.

**GERALDINE CAMPBELL**

Public relations officer

Federated Women's Institute of Ontario  
Ridgetown

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR - Dora McArthur  
May 1991

Presentation of 25 year membership April 22,1992  
to  
BETH VICARY



Jean Palmer

Beth Vicary



Jean Palmer

Beth Vicary

Margaret Turner

Shedden Women's Institute  
Tweedsmuir History  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
April 1993



April 22, 1992 - Shedden Women's Institute

Members present at Beth Vicary's 25 Year

Membership presentation



Front:

Carol Gordon, Vivian Cairns, Jean Vine, Jean Palmer,  
Beth Vicary.

Back:

Pat Palmer, Pauline Silcox, Dorothy McLaughlin, Madeline  
Parks, Ruth Hunter, Cheryl Garvin, Margaret Turner, Maxine  
Silcox, Connie Silcox.

Shedden Women's Institute  
Tweedsmuir History  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
April 1993

Tree Planting Ceremony for  
CANADA'S 125th BIRTHDAY

October 10, 1992



Shirley Longhurst, (Shedden Fair Board Secretary), Barbara Botden, W.I.Sec., Matt Botden, Frances Botden, Maxine Silcox, Werner Stoss (Shedden Fair Board Pres), Rev. Peter Lemmer, Currie Silcox, Brenda Silcox, Pauline Silcox, Madeline Parks, Dora McArthur, Clayton Silcox, Jerry Silcox, Andrew Palmer.

Front:

Laura Stoss, Jacob Botden, Craig Stoss, Connie Silcox, Jean Palmer

Shedden Women's Institute  
Tweedsmuir History.  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
April, 1993





## Shedden W.I. plants Maple to celebrate Canada 125

Members of Shedden Women's Institute and their families recently planted a Royal Red Maple tree on the Shedden Agricultural Society's fairgrounds as part of their Canada 125 Celebration. The official duties were handled by Mrs. Maxine Silcox and Mrs. Madeline Parks, two longtime members of Shedden W.I.

After an introduction to the event by Mrs. Connie Silcox, first vice-president, Rev. Peter Lemmer of Bethany United Church, Shedden, spoke of his prayer that the upcoming referendum vote would act to resolve some of the differences that exist in our country. One hundred and twenty five years ago our founders were about to pull together the provinces

and territories, while today some seem intent on pulling them apart.

The Red Maple will outlive all of us. Long before we came to this continent there were Red Maples growing here. They stand as a marvelous symbol of what this country is all about. As part of our Canadian flag, Rev. Lemmer reminded everyone, the red symbolizes the sacrifices made while the white represents the hope of our nation.

Mrs. Jean Palmer, Citizenship and Legislation Convenor, responsible for planning the event, then read the poem "Trees" and led those present in the singing of "The Maple Leaf Forever" and "O' Canada."

Shedden W.I.  
Tweedsmuir Hist.  
Dora McArthur-  
Curator

April 1993



**SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED** – Paula Campbell of Iona Station receives the 1992 Elgin County Women's Institute Scholarship from chairperson Jean Palmer. The award is given to 4-H club members who plan to attend a post-secondary institution and have completed a club project in the past year. Paula has completed 24 projects to date and was a member of the 4-H Reach for the Top team for three years. Paula, a daughter of Keith and Pat Campbell, is attending the University of Waterloo in Applied Health Studies.



**50th WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY**

**JAMES AND VIVIAN CAIRNS  
AUGUST 1st, 1942-1992**

Family, friends and neighbours are  
asked to share in their celebration  
at an

**OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1992  
at I.O.O.F. HALL, SHEDDEN  
2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Best Wishes, Only!**

Shedden Women's Institute  
Tweedsmuir History  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
April 1993



## **80th BIRTHDAY**

**G. MARGARET CARDER**

**March 8th, 1914-1994**



*The Carder Family is hosting an Open House on Sunday, March 13th, 1994 at the I.O.O.F. Hall, Shedden from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in honour of Margaret's 80th Birthday. Friends and neighbours are welcome to attend this happy occasion. Best Wishes only please.*

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Dora McArthur, Curator

April, 1994



### **GORDON 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

Ron and Carol Gordon are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday, June 21, 1994. Love from Mike, Jeff, Becki and grandson Tyler.

