

# Biographies topic for WI roll call

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

**SHEDDEN** — There were 12 members present for the April meeting of Shedden Women's Institute when they met at the Bethany United Church.

The meeting opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode. The roll call was to name the person you have chosen to write a biography on. Minutes and treasurer's report were given. Two welcome books had been handed out and two cards for remembrance. Jean Palmer gave the report from the Elgin, County District Meeting.

The strawberry social will be held at the museum June 21 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A Mother and Daughter Tea was held at the museum May 14. The theme for the FWIO will be International Year of Volunteers, as well as FWIO Millennium 2000. Madeline Jenkins will be attending the FWIC convention being held in Brandon, Man., this year.

The Institutes of Elgin were en-

couraged to support the local 4-H groups as it is an important program for youth. The arrangements were made for the District Annual. Elgin Manor volunteers for May would be Pauline Silcox and Jean Palmer.

The meeting was then handed over to the Tweedsmuir Curator convener, Dora McArthur. She had asked that each member prepare a biography of a past or present member to be placed in the Tweedsmuir book. Many memories were recalled as members told about a different member.

Grace Blewett was remembered for the seven years she served on the Elgin West District as secretary-treasurer before leaving the community where she now is a member of the North Yarmouth W.I.

Ruth Hunter was remembered for being a good neighbour, great cook who loved to entertain nieces and nephews for holidays.

Brenda Silcox has held many positions since she joined in 1979,

as well as having led short courses to the group. Jean Palmer joined in 1955 and was guided by Madeline Parks. Mrs. Palmer has served on many community committees, one being the D.A. Monteith Medical Centre.

Dora McArthur joined in 1975 and has been a wealth of knowledge as she has worked on the Tweedsmuir History of the branch. She enjoys photography, genealogy, computers and worked in the Shedden library for 22 years.

Maxine Silcox loved quilting and was a faithful member of the Shedden Fair Board. She was a true "Home and Country" member, canning, pickling, gardening, and entertaining her children and grandchildren.

Carol Gordon enjoys gardening, has a penpal in Japan and also has held many offices for the branch. Sharon Welch joined the W.I. shortly after moving to Shedden. She was involved in a type-setting business and now enjoys

sewing, quilting and golfing.

Pauline Silcox attended SS No. 10 School in Southwold, worked for a bank for 16 years and has been treasurer for eight years.

Ina Ross joined in 1930. She enjoyed playing cards and Chinese checkers. She was a member for 64 years. Madeline Parks simply put "loved the Women's Institute." She followed the rules by the book, was a great cook and hostess and was a very active member.

Milen Atkinson ran a restaurant and loved to make pies. For 35 cents you could order a sandwich, pie and beverage.

The meeting ended by members being able to view the most recent additions to the Tweedsmuir books that had been prepared by Dora McArthur. Lunch was served by the executive.

The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church on May 24. All welcome.

# Canadian Crossroads speaker at Shedden WI

Eleven members were present when Shedden Women's Institute met at Bethany United Church for the May meeting.

Roll Call for the evening was "Name something in this day and age that can be enjoyed for free." Answers such as taking a walk, water, travel, music or the birds were some of the answers. The motto was "Friendship and understanding are the bonds that hold the world together."

Dorothy McLaughlin introduced the speaker, Mr. George Driscoll from Canadian Crossroads. This organization deals with the problem of child labour in India. It began in the 1960's through the United Church but has no religious affiliation now.

Children in third world countries are taken from their families with the promise they can work to repay family debts, but in reality are never returned to their villages. They are taken to other villages where they do labour and are basically slaves.

Work such as making carpet, looming cotton, making soccer balls or being domestic servants are some of the jobs these chil-

dren may be forced to do. While in the confines of these people they may not be fed often, or not very nourishing food.

These children range in age from 6-14 and may be kept for up to a year before they are found by the Canadian Crossroads organization. Once these children are rescued they are offered education and a chance to recover from the trauma of slavery.

