

UNITY

WI salutes dairy farming

BY PAT PALMER

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — The topic for the September meeting of the Shedden WI was dairy farming.

The roll call, 'One thing I noticed that is new in dairy farming, or tell or a farming experience from by-gone days, was answered by 10 members and six guests. Almost all had a dairy-related background as compared to today where dairy farms are fewer in number.

There are only 100 dairy herds left in Elgin county today, with an average herd size of 51. Dairy farming has changed drastically since the days where farmers sat with a pail beside each animal and milked by hand. Farmers today need a wide range of knowledge to run their business. Feeding of each individual cow can now be programmed through an in-home computer system so that each animal can be monitored as to how much feed they receive in a chosen time frame.

As we drive through the countryside and see lights on in the barn at the end of the farmers laneway at 5:30 a.m. we need to realize that farmers deserve much credit for the livelihood they have chosen.

Christmas season.

An auction show and sale will be held at the Memorial Arena presented by the IODE on Nov. 7 and 8. Other correspondence was an invitation to Shedden Bethany Church on Oct. 18 with Don and Cindy Baker. For tickets contact Carol Gordon at 764-2563 or Kay Chamberlain at 764-2852. Delegates for the area convention being held in Kirkton on Oct. 22 this year, were chosen to be Dorothy McLaughlin and Jean Palmer. The Daffodil Tea

will be held at Fingal United Church on Oct. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The meeting was adjourned and a hearty lunch was served by committee members Brenda Silcox, Kay Chamberlain, and Carol Gordon. Courtesy remarks were given by Beth Vicary. The next meeting will be held at the home of Connie Silcox on Oct. 28 when the topic will be citizenship and legislation. Everyone is welcome.

The business portion of the meeting was then conducted beginning with the Mary Stuart Collect and Institute Ode. Motto for the meeting was *Farming - what a city man dreams of at 5 p.m. - never 5 a.m.* The minutes of the June meeting were read and adopted, followed by the treasurer's report. Members were thanked for their participation in Shedden Fair as well as their volunteer time spent at Elgin Manor Tuck Shop.

Carol Gordon gave the report for the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Attendance at the museum was up this year to 548 in the summer months. The children's summer program was well attended and a possible rug-hooking program is being planned for January.

Interested volunteers are welcome to help with various tasks at the museum. The Christmas Tea at the museum is Dec. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Each Institute was invited to decorate a room at the museum for the

Scan unit demonstrated for WI

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The November meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute began at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital's CT scan unit.

Eleven members were shown first hand how a CT scan unit works by Jim Herbert and John Surmacz. The CT X-rays are used to produce two or three dimensional images of your body. During the scan, an X-ray tube moves rapidly around your body enabling mul-

tiple images to be made from different angles. A scan can take as little as 10 minutes.

The unit itself is simply a doughnut-shaped machine, not a long narrow tube as many of us believed. Unlike a standard X-ray which takes a picture of the entire part of the body where a problem exists, this technique has the ability to image the problem area one "slice" at a time.

When viewed by a radiologist it is seen in sequence, enabling a three

dimensional picture. Members were very impressed by the presentation made by Jim Herbert and John Surmacz, who work daily in the CT scan unit.

This area of the hospital is not funded by the government through OHIP coverage and largely depends on community support.

Dorothy McLaughlin thanked Mr. Herbert and Mr. Surmacz for their most interesting and informative presentation.

The members then returned to the home of our hostess

Dorothy McLaughlin. The roll call, A positive experience you've had in your local hospital or any health care field, was answered by members. All were very appreciative of our local hospital in St. Thomas and as well felt good to know that the facilities in London were so close at hand.

The motto for the meeting was, Life is a service — not what we can get

out of it, but what we can add.

The treasurer's report was given as well as the minutes of the October meeting. Cheryl Garvin reported sending three cards from the Card Committee and Jean Palmer reported on the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Rug hooking courses are available in January at the museum and interested people can call to get further details. The WI will be selling cookies at the museum tea once again this year.