## **Anniversary**



### **HUNTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Ruth (Brown) and Clarence Hunter will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 21, 1994. A dinner party for family and friends will be held to mark the occasion. Love and best wishes from your family.



*In Memory Of*

Mrs. Ina May (Atkinson) Ross

*Born*

November 22nd, 1907  
Shedden, Ontario

*Died*

December 19th, 1994  
Burlington, Ontario

*Service*

m., Wednesday, December 21st, 1994  
Williams Funeral Home  
St. Thomas, Ontario

*Officiating*

Rev. Peter Lemmer  
Bethany United Church

*Interment*

Shedden Cemetery

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME

*In Memory of*  
**Jean Margaret Vine**

Beloved Wife of the late  
Alfred Vine

*Born*  
Thursday, February 15, 1912  
Yarmouth Township Ontario

*Died*  
Monday, August 14, 1995  
St. Thomas Ont.

*Funeral Service*  
Arr Funeral Homes, Dutton  
Thursday, August 17, 1995  
1:30 pm

*Clergy*  
Malcolm Rust

*Interment*  
McArthur Cemetery  
Southwold Township

*In Memory Of*

Mrs. Harriet Madeline (Fulton) Parks

*Born*

May 8th, 1912  
Southwold Township

*Died*

August 23rd, 1995  
Hamilton, Ontario

*Service*

11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 26th, 1995  
Williams Funeral Home  
St. Thomas, Ontario

*Officiating*

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout  
Shedden United Church

*Interment*

Fingal Cemetery

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME

**BALLAM** - At the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital on Tuesday, October 10, 1995. Mrs. Vera (Mercer) Ballam of Elgin Manor, R.R. #1, St. Thomas and formerly of Shedden, in her 99th year. Widow of Clifford H. Ballam (1974). Sister of Lee Mercer and his wife Elsa of Dearborn, Mich., Ralph Mercer and his wife Hilda of R.R. #3, Shedden and Clifton Mercer and his wife Helen of R.R. #2, Glanworth. Also survived by a sister-in-law, Mrs. Emily Mercer of Fairfield, Tennessee and by several nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Ballam was predeceased by a sister, Mrs. Alma Selman and by three brothers, Clarence, Wesley and Bruce Mercer. Friends will be received at the Sifton Funeral Home, 118 Wellington St., St. Thomas on Thursday evening 7-9 p.m. The funeral service will be conducted at Bethany United Church, Shedden on Friday at 1:30 p.m. Interment in Shedden Cemetery. Memorial donations to Bethany United Church, Shedden or the charity of one's choice gratefully acknowledged.

my cup runneth over.  
thy goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life.  
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SHEDDEN W. I.

Dora McArthur - Curator  
Apr. 1996

*In Memory Of*

Mrs. Margaret Carder

*Born*

March 18th, 1914  
Nanaimo, B.C.

*Died*

December 19th, 1995  
Southwold Township

*Service*

2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 2  
Williams Funeral Home  
St. Thomas, Ontario

*Officiating*

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout  
Bethany United Church

*Interment*

McArthur Cemetery

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME

The following was written by Carole Silcox at the time of her Aunt Vera Ballam's Death on October 10, 1995.

### SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT AUNT VERA

We all have enjoyed the stories about her childhood days in Fingal.....

Carrying milk in a pail from the Ferguson farm.

Riding in a democrat with her parents and brother to visit relatives in Delaware.

Attending school in Fingal and Rodney.

Being big sister to her four younger brothers and sister Alma.

Working in the drugstore in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Her marriage to Clifford Ballam when he returned from the 1st World War.

