

#### Noble Grand's Message

I would like to congratulate the Sisters and Brothers of this lodge for their determination and success in keeping the Wabuna Rebekah Lodge #143 active for 80 years.

I am proud and privileged to be your Noble Grand for this term.

We have had a great year with 6 new members, a successful bazaar and now our 80th anniversary dinner.

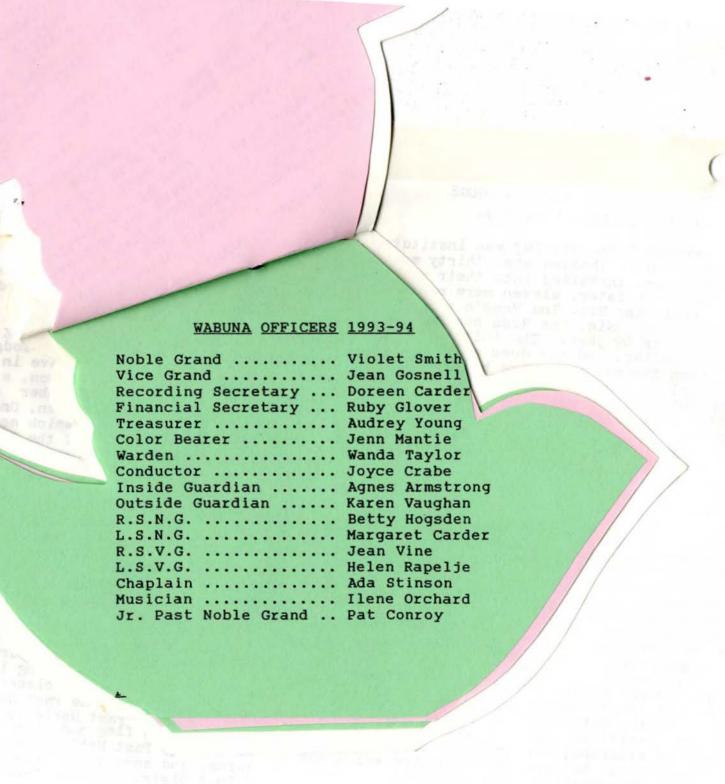
I would like to thank everyone for coming tonight and thanks to my planning committee for a job well done.

A special thank you to Sister Wanda Taylor and her husband Doug for the printing of our programs for this evening. Also a thank you to all of our members for being so willing to take part in our program.

I would especially like to thank Sister Doreen Carder for her help through out the year.

Believe me Sisters I could not have done it without you.

Sister Violet Smith Noble Grand



#### WELCOME

Mistress of Ceromonies: Sis. Sandy Mills

#### "OH CANADA"

Toast Queen: Sis. Sandy Mills Grace: Chaplain Sis. Ada Stinson

#### DINNER

Introduction of Head Table: Sis. Sandy Mills

Toast to Rebekah Assembly: Sis. Jean Gosnell

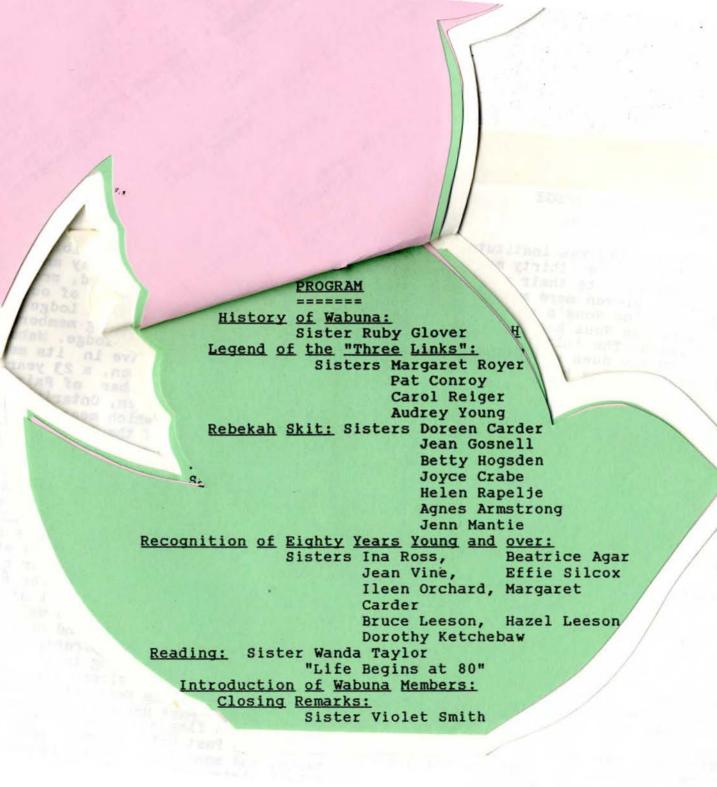
Response ....: V.P.R.A. Sis. Agnes Norris