Donations were made

to the following organizations: Children's Hospital of London, UCS, Elgin County Pioneer Museum, Christmas Shoppe, Christmas Care, Daffodil Society, Elgin General Hospital, Save the Children, Salvation Army, CT Scan Unit of Elgin General Hospital, our provincial headquarters for WI, and Second Stage Housing. The meeting was adjourned.

Lunch was served by committee Dorothy McLaughlin, Brenda Silcox, and Ruth Hunter.

Shedden W.I. learns about early Christmas traditions

1998

The December meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum on December 16th.

Roll Call: "One of your first Christmas gifts" was answered by 9 members and one guest. The motto was, "All the world is young at Christmas".

The speaker for the evening, Debra Seabrook, was introduced by Jean Palmer. Debra works at the museum and told members how Christmas traditions started years ago.

The tree tradition began in Germany in the 1530s. Before that, limbs of evergreen trees were brought into the homes for the winter season to symbolize life and keep up the spirits.

Early tree decorations were handmade wooden toys, pine cones, woven baskets, etc. Germany was famous for their glass-blown ornaments. Tinsel

was patented in Germany in 1610. It was made with narrow strips of tin twisted to catch the light by candles also used in early years.

Early pioneers in Canada first celebrated Christmas by feasting, decorating their homes, attending church with their families and learning about the birth of Christ. The Christmas tree and celebration of Santa Claus came to Canada from Germany, mingling the two cultures as known today.

Angels, popular for tree toppers, had long flowing hair that glimmered from the air movement by the candles that were used to decorate.

Debra was thanked by Connie Silcox.

Members then enjoyed a scenic tour of the museum which was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. As lunch was being prepared by committee members Jean Palmer, Connie Silcox and Ilene Orchard, other members acted out charades of Christmas songs. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting is January 27th, at the Shedden Library. All are welcome.

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Shedden W.I. 'Surfs the Internet'

Shedden Women's Institute met at the Shedden Library for the January meeting where they heard how to use the Internet that is available to their community.

Convenor Lois Oldham introduced Emily Finch, librarian, who told members how to search out topics of interest on the Internet. After a short demonstration, members used 3 computers to see how well they were up to date with this fascinating aspect of the computer world. Everyone learned that almost any interest you have is on the net and all are invited to use the service at any time. The service is free to the community, but you may want to phone in advance to make an appointment. Emily was thanked for her time.

Members then went to the Bethany United Church to have their business meeting. It opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and

Institute Ode. Minutes and treasurer's report were heard, followed by the roll call - "What would you like to seek out on the Internet?" Several answers were heard. Many members had never used the Internet before so that alone was a new learning experience for them.

The motto for the meeting was - "People who say it cannot be done, should not interrupt those who are doing." Cheryl Garvin reported for the card convenor. Carol Gordon reported for the museum.

1999 will be the International Year of the Older Persons. Exhibits were displayed at the Elgin County Museum to kick off Heritage Week. Volunteers are needed to help catalogue items that have been donated. Rug Hooking classes have started. Anyone interested in future classes can call for info. A workshop "Venture Into The Garden" is being offered

March 13th and an Easter Egg Hunt is planned for children on March 27th.

Lois reported on scheduling changes at the Elgin Manor to spread activities throughout the year.

An invitation was received from North Yarmouth W.I. to attend their meeting on February 18th held at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Also members were reminded about the Winter Picnic at Talbotville Church on February 15th. Carol Gordon offered to prepare the entertainment.

Meeting was adjourned and lunch was served by Lois, Cheryl and Sharon Welch. The next meeting will be at the Bethany United Church on February 24th. Guest speaker will be Jackie Hughes from the Rehoboth Home of Refuge and Support. All are welcome to attend.

Shedden W.I. learns about Rehoboth Home

The monthly meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at Bethany United Church on Wednesday, February 24th. The motto was, "Love in our hearts isn't put there to stay; love isn't love until we give it away." All members donated a gift for the Rehoboth Home.

Those attending the winter picnic at Talbotville and the meeting with North Yarmouth reported interesting and uplifting gatherings. A donation was given to the 4-H club. Tweedsmuir convenor, Dora McArthur, read some interesting genealogy sent by John Shedden.

