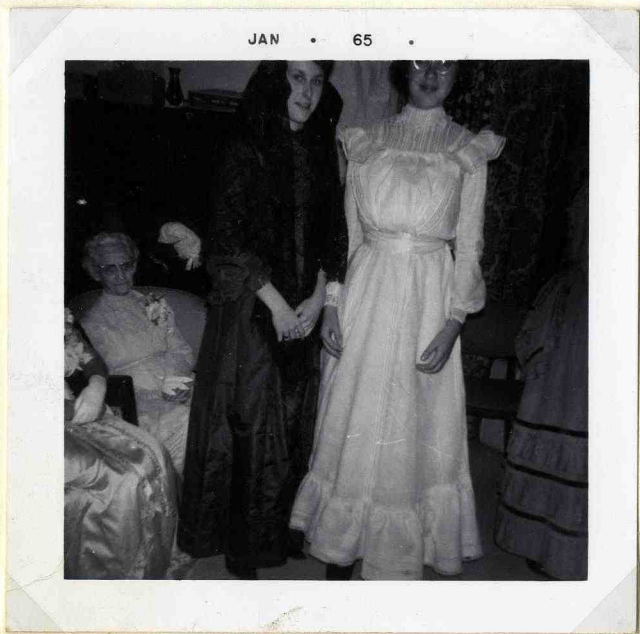


1965



Miss Shirley McCallum and Miss Anne Carroll displayed two one hundred year old dresses, who belonged to Mrs. Donald McMillan and Mrs. Charles Shaw. They were their wedding dresses.

in ST THOMAS. for the W. I.

1967.

News of West Elgin County

From Our West Lorne Bureau, Graham Street
TOM RATH, News Representative, Phone 768-1290



PARADE OF FASHIONS—A highlight of the West Elgin Women's Institute District Annual was a parade of fashions of bygone days. Members of West Elgin branches donned hoop skirts and bonnets to appear in the colorful display of costumes, some of which had been worn by their grandmothers and great-grandmothers. The event was held in the Crinan Church on Tuesday and included election of officers for the 1967-68 term.—(T.-J. West Elgin Bureau Photo)

DISTRICT ANNUAL AT CRINAN CHURCH.

Crinan's family dances good fun for every member of the family

Crinan's family dances concluded for the season a week ago Saturday night, but everyone is looking forward to an early resumption in the fall.

Held in the No. 3 union schoolhouse on the East Townline, dances commenced after the first of the year and became increasingly popular as they were held every other Saturday night.

Scheduled to terminate Saturday, April 8th, the crowd attending demanded one more dance, so it was held two weeks later, but it was definitely the last because farmers would be getting busy.

Kept Dancers Happy

Stuart McIntyre and his orchestra supplied the music all season and kept the crowds happy with a wide variation of music — fox trots, waltzes, square dances, the butterfly, military schottish, and the bunny hop.

The orchestra is composed of Mr. McIntyre on the violin, Alex. Morrish on the banjo, and Mrs. Morrish at the piano. They also played for Friday night dances every other week at Eagle Community Hall.

Reeve Key Figure

Aldborough Reeve Duncan Gilchrist played a key role as he and George Jamieson split the square dance calling duties. When Mr. Gilchrist was not calling off he was helping dancers through the paces.

Different times he stopped calling off to get a "square" into the proper routine.

But it was in the butterfly and military schottish he shone,

and proved himself the best dancer on the floor.

For Whole Family

But the dances are, as the name implies, for the whole family, so the bunny hop is played once or twice each evening.

With the opening strains of the music, all children from 6 to 16 gather on the floor and start hopping to the music. The youngsters are usually in one line-up, with their older brothers and sisters in another.

As the dance progresses and the line of older dancers becomes longer and snakes around the floor of the schoolroom, the line of younger dancers attaches itself onto the other and remains there as Stuart and orchestra quicken the tempo to a rapid pace and then the bunny hop is over.

6-Year-Olds Dance

But that is not the end of dancing for the juniors. They participate in all but the square dances. Whether waltz, fox trot, military schottish, bingo or butterfly, even the six and eight-year-olds dance them all.

And some of the youngsters are pretty good dancers too. They should be, because some of them have been attending dances with their parents since they were old enough to sit up. With older brothers and sisters giving them a little practice at home, some youngsters have become quite adept at dancing and don't mind teaching others.

1967.

Uninterrupted Music

Dancing commences about 9.30, but first thing everybody knows it is midnight. But during the two and a half hours the orchestra has continued playing without intermission and as soon as one dance is over the orchestra starts playing for another.

Shortly before midnight a few ladies are obviously lacking from the crowd. Then at midnight men and boys start setting up plank seats and lunch starts appearing from the basement. It is served mainly by the young people, with the boys doing most of the serving.

Ladies Please Bring Lunch

To the request for ladies to bring lunch, several kinds of sandwiches are received and passed several times 'round. Cookies of all kinds — homemade and bought — and cakes of many sizes, shapes, flavors and colors appear, all made by the ladies attending.

Then it's time to go home and await another family dance.

Now that wait amounts to several months. But no matter when Crinan's family dances commence again, there is bound to be a big crowd because young and old have a good time as all ages mix so well and so does

(continued on page 4)

1967.