They are taken to an ashram which is a rehabilitation centre for these abused children. They are able to learn a trade such as carpentry while they are there as well as being educated about the child labour problem that exists in their communities and how not to get involved again. They are welcome to stay at the rehab centre for 3-6 months until their confidence level is built back. Jean Palmer thanked Mr. Driscoll for attending the meeting.

The business portion of the meeting was then held. Secretary and treasurer's reports were heard. Jean reported that she and Sharon Welch attended the District Annual where 72 members from the

district attended a well organized meeting.

The Strawberry Social will be held on June 28th at the Elgin County Museum. The museum is looking for a new fundraising idea. The Artisans Fair was held at the museum on May 27th and a shunpikers tour has travelled through the museum.

The annual Middlemarch Garden Tour will be on July 2nd. Dora McArthur, Tweedsmuir Curator, suggested the group continue with doing biographies of the members of the Shedden WI for her records.

An invitation from Southwold Township was received to ask if Shedden WI would put a display up for the 150th year celebration being held on July 22nd at the Keystone Complex in Shedden. Brenda Silcox will organize volunteers to man the booth as the Tweedsmuir Books will be displayed.

The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served by Dorothy, Jean and Pauline Silcox. The next meeting will be at Bethany United Church when Jane Carder will show her slides of the Wonders of Egypt.



# Wonders of Egypt at Shedden WI

Thirteen members and three guests were present for the June meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute held at Bethany United Church. All were welcomed and the meeting began with the Institute Ode and Mary Stuart Collect. The Roll Call, "Name a country you would like to visit and why," was answered by all the enthusiastic travellers. The motto was "Enjoy yourself. These are the good old days you're going to miss in the years ahead."

Treasurer's report and minutes were

heard and approved. Cheryl Garvin reported 7 cards sent for the remembrance committee and Connie Silcox reported for the Information Booth held at Rosy Rhubarb. She thanked volunteers for their time and the members for making of the jam. Many jars were sold to help raise funds for the Rosy Rhubarb Committee.

Jean Palmer reported for the Strawberry Social held at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. All correspondence was read and dealt with. Elgin Manor volunteers for

July were Denise Maton and Jean Palmer and for September are Pat Palmer and Sharon Welch.

A motion was made to give a donation to Shedden Fair. A committee was chosen to work with the Bethany UCW to organize the booth for Shedden Fair. Members volunteering were Sharon Welch, Brenda Silcox and Connie Silcox. Tweedsmuir Curator, Dora McArthur suggested writing a biography of the remaining members of Shedden W.I. that had not already been completed. The members decided to once again enter the organized group entries at Shedden Fair and members volunteered for items they would prepare.

A suggestion was made to purchase a bench to donate to the landscape committee at the War Memorial

Keystone Complex. A plaque would be placed on the bench to recognize the donor.

Cheryl Garvin introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Jane Carder and her husband Bill de-

cided to go to Egypt and an organized tour is the best and safest way to travel there. Jane wore a gown from Egypt and showed other clothing as well as jewellery and papyrus paper with pictures of alphabet written with her name. Pictures of pyramids, the Great Sphinx - a lion with a human head and wonderful historical stories of King Tut and Ramses II fascinated everyone. A picture taken of Cairo looks like any other city and they dress like the western people except in the rural areas. With her slides and photo book Jane took everyone on a trip through the "Wonders of Egypt." Beth Vicary thanked Jane and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

A strawberry dessert lunch was enjoyed by all.

# From hobby to business

By PAT PALMER  
SHEDDEN W.I.

SHEDDEN — The September meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the Applewood Tree and Candle Co. in Shedden.

Brenda Silcox introduced owner Doug McTavish who told how his business began as a hobby in 1994 in his Fingal home.

He always loved working with wood and basically trained himself. He moved his business to Shedden where everything is completed except the staining. His wood products are all pine and he now has 17 locations in Ontario where he sells his product.