The guest speaker for the evening was Jackie Hughes, managing director of the Rehoboth Home in Springfield. Rehoboth means "room enough" in Hebrew which is a most appropriate name for a home for young women who are alone and pregnant to turn to. They come from all over southwestern Ontario, and from many walks of life. They may have been rejected by the baby's father, or have left an abusive relationship, or have no family support.

The Rehoboth Home tries to help body, mind and spirit. It is more than a

safe place to live. They learn how to clean, cook, and are trained in budgeting while education is a priority. A full time house mother is available day and night. The two-storey brick home is furnished and needless to say, each mother is embraced with a Christian, cosy, comfortable surrounding.

The Home receives no government funding and must rely on charitable donations and most of the income is generated through the publication of a quarterly newsletter to supporters, service clubs

and churches. Donations of food, furniture, adult clothing, baby needs, bedding, books, kitchen supplies, and household articles arrive daily. Fifteen volunteers offer time and service to this interdenominational home.

Thanks to the speaker and committee in charge was extended by Sharon Welch. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 24th at 7:30 at Bethany United Church with Terry Phillips, from the Sunshine Foundation of the Elgin-St. Thomas Chapter, as speaker.

Sunshine Foundation shines on Shedden Women's Institute

Eleven members were present for the March meeting of the Shedden W.I. held at Bethany United Church. The motto was: Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.

The roll call, "Name the last time you did something solely for the benefit of someone else," was answered. It was felt that by doing something for someone else usually brings joy back to oneself.

Cheryl Garvin introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Terry Phillips from the Sunshine Foundation of the Elgin-St. Thomas Unit. She told members that their goal was to give help for a brighter future and to help fulfill dreams. The Sunshine Foundation helps those children with life threatening diseases as well as children with short term illness and those struggling with disabilities. She explained it is an infectious feeling for the 21 volunteers in Elgin to help with the healing quality.

invitation was received to attend the 90th anniversary celebration of the Kensington Club on May 5th, as well as a thank you from the Rehoboth Home for the donation. A nomination committee of Pat Palmer, Sharon Welch and Carol Gordon was chosen. Program Co-ordinator Connie Silcox organized a meeting to plan the programs for the following year.

Lunch was served by Sharon, Cheryl and Pat followed by a social time.

The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church when Tweedsmuir Curator Dora McArthur will update members.

There have been 30 children in Elgin County who have seen their dream come true in the 11 years that this organization has been helping. Such dreams as throwing the first pitch at a Blue Jays game, meeting a hero, a visit to a radio station for a blind child, purchase of an entertainment centre for a child too sick to leave her home or the enjoyment of a hot tub delivered to the home. This organization has no government funding and relies on service clubs, corporate sponsors and businesses for support as well as two major fundraisers they have yearly. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join the group in Elgin. Sharon Welch thanked Terry for her visit.

The minutes and treasurer's report were given followed by the Museum report by Carol Gordon. There is now new track lighting and cameras being installed at the museum. April 24th is a Mother/Daughter Tea at the museum where a display of "Gentle Arts" such as lace needlepoint, quilts, etc., will be on display. A program on "How to care for fine linens," will be offered on May 24th and anyone interested can call the Elgin Pioneer Museum to register.

Remembrance and welcome reports were heard from Cheryl Garvin. An

Shedden WI members offer memories of school days

BY PAT PALMER
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

Shedden W.I. held their annual meeting at Bethany United Church with the theme being presented by Tweedsmuir curator Dora McArthur as School Days.

The meeting began with the Mary Stuart Collect and the Institute Ode. Motto for the meeting was: The best thing about the good old days was that you were a lot younger."

Eleven members answered an interesting roll call: A memorable event from school days. Many varied answers were heard from members. Whether it be a nickname, walking over two miles, riding in the back of

a truck (bus), bus trips, concerts. It brought back many memories for members.

Jean Palmer reported from the District meeting.

This year's annual meeting was at St. James Church May 12. A craft was donated and Shedden was responsible for the in memoriam.