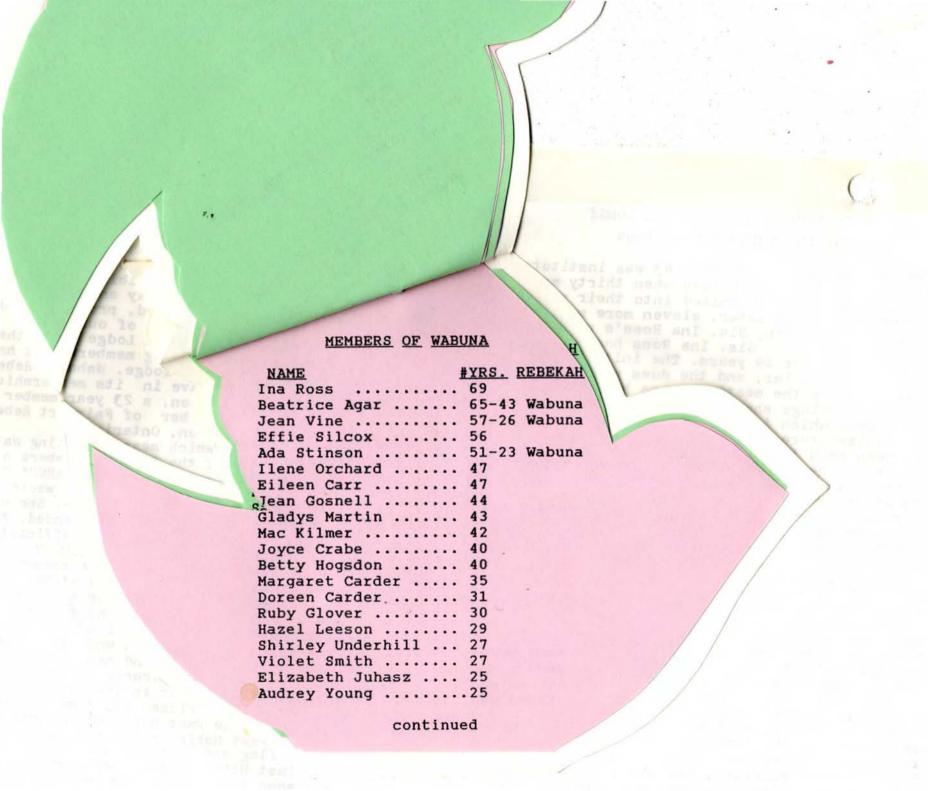
Toast to Wabuna ....: D.D.P. Sis. Doris McDougall

