

MRS. RUSSELL CAMPBELL

DISTRICT PRESIDENT 1977 - 78, 78 - 79

DISTRICT SECRETARY - TREASURER 1969 - 1974

Grace Marie (Rivers) Campbell was born and raised in Elgin county and lived most of her life there. She is the older daughter in the family of two girls born to Helen (Markle) and Stan Rivers. Most of her education was obtained in Elgin County where she attended public school at Mapleton and Aylmer, in Elgin Co., then Chesley Ave. and Empress Ave. in London while her father was stationed in the army during the second World War. Back to Elgin after the war and attended public school at Brownsville, Lynhurst and finally at Willeys' near Dutton in Dunwich township. Her high school education was obtained at the West Elgin Secondary School in West Lorne where she graduated with a Secondary Honour Graduation Diploma. During the time of her high school years, Grace was involved in both Agriculture and Homemaking 4-H clubs as well as Jr. Farmers and Junior Women's Institute. She served as Junior Women's Institute President for Elgin County in 1956 - 57. It was during these years that she met Russ Campbell.

Before her marriage to James Russell Campbell she taught public school in Caradoc township near Strathroy. Russ and Grace were married July 5, 1958 and took up residence on their farm at Cowal. They were blessed with 4 children, 2 daughters and 2 sons, (Beth, Stan, Laura and David).

Grace began her Women's Institute activities in 1960 and served in most offices of the Cowal Women's Institute in the years that followed. Her first office was treasurer 1961, then secretary-treasurer from 1962 - 68. She served 3 years as president from 1973 - 76 and was District Director for 2 years, 1976 - 77. Grace became the secretary-treasurer of Elgin West District in 1969 and was President from 1977 - 79. During her work at District level she served as secretary-treasurer of the officers Conference of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario from 1975 - 81. Following her District work Grace served 2 years as Rally President. She was elected Board Director for Subdivision #22 of the London Area in 1981 and served a three year term.

Besides her Women's Institute involvement, Grace has been active with the 4-H clubs, having led for 20 years and some 41 projects. She has also been an associate director of the Wallacetown Agriculture Society for over 20 years. Grace served as chairman of the ladies division for 2 years 1969 - 1970 and for the past 15 years has been committee head of the culinary arts. With all her W. I., 4-H

and Fall Fair experiences Grace has gone on to be a qualified judge in all aspects of Domestic Science at Fall Fairs.

Grace attributes her leadership experience and knowledge to the Women's Institute and strives to live up to their Ode and adhere to their motto "For Home and Country".



*Helen Widner, Eleanor Stover, Grace Campbell,  
taken at  
Board Directors' meeting at Central Yarmouth, 1985.*



MRS. GARNET COWELL

(District President 1980 - 81, 1981 - 82)

Marge Cowell was born and raised in Toronto. I was married in November 1941 and went to Essex county, - Gosfield South I joined the Cottam W. I. then when we moved to Elgin County in 1951 I joined the Iona Station W. I.

I held all offices in that Branch. In 1955 I started with 4-H Homemaking clubs and in 1978 I was given a silver tray by the Department of Agriculture having been in 4-H for 45 clubs(a record at that time). I lead a couple more clubs then had to give it up for Health reasons.

My Iona Station W. I. gave me the Honour of a Life Membership in March 1978. I have been District President for 2 years 1980 - 81, 1981 - 82, and also held Area Convenorships.



1978 Mrs. Ruth Marcou and Mrs. G. Cowell.

Mrs. Ralph (Jean) Palmer

District President 1982-84

Mrs. Jean (Ralph) Palmer nee Chamberlain have lived my entire life in Southwold Township with the exception of three years when in training to be a nurse at the Public General Hospital in Chatham.

There are four children in our family, two boys and two girls. I'm proud to say that both daughters and a daughter-in-law are devoted Women's Institute members.

Being a life member of the Institute, I have many memories of leading 4-H clubs and also serving several offices in the Shedden W.I. branch.

By living for "Home & Country" and trying to bide by the "Golden Rule", each day is lived to it's fullest making Church and community activities enjoyable.

The two years I was District President were busy but rewarding years. These are some of the most memorable occasions:

June 9, 1982. Planning the 25th Anniversary of Elgin County Museum

July 8, 1982. Attending the 70th Anniversary of Wallacetown W.I.

Aug, 7, 1982. Reception at Kingsmill Mapleton and St. Mary's Area for Mrs.

Ziny Westenbring Mueller A.C.W.W. President

Aug. 12, 1982. The 85th W.I. Anniversary in Toronto at Constellation Hotel

Sept. 25, 1982. Opening of the St, Thomas Military Museum

Nov. 4, 1982. "Janet Hieplah Night" at Springfield, introducing the head table guests.