We learned of her life in Detroit during the depression, her homes in Windsor and London, and then moving to Shedden for retirement 35 years ago or more.

Having no children of her own, she lovingly claimed each nephew and niece that arrived as her own. With each generation, her family kept growing, and she loved keeping in contact with us all. Until she became a resident at Elgin Manor, did she ever forget to send a birthday or an anniversary card?

We remember.....

her beautiful gardens, the dahlias, roses and iris

her playing familiar hymns on the organ and wanting us all to join in singing them,

the bountiful meals that she prepared for us when we all gathered as a family at her home.

the afternoon visits with her friends

She so enjoyed.....

The rides in the car through the countryside

SHEDDEN W. I.  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
Apr. 1996



The sharing of meals at a favorite restaurant

Those shopping trips to the Mall.

I can still see her collection of salt and pepper shakers, safety pins, African violets, cookies and cookbooks, contests and quizzes for UCW and Institute meeting, and her cats.....Many generations of them.

We have enjoyed visiting with her, having a cup or coffee at the Tuck Shop at the Manor, keeping up on the news of the family and the community, sharing jokes and giggles, hugs and kisses,

and sometimes tears.

We all have received the silent treatment on one occasion or another, and got a scolding for neglecting to do something she thought we should have, or a playful swat when we teased just a little.

In contributing and taking an active part in her UCW at church, the Women's Institute, the auxiliary at the hospital and the manor.

she became part of the community and enjoyed the fellowship of all those she met. We remember her helping deliver Christmas remembrances to the sick and shut-ins, after she, herself, was 85. Ask Dad (Ralph) about her climbing over snowbanks.

Aunt Vera will leave us no great wealth, gold or real estate, but she will leave a legacy for each of us to treasure and emulate in our own lives.....

1. A spirit of gentleness and sensitivity to those around us.
2. A spirit of independence and pride and a determination to overcome those frailties that nature might hand us. One of her sayings is printed in this month's newsletter at the Manor ..... "if it can't be cured, it must be endured" referring to her blindness.
3. A love of beauty in nature, whether it be the flowers in the garden, new babies, the birds and animals, the trees, or the rhododendron on the Smoky Mountains.
4. A love of Family and the importance of keeping it together. Being part of an extended family gives each of us a sense of belonging and knowing who we are.
5. The need to EXTEND ourselves into the community in which we live doing whatever interests us the most.
6. The encouragement to cultivate lasting friendships. A Friendship is a special joy, a caring and living relationship we share. Aunt Vera has some special friends, and she was faithful and loyal to each.
7. A love of God and the importance of being a part of the fellowship of Jesus Christ in His church. She missed being able to go to church at Bethany, and very seldom missed

SHEDDEN W. I.  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
Apr. 1996

the services that were held at the Manor. Thank you dear sweet lady for this legacy. You have given us much.

**BALLAM** - At the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital on Tuesday, October 10, 1995. Mrs. Vera (Mercer) Ballam of Elgin Manor, R.R. #1, St. Thomas and formerly of Shedden, in her 99th year. Widow of Clifford H. Ballam (1974). Sister of Lee Mercer and his wife Elsa of Dearborn, Mich., Ralph Mercer and his wife Hilda of R.R. #3, Shedden and Clifton Mercer and his wife Helen of R.R. #2, Glanworth. Also survived by a sister-in-law, Mrs. Emily Mercer of Fairfield, Tennessee and by several nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Ballam was predeceased by a sister, Mrs. Alma Selman and by three brothers, Clarence, Wesley and Bruce Mercer. Friends will be received at the Sifton Funeral Home, 118 Wellington St., St. Thomas on Thursday evening 7-9 p.m. The funeral service will be conducted at Bethany United Church, Shedden on Friday at 1:30 p.m. Interment in Shedden Cemetery. Memorial donations to Bethany United Church, Shedden or the charity of one's choice gratefully acknowledged.

SHEDDEN W. I.  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
Apr. 1996



## 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

SHEDDEN W. I.  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
Apr. 1996