

## Tweedsmuir Curators Workshop

The Workshop for London Area of the Women's Institute was held on August 5th 1986 in West Elgin, at the Community Hall in Wallacetown, with about eighty-five in attendance.

We had one speaker on 'House Logs' and another on 'Geneology', also a representative from Elgin County Museum. The speaker on 'House Logs' was Anne Innes of Exford North District, who used her own House Log as an example, explained what should be entered. Many other House Logs were displayed.

Mrs. Lorne Diebel of Woodstock, librarian of the Stoke Library in London, operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints told how to "Look for your Roots".

In 1936, Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the then Governor General of Canada, herself a devoted Women's Institute member in England spoke at the Athens Women's Institute branch in Leeds East District and stressed the need for preserving the interesting history of our Canadian people, the places, customs and activities of a developing land. The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario seized the opportunity and from there the Tweedsmuir Histories as they have now become known are part of the work that the Women's Institute branches throughout Canada have been doing for all Canadians.

Among the topics covered in these books are the geography and topography of the area, municipal government, farming in all its aspects, homes, education trade and commerce, recreation, complete histories of individual farms and families, the churches and their organizations, schools, libraries, industries past and present, and anything special about the district.

Altogether the community history is a comprehensive, factual collection of historical data and treasured pictures of a local community provided by the Women's Institute members, of the people for the people of the locality.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have received the Award of Merit from the American Association for Local History, for initiating the Tweedsmuir Histories and the Certificate of Merit for their contribution to local History in Canada.

Some branches have published their histories while others have microfilmed their histories and these can be seen at local libraries.

The Women's Institutes of the London Area are proud to be preserving the history of the rural communities for present and future Canadians. No other group is doing it in such an organized way. Without the past you cannot have a future.



BETTY RODGERS

LEOLA LAWRENCE

West Elgin Daffodil Tea  
and Draw Winners

The Boxall W.I. hosted the Annual West Elgin Daffodil Tea and Draw, sponsored by the Elgin West District Women's Institute, at Fingal, September 10th, 1986.

Receiving the many guests were Mrs. Geraldine Campbell, Elgin West District W.I. president; Mrs. Betty Rodgers Boxall president, and Leola Lawrence, president of West Elgin Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. Attending the register was Mrs. Wilhemina Jackson.

Pouring tea were Mrs. Helen Thomas, Mrs. Henrietta Pennings, Mrs. Clara Ashmore, Mrs. Jean Palmer, Mrs. Eleanor McMillan, Mrs. Mary

Anne Caughell, Mrs. Vivian Ayling, Mrs. Helen Beecroft, Mrs. Lois Carroll and Mrs. Norma McMillan.

The members of Boxall W.I. made all the arrangements, decorated the tea room attractively in the Daffodil colour scheme and manned the kitchen.

Members of the district institutes assisted with serving as well as being in charge of the bake table, country store and two draws.

For many years the Fingal quilters have made and donated a quilt for the annual draw. Abel Post of Shedden won this quilt. The afghan, made each year and donated by Mrs. Mary Campbell of Shedden was won by Mrs. Connie Wachowick, St. Thomas. Mrs. Maxine Campbell won the lawn chair, donated by Mrs. Norma McMillan.

Tickets could be bought at the tea on other draw prizes. May Thorne donated a fruit cake and a doll, Hazel Fillmore, a doll, and Boxall Institute a fruit basket. Winners of these items were: Marion Forsyth, Dutton; Lori Little, St. Thomas; Anna Okolisan, West Lorne, and Linda Rieger, Port Stanley.



BETTY RODGERS

LEOLA LAWRENCE

West Elgin Daffodil Tea

September 10th, 1986.

### Elgin County W. I. holds Rally

Approximately 100 ladies attended the Elgin County Women's Institute Rally program held at Southwold Public School in September 1986 with a dessert luncheon and tea or coffee.

Mrs. Brenda Silcox led the ladies in a lively sing-song of Irish tunes followed by a very interesting program presented by Mrs. Shirley Johnston, Mrs. Gertrude Leipmann, Mrs. Wilma MacAdam, Mrs. Mary Gow, Mrs. Jessie Ferguson and Mrs. Lenore Butler, who attended the 18th Triennial conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (A.C.W.W.) held in Killarney, Ireland this past June. The ladies had on display snap shots, post cards and souvenirs of Ireland and the conference, and a slide presentation by Mrs. Johnston.

The ladies were introduced by Mrs. Geraldine Campbell and thanked by Mrs. Sylvia Cerna.

### Community Outreach Seminar

There were 170 women at Southwold Public School on Saturday Feb. 28, 1987, attending the Outreach Seminar sponsored by Elgin Women's Institutes, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Elgin Women for Support of Agriculture.

The keynote speaker was Rosalie Wysocki, the president of a human resources development company. This firm specializes in goal setting, motivation, team building and communications.

Other topics discussed in several workshops included,- Generating extra income; time for exercise; wardrobe planning; time for drugs; effective parenting; time for crafts; Personal Growth; Volunteering and orchids.

Elgin West W. I. Winter Picnic

It was fitting that the West Lorne branch should be hostess for the West Elgin District Women's Institute Winter Picnic held at Grace Lutheran Church, West Lorne on Monday Jan. 5th, 1987. This is the year of the 90th Anniversary of Women's Institute in Ontario and is also the 74th Anniversary of the branch in West Lorne. To mark this anniversary a decorated cake was prepared and the honour of cutting the cake went to four/<sup>long</sup>time members of West Lorne branch, Mrs. T. F. Ripley, Mrs. Bertha Carter, Mrs. Bertha Cooper, and Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann.

The Winter Picnic is an annual informal occasion for the branches to get together for a pot-luck supper, some socialization and a program. This year the program