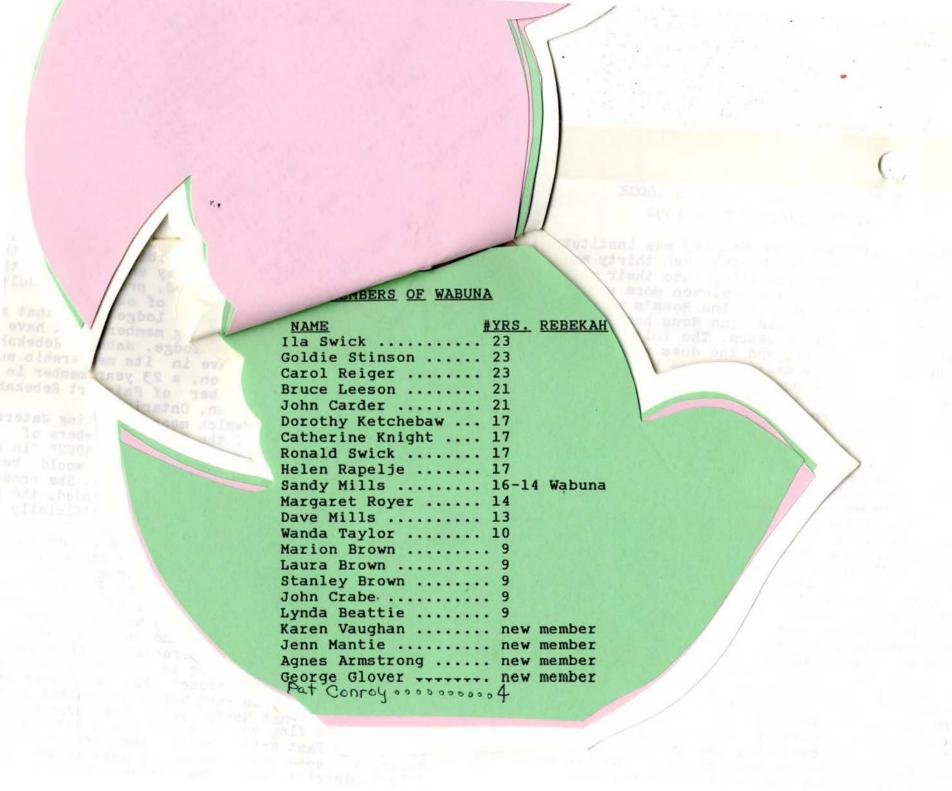
Response ....: N.G. Sis Violet Smith

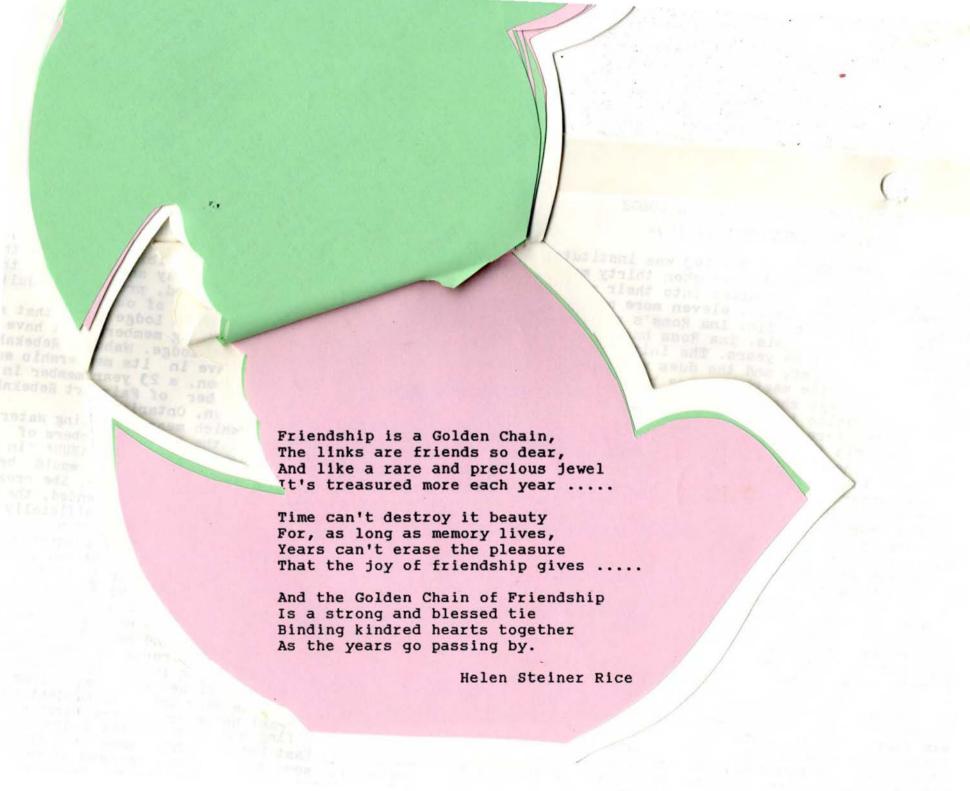
Soloist ....: Sis. Karen Vaughan

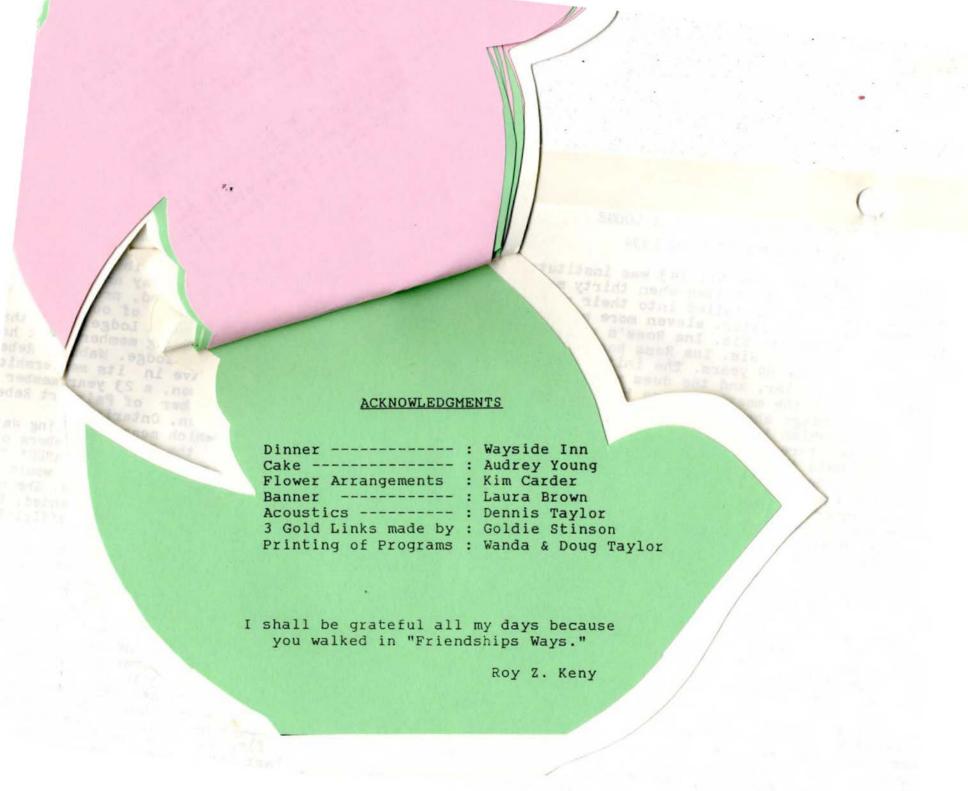
Minute of silence in memory of the decease members of WABUNA Lodge.













Doug Taylor, of IOOF Shedden Lodge 310, looks at old minutes from the lodge's meetings during the past 100 years. The lodge is celebrating its 100th anniversary. (T-J PHOTO)

# Odd Fellows continuing tradition handed down through centuries

SHEDDEN - It is believed well," said Mr. Taylor. that in 18th Century England, laborers who took it upon themselves to relieve the distressed and educate the underprivileged were called "odd fellows"

At least that's one commonly held truth. For certain, however, is that today the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is still working, world-wide, in the name of friendship, truth and love.

This year, the Shedden Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge 310, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The lodge held its first meeting on June 13, 1894, when, in addition to the five founding members, 10 more men joined the membership.

Since then, the group has been an important presence in the community.

Doug Taylor, a member of more than 20 years, says one principle among members is to support one another. He recalled one time when a member was in a bad accident and other Odd Fellows helped out with some of his work at home.

"You help each other and

The lod provides financial support to numerous local organizations such as the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Elgin Lung Association, the Shedden Fair, soccer clubs, and has donated equipment to the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital through the lodge's Heart Equipment Fund.

One task of the lodge has been to keep membership going strong. With so many other activities for younger people, it isn't easy, says Mr. Taylor.

But he's pleased that this year

one member's son is the lodge's outgoing Noble Grand, or president, and Mr. Taylor's own son will become the new Noble Grand.

"Hopefully we're carrying the organization into the next generation and keeping it alive," he said.