Employee Jim MacPherson was also present and helped to demonstrate how product is assembled. The back of the building has been renovated so assembly of products is complete while the front half of the building is used for retail.

Another employee, Lorie Jones, told of the different aspects of the business with which she is involved. She helps to cut, stain, paint as well as work in the retail part of the business.

Dora McArthur thanked staff for their demonstration and explanation of how the business began and continues to operate.

A short business meet-

ing was conducted and lunch followed.

The October meeting was held at Bethany United Church on Oct. 25. The meeting opened with 10 members and one visitor repeating the Mary Stewart Collect and singing the Institute Ode.

The roll call for the meeting was, Your cheers and jeers re: the garment industry. Motto for the meeting was, "Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

Jean Palmer reported attending the 86th London Area Convention held in Thorndale, Ont., with Dorothy McLaughlin. There were 255 people present and the theme was Learning together in the Future. Speakers at the convention were from Nash Jewellers, on the care of your jewelry, and the Alzheimer Society.

Mrs. Silcox reported on having attended the Dafodil Tea at Clachan where a good attendance was seen.

Correspondence included an invitation to attend the coffee break at the Elgin County Museum on Dec. 2.

Elgin Manor Tuck Shop Volunteers for Nov. 13 are Sharon Welch and Jean Palmer.

Cookie trays will be prepared to be donated to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

A donation of \$500 will be given to the Keystone Landscape Committee to purchase a bench.

Dora McArthur is in charge of a display being put up the War Memorial Service being held on Nov. 12 at the Keystone Complex.

A donation was made to the Christmas Shoppe in St. Thomas. All donations of toys, gifts and nearly new clothing is appreciated for the Christmas Shoppe.

Jean Palmer introduced Mary Clutterbuck as guest speaker who spoke on the schools in Southwold township. Nineteen schools were used in many small communities in Southwold over the past years. These schools now have all been closed and the children from the township attend Southwold Public School.

The bell, which sits in front of the school, was placed there to symbolize the small rural schools that once were attended. It was originally at a methodist church in Fingal, then moved to the former Fingal school before being moved to its present place.

The site now used for Southwold school was chosen primarily because of the supply of water from St. Thomas. It opened in 1964 with only five classrooms and has gradually grown with

many expansions as time has past. Many communities opposed the closing of their small community one-room schools, as they felt they would lose the close feeling of their community where almost all the events were held.

Many of the original schools have been beautifully renovated into homes and many also are businesses. Over the year many changes were made to these schools to upgrade them. From red insulbrick siding to the luxury of electricity, digging basement, purchasing furnaces or chemical toilets. Some schools were burnt down and then rebuilt to accommodate the community.

Lunch was served by committee members Kay Chamberlain, Sharon Welch and Lois Oldham.

The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church with Jim Stinson giving a travelogue on West Africa.



# 'Schools' topic at Shedden WI

The October meeting of Shedden W.I. was held at Bethany United Church on October 25th. The meeting opened with 10 members and 1 visitor repeating the Mary Stuart Collect and singing the Institute Ode. The roll call for the meeting was "Your cheers and jeers re the garment industry." Many answers were given. Motto for the meeting was "Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

Jean Palmer reported attending the 86th London Area Convention held in Thale with Dorothy McLaughlin. There were 255 people present and the theme was "Learning Together in the Future." Speakers at the convention were Nash Jewellers on the care of your jewellery and the Alzheimers Society.

Brenda Silcox reported on having attended the Daffodil Tea at Clachan where

a good attendance was seen. Correspondence included an invitation from the Wabuna Lodge to attend their Tea being held at the Keystone Complex in Shedden on November 11 from 9:30 - 12:00. Also an invitation to attend the Coffee Break at the Elgin County Museum on Saturday, December 2nd. The Elgin Manor Bazaar will be held on November 3rd from 1-4. Elgin Manor Tuck Shop volunteers for November 13th are Sharon Welch and Jean Palmer. Cookie trays will be prepared to be donated to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Pat Palmer and Brenda Silcox will be on that committee.