Nov. 12, 1982. Assisted in a farewell tea at Elgin County Museum for Helen and Joe Kerby (Museum curators).

Jan. 10, 1983. Started the first winter picnic having all branches involved.

Each Institute presenting a 5 minute song, skit or play. Topic was "W.I. 85 Anniversary" and each branch depicted a certain time period 1897-1983.

Mar. 31, 1983. Participated in packaging stamps for sale at A.C.W.W. Convention in British Columbia.

Feb. 17, 1984. The beginning of the 1985 International Ploughing Match Cook Book Comm.

Apr. 10, 1984. Held a workshop on "Parliamentary Procedure" for Elgin West at Paynes Mills Hall and compiled a humourous play - the executive was the cast.

Started the preparation in planning for the 1985 Ploughing Match.

These were just a few of the highlights, and would not have been made possible without the special help and consideration of my husband, and family, who sacrificèd car, phone, and home extras from 1982-84. Also, my Shedden Branch members who stood by at all times, and secretaries Eleanor MacMillan and Hilda Morden.

(PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE)



JEAN PALMER.  
(PRES. 1982-84)



HELEN BEECROFT.  
(PRES. 1984-86.)

Mrs. Ivan (Helen) Beecroft

District President 1984-86

I was born in Windsor, Ontario; the youngest in a family of eight - six girls and two boys, to Freeman and Mary Wright. My father was a business college teacher and my mother taught piano and elocution.

At the age of two and a half, I was stricken with infantile paralysis. After two years of treatments, I learned to walk again, although quite badly crippled. When I was eight years old, my father retired and we moved to a farm near Shedden, Ontario. I received my education at Shedden Public and Fingal Continuation Schools. When I was thirteen and in Grade eleven, I quit school and went through two years of therapy and surgery in London Victoria Hospital which enabled me to walk with only a slight limp.

In 1941, I married, to Ivan Beecroft, a farmer who resided on Lot 16, Concession 3, Southwold Township. We became the parents of six children, one girl and five boys. Richard is the head auditor for the Dept. of Transport and Communications in Toronto. Ronald is a teacher of music and public school in St. Catherines. Dennis is an electrical Engineer for Westinghouse in Hamilton; Sharon is a Registered Nurse in Stratford; Thomas is a graduate of Ridgeway Agricultural College and Robert is a graduate of Forestry from Soo College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Since my husband's death in 1980, my son Thomas has bought the farm from me and is operating it. I still live on the farm in a new house my husband built in 1978. This is the same farm on which he was born.

I am a member of Chalmer's United Church, Cowal; on the board for last five years, being chairman last year and also president of United Church Women.

I joined the Women's Institute in 1972, after my family was raised. I have held the office of branch president several times and am serving in that capacity at the present time.

I was District President from 1984-86 and Federation Representative from 1986-87. I have enjoyed my term of office and have made many friends. I have also learned much through the short courses given by the Department of Agriculture.

(PHOTO ON PREVIOUS PAGE)

MRS. GERALDINE CAMPBELL

DISTRICT PRESIDENT 1986 - 1987



Geraldine Campbell carried on the work she started in New Zealand by becoming very involved with Women's Institute work. She originally came to Ontario as a Junior Farmer exchangee in 1967. After her marriage in December 1977 to Jamey Campbell (son of R. D. and Marion Campbell) they returned to the family farm Bellview in the Cowal Area. At her first Women's Institute meeting in 1977 (which happened to be the annual) she was appointed 2nd Vice President of the Cowal Women's Institute. She progressed up to the position of President of Cowal Branch.

At the same time she became very active in Elgin West District, taking on the positions of Resolution Convenor, then Public Relations Officer, second Vice President then District President of Elgin West 1986 - 1987. The

move of the family in August 1987 to be nearer to Jamey's work as Clerk-Treasurer of Howard Township, Ridgetown meant that Geraldine had to give up the second year as District President. While involved in District activities she helped establish Agriculture in the classroom in Elgin county, involved the Women's Institute with the Federation of Agriculture in the County Caravan tour, wrote the promotional leaflet for Elgin County Rally of Women's Institute, as well in conjunction with Pauline Lindsay, President of Elgin East establish and organize the very successful Community Outreach Seminar. At the first Seminar in February 1987 there were 167 participants.

Geraldine had three very active years as Public Relations Officer for the London Area Women's Institute. When she moved to Ridgetown she immediately joined the Palmyra branch. In November 1987 she was appointed Public Relations Officer for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. A position she approached with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Geraldine and Jamey adopted three children from Korea, Trevor, Mary-Anne and Robbie.