To mark its 100th year, the lodge is holding a centennial banquet on Oct. 22 at the Shedden Country Club. Anyone wanting more information about the event can contact Mr. Taylor at 769-2536.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'SINSTITUTE Dora McArthur - Curator April 1995



(Back Row)

(Front Row ) George Silcox, Mrs. Edna Sells (Secretary)
Ralph Palmer (Directors)

(Back Row ) Clayton Chamberlain, Lloyd Jones, Fred Helkaa Alex Turner (Agent) Clarence Hunter (Directors)

HISTORY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE SOUTHWOLD FARMER'S

## MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

"On July 27th, 1878, a large number of "Freeholders" met at the Shedden Temperance Hall for the purpose of transacting business pertaining to the proposed Fire Insurance Company.

Daniel Turner was elected Chairman . Richard Stafford Secretary.

Daniel Turner was elected Chairman, Richard Stafford Secretary.

Moved by Henry Daugharty, Sec. by John French, that the
Company be known by the name of the Southwold Farmer's Mutual
Fire Insurance Company. (carried)

Moved and sec. that the place of meeting and head office

of the Company be Shedden. (carried)

The following directors were duly elected, Geo Silcox, A. Waugh, Chas. Newland, Daniel Turner, Andrew Horton, John Andrews, Tho. Hunter.

Daniel Turner, Chairman Richard Stafford, Sec. "

The above quotation is copied from the first yellowed page of the first minute book of the Southwold Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. This year, 1978, the company has been operating continuously for 100 years.

It is difficult for us to take ourselves back in time to life in Southwold Township 100 years ago. No doubt, one of the greatest fears of the farmer was fire. Buildings which were constructed by back-breaking toil, could be wiped out in minutes., leaving the owner destitute. Livestock, on which the livelihood of the family depended, could be destroyed. Insurance was almost unknown, and if available, was prohibitive

in cost. So these far-sighted men saw the necessity of some recourse in case of fire. Thus the company was formed and was to be in operation when \$100,000 in applications was received by the Secretary.

It is interesting to note that in November of that year(1878) over \$100,000 in applications was examined. This points out the need there was for this protection among

the populace 100 years ago, as there still is today.

In 1878 included among the directora was Thomas Hunter and George Silcox. In 1978, after 100 years, the grandsons of these men, Clarence Hunter and George Silcox, are directors of the company. The first President of the company was Donald Turner. A relative of this man, Alex Turner, is still part of the Company.

The first Secretary-Treasurer appointed was Richard Stafford, who was to receive 50¢ for each policy and later in 1

1882 to receive \$80 a year.

In 1905 John H. Sells was appointed Secretary at \$165 a year. Since that time the Sells family have continuously carried on in this capacity. In 1937 John H. Sells' son, Wilfred Sells' was appointed Secretary and after his death in 1953, his widow, Mrs. Edna Sells, took over his duties and is still Secretary- Treasurer of the Company in 1978.

The first agent was Dugald Brown, who was to receive 50¢ for each application. This man's grandson, the late Duncan

Brown, was later a director of the Company.

These facts demonstrate the loyalty to the company which was felt in those days, as well as the integrity and competence

of the directors over the years.

The minutes of the meetings over the years reflect the changing times in the township, particularly in the field of agriculture. The steam engine used for threshing and then the gasoline engine caused concern as fire hazards. Spontaneous combustion began to be recognized as a cause

of some mysterious fires.

In the early days of the company they often had difficulty financially. they would have to borrow money to pay losses and no doubt the directors had to personally guarantee the loan. There seemed to be a great deal of livestock lost by lightning. Of course in those days every farm had a variet of livestock, pigs, cattle, poultry, sheep, and of course the horse, without which the farming operation could not have functioned. In 1903 Alex Lyle was paid \$45 for a steer lost by lightning.

1910 and 1911 must have been bad years for the Company financially. Reinsurance with other companies was mentioned for the first time and in 1911 an assessment of  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  was issued

on all premium notes to meet the losses of the company.

In 1913 telephones were added to the contents policies, which indicates the beginning of the rural telephone companies.

Until 1922 no mention was made of a fire engine in the municipality. But gradually through the efforts of the Southwold Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the late Charles Mabee of Shedden an old car with a pumper mounted oi was purchased. To-day the Municipality has provided very excellent fire protection, with engines in Shedden, Talbotville and Fingal.