A donation of \$500.00 will be given to the Keystone Landscape Committee to purchase a bench. Dora McArthur is in charge of display being put up at the War Memorial Service being held on November 12th at the Keystone Complex. A donation was made to the

Christmas Shoppe in St. Thomas. All donations of toys, gifts and nearly new clothing is appreciated for the Christmas Shoppe. Kay Chamberlain may be contacted for more information.

Jean Palmer introduced Mary Clutterbuck as guest speaker who spoke on the schools in Southwold Township. 19 schools were used in many small communities in Southwold Township over the past years. These schools now have all been closed and the children from the township attend Southwold Public School. The bell, which sits in front of the school, was placed there to symbolize the small rural schools that once were attended. It was originally at a methodist church in Fingal, then moved to the former Fingal School before being moved to its present place. The site now used for the Southwold School was chosen primarily because of the supply of water from St. Thomas. It opened in 1964 with only 5 classrooms and has gradually grown with many expansions as time has passed.

Many communities opposed the closing of their small community one room schools as they felt they would

lose the close feeling of their community where almost all the events were held. Many of the original schools have been beautifully renovated into homes and many also are businesses. Over the years many changes were made to these schools to upgrade them. From red insul brick siding, to the luxury of electricity, digging basements, purchasing furnaces or chemical toilets. Some schools

were burnt down and them rebuilt to accommodate the community.

Sharon Welch thanked Mary Clutterbuck for her interesting presentation. Lunch was served by committee members Kay Chamberlain, Sharon Welch and Oldham. The meeting will be held at Bethany United Church with Jim Sison giving a travelogue on West Africa. Welcome.

## STAG & DOE

Randy Lamb & Chrissy Clout

**Sat., Nov. 11th**

Dutton-Dunwich Community Centre

\$5.00 - D.J. - Light Lunch

2006

## Shedden WI enjoy talk on South Africa

The November meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute met at the home of Connie Silcox with 9 members and one visitor.

The meeting began with the Mary Stuart Collect and Institute Ode followed with the roll call which was "A trivia fact about West Africa." Many answers were given.

The motto for the evening was "Life is a service - not what we can get out of it, but what we can add."

The minutes and treasurer's report were heard. Donations of money were given to 12 various help groups such as hospitals, Salvation Army, Daffodil Auxiliary, Elgin County Pioneer Museum, USC or Christmas Shoppe, etc.

Jean Palmer reported from the museum where they have been decorating and preparing for the Christmas season. The museum tea was held on December 2nd and members from the Shedden branch donated cookies to support the museum. Candlelight tours were held in November and new cupboard space has been added to the upstairs rooms in the museum.

A thank you was received from Beth Vicary as the members recently helped with a

funeral luncheon. It was decided to help a local family who had recently lost their home to a fire.

The guest speaker, Jim Stinson, was introduced by Connie. Mr. Stinson travelled for a 3-month period last winter to West Africa. He travels by bicycle. He found the people of Africa to be friendly as he travelled to areas which were heavily populated in the cities to poverty stricken areas where people basically lived in huts. He cooked his

meals along the way, and tented many nights in cool temperatures which had dropped from 35-40 degrees C in the day. He met many challenges along the way during the early days of his trip. The roads turned into ruts or very sandy conditions that made biking very tough. He persevered and found many interesting facts that made his trip so worthwhile. He toured large slave houses that were used years ago. Foreign Aid has helped this portion of West

Africa by building schools, health centres and water treatment plants which were needed. Jim leaves again this month to travel to portions of South Africa. The group wished him well. Cheryl Gavin thanked Mr. Stinson for sharing his experiences.

Lunch was prepared and served by Margaret Campbell, Cheryl Garvin and Connie Silcox.

The December meeting will be held at the home of Pat Palmer on December 20th at 7:30.