A Tweedsmuir workshop will be held in Springfield at the Lioness Hall on Aug. 5.

A thank you was received from the Shedden/Fingal 4-H Club for the donation.

A reminder to members to begin with their rhubarb jam for the Rosy Rhubarb Festival to be held in June.

Elgin Manor volunteers for

our next trip will be Pauline Silcox and Sharon Welch.

A motion was passed to give \$70 to Pennies for Friendship.

Annual reports were heard recapping a great year for members.

Tweedsmuir curator Dora McArthur updated members on her work over the past year and had her well kept books on display. Many new additions had been entered and hours of love had been put into the history of Shedden and area. She then gave us a lesson from many old school books dating back to as early as 1883.

In the early days students began school when their parents saw fit. Two siblings, possibly

two years difference in age, may both start at the same time. Many members could remember their first days beginning at Easter. The grade system was also different than we have it now. An early reader used by many members in the 1930's, Mary, John and Peter, was purchased by students at a cost of nine cents. All books and supplies were purchased by students and handed down to other siblings or neighbours, unlike today, where curriculum changes so rapidly that texts become outdated. Found in an autograph book from 1883 was written:

*What is home without a teapot,
What is home without a poker,*

*What is home without a woman,
And a man to hug and choke her.*
Another autograph book that was brought by a member from July 1960 had:

*The boys all call you lemon,
They do it just to tease,
Cause you're the kind of lemon,
The boys all like to squeeze.*

The meeting concluded with other members showing items they had brought from their school days.

Brenda Silcox thanked Dora McArthur for her well planned meeting and her work over the year, as well as the executive for the lunch. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 29 at Park's Blueberries to celebrate our 85th anniversary.

April 1999

Shedden Institute marks 85th anniversary

BY PAT PALMER
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute celebrated their organization's 85th anniversary with a trip May 30 to Park's Blueberries near Bothwell, Ont.

They began their visit by enjoying a cafe-style luncheon with a large variety of food to choose from, including blueberries in assorted menus.

The motto for the meeting was "Looking for greener pastures, why not cultivate your own?" The motto "A happy memory of a past member who used to attend Shedden W.I." was answered by all in attendance and brought back many memories of members who have been involved with their group.

Jean Palmer reported on the District Annual and Carol Gordon reported for the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Brenda Silcox asked for volunteers to complete the list of people who wished to help with the information booth for Rosy Rhubarb and also reminded mem-



Shedden W.I. marked its 85th anniversary with a trip to Park's Blueberries near Bothwell. Making the trip were Beth Vicary, left, Pat Palmer, Pauline Silcox, Carol Gordon, Maxine Silcox, Ruth Hunter, Jean Palmer, Connie Silcox, Dorothy McLaughlin, Dora McArthur and Brenda Silcox. (Contributed) May 30, 1999.

bers about the rhubarb jam that will be sold by the members.

Dorothy McLaughlin introduced the guest speaker, the owner of Park's Blueberries.

Diane Parks, her husband Bill and their four children began the family business in 1978.

Blueberries are labour-intensive plants that take many years to reach maturity. The business began small with about 10 acres and the product was sold by the roadside. In 1990, a store was built to offer the sale of jams, pies, etc. A tornado touched down on the farm in 1994 destroying the store, but the following year the store was rebuilt, bigger and better. It now features a restaur-

rant, gift shop, bakery and a place to relax and enjoy your visit.

Blueberries don't ripen all at once. In an average season the same blueberry bush is picked three or four times. The berries do not ripen once picked. Blueberries should not be washed before freezing. The natural bloom prevents the berries from sticking together. Simply rinse your berries just before use. An important part of the process is the pollinating. On the farm, there are 20 hives of honey bees and seven hives of bumblebees.

The members enjoyed a wagon ride through the fields of different varieties of blueberries and it was a great learning experience.









May 30, 1999 @ Pank's Blueberry Farm
 Sheldon, W.I. 85th Celebration (1998)
 Fred Hunter, Norma's Arthur, Pat Palmer,
 Jean Palmer, Connie Schaefer

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