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE COMPANY THROUGH THE YEARS

Daniel (Donald) Turner (1878)

Thomas Hunter John Andrews Charles Edmonds Dugald McCall Angus McLarty Mungo McNabb

A. J. Silcox John Steele

J. G. Chapman Edgar Silcox Maxwell Hunter

Chas. Heidt

C. F. Jackson

W. A. Dewar

John A Campbell

A. E. Jones J. R. Gunning

George Silcox Duncan Brown

Clarence Hunter

Alex Turner

Kenneth Campbell

Lloyd Jones

Clayton Chamberlain

Ralph Palmer

Fred Helkaa (1978)

#### SECRETARIES OF THE COMPANY THROUGH THE YEARS

Richard Stafford (1878) G. E. Stafford (1899) Matthew Silcox (1902)

John H. Sells (1909) Wilfred E. Sells (1937) Mrs. Edna Sells(L953-1978)

#### DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY THROUGH THE YEARS

George Silcox (1878)

A. Waugh Chae. Newland

Donald Turner Andrew Horton

John Andrews

Thomas Hunter John Williams

Maylon Bodine

John Schultz

Henry Daugharty Thomas Burtch

Angus McLarty

John Orchard

Ewen Cameron

Malcolm McIntyre A. J. Silcox

Charles Edmonds

John King

I. McColl George Lawton

John Steele

Dugald McColl

Mungo McNabb

Edgar Silcox

John Chapman

Maxwell Hunter Chas. Heidt

Chas. F. Jackson

W. A. Dewar

Ernest Jones

John A Campbell

Dougald McGibbon

James Gunning

Duncan Brown Kenneth Campbell Alex Turner

### Directors in 1978 (100TH Year)

George Silcox (1932 -1978)

Clarence Hunter Lloyd Jones

Fred Helkaa

Ralph Palmer Clayton Chamberlain

#### AGENTS OF THE COMPANY THROUGH THE YEARS

Dugald Brown (1878)
A. J. Silcox (1878 - 1880)
Wm. Silcox (1880 - 1898)
Archibald Kerr
Wm. Killins (1896 - 1897)
Wm. Stafford (1898 - 1913)
Wilfred Silcox (1913 - 1916)
W. H. Turner (1916 - 1922)
W. A. Dewar (1922 - 1924)
John Campbell (1924 - 194?
Wilfred Sells (1942 - 1953)
Alex Turner (1953 - 1978)



DIRECTORS 1945

Seated: James Gunning, Ernest Jones, Mr. Campbell, Duncan

Brown

Back Row: Kenneth Campbell, Clarence Hunter, John Campbell, George Silcox, Wilfred Sells.



SOUTHWOLD AND DUNWICH TELEPHONE COMPANY DIRECTORS 1939

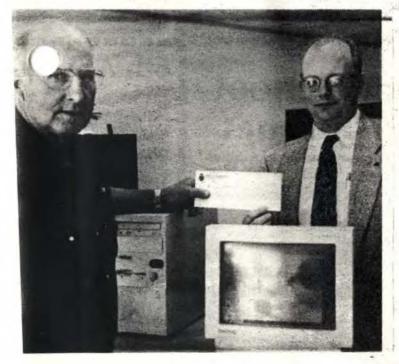
Seated: W.R. Pollard, President - James Milton, Lineman

Back Row: Archie McAlpine, Wilfred Sells, Dick McLellan and W.H. Morrison



RAND OPENING - The new Shedden office of the West Elgin lutual Insurance Company was officially opened Saturday uring Rosy Rhubarb Days. Taking part in the ribbon-cutting eremonies were, left to right: Jim House, Director-Southwold;

Ray Jenken, agent; harry Mezenberg, Elgin County Warden; Perry Clutterbuck, Southwold Township Reeve; Don Vicary, President West Elgin Mutual; Peter North, MPP; Brian Downie, Secretary-Manager West Elgin Mutual; Mike Brown, agent, and Roy Chamberlain, Director-Southwold.



# WEST ELGIN MUTUAL INSURANCE CO. 128 Union Road, SHEDDEN 764-2034

OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING & RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1997

Southwold Fire Department will be demonstrating
Computer Property Identification system

DROP IN AND SAY HI

Dora McArthur - Curator Sleddan WI TweedsmaliR HistoRy 1998