FAMILY DANCES AT CRINAN HALL



THE BUNNY HOP is a popular feature with children from six to 16 at Crinan's family dances. Here a long string of dancers,

led by Jack Jamieson, snake around the floor of the former Union School Section No. 3 schoolhouse, on the East Townline.

CURRENT EVENTS

1968

Toronto - Sales tax on food, childrens' clothing, drugs and many services was urged in Toronto this week. A system of income tax rebates would be introduced to offset the higher costs.

Toronto - Less talk and more action is needed in regional government in Ontario. Full regional government should be acheived within 3 years by late 1971. The M.P.P.'s also decided to keep the historic names of counties such as Lambton, Middlesex and Kent instead of acquiring more modern names.

Chicago - A spaghetti and meatball luncheon and style show attracted more than 200 Roman Catholic Mothers Superior on Tuesday. The new habits shown were featuring short skirts, 2 piece suits, one piece dresses and jackets. The nuns seemed pleased with the new habits but Mother Mary E. Toban, superior of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in Rome said "We'll think about it".

Talbotville - 800 head of cattle were shipped Tuesday from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool stock yards in Talbotville to South Korea. The cattle were bought from Western Ontario farms.

Ottawa - Prime Minister Trudeau has announced "Operation cool - off" in the skirmishing between Ottawa and Paris which took place earlier last week.

Crinan - On Wednesday Sept 18, 1968, Mrs. Donalda McRae observed her 81st birthday. Our best wishes for many more birthdays.

Rodney - Yesterday was Rodney's 114th fair. Congratulatis to Marie Carroll for winning top honors with her 4H calf. Heavy horses were shown at Rodney fair for the first time in 18 yrs. The late Allan G. McLean showed his prize winning Belgian team in 1950.

December 17, 1968

We had a fire tragedy in our Community. The house of John Aldred was burned; it was occupied by Mr. David Haskell, employed as farm worker.

Mr. and Mrs. David Haskell and their five children lost their lives also Mrs. Haskell's foster father. The policeman, Bob Squires, made the discovery about 3:30 a.m. on a cold frosty day. The house was heated by two wood stoves.

Our Institute ladies gave assistance to Mr. Aldred and family and also the policemen who was on duty for several days and nights. They provided hot coffee and a snack.

Current Events-1968

Several 25th wedding anniversaries were celebrated in 1968:-

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McPherson
Mr. and Mrs. George Jamieson
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. McCallum
Mr. and Mrs. Archie McLarty.

In 1969, the Arena in West Lorne which was previously destroyed by fire, was again open to skaters and hockey players.

Current Events-1970

Mr. and Mrs. Doug McMurchy's barn on concession 4, Aldborough Township was destroyed by fire believed to be caused from a heat lamp.

The new Willey's bridge opened for traffic; the bridge is over the Thames River between Elgin and Middlesex counties.

Several of our people were able to enjoy swimming upon completion of the new swimming pool in Dutton; it was completed in March, 1970.

Canadian Current Events

Quebec Labor Minister, Pierre Laporte was kidnapped Oct. 10, 1970. Paul Rose, Simard and Bernard Lotie are to stand trial for the kidnapping. British Diplomat, James Jasper Cross was kidnapped October 5, 1970 and released December 3, 1970.

The Census of Canada was completed in June, 1971. Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, 51 and Margaret Sinclair, 22 were married on Thursday, March 4, 1971, in North Vancouver. On December 25, their son, Justin was born.

CURRENT EVENTS- 1969

Carol Anne Stalker, daughter of Mrs. and Mr. Bruce Stalker graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Degree in Psychology.

John Jamieson, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Jamieson received his graduation diploma from the Agricultural Science Course at Ridgetown College of Technology, on May 14th.

CURRENT EVENTS - 1971

The District Annual of the Women's Institute was held at Fingal on May 19 at Knox Church. The Boxall W.I. was hostess for the group. Mrs. Adams reported that certain Institutes had their Tweedsmuir book at the District Annual. The barn for the Museum was completed. London Area Convention was held at Clinton on September 30 and October 1st.

Laura McAlpine proved the best of twelve contestants in the annual grade 5 and 6 public speaking competition held at the Dutton-Dunwich Public School on March 4th. Her topic was "Pollution". The judges were Mrs. Audrey Johnston, Miss Joan Clements and Bert Downey. The ladies of the Crinan W.I. had the privilege of hearing her at one of the meetings.

Lights of Interest in Alborough.

If you are one of the many who have seen strange little square lights mounted on tripods in Alborough and have been wondering what they are all about, the answer is that the Federal Government is having a new survey made of this part of the province. Other surveys are being conducted from high towers, one of which was located some time ago on Harold Carroll's farm a mile north of Crinan Church.

During the first World War, a high wooden tower was erected there on the then John Webster farm, for survey work. Because it was wartime and since people were suspicious of anything foreign, the popular rumour was that the Germans were sending secret messages by light signals across the country.

Another such tower was on the highest point in this part of the province at the west corner of Shackleton Street and the Dunwich-Southwold Townline.

True, there were light signals sent back and forth between the two towers and others but for survey purposes only.

Once this survey is completed in this area, accurate maps with every building marked on will be available from the Federal Government. So the little square lights mounted on tripods, the black station wagons with amber flashing lights on local roads at night are surveyors collecting information which will be of great use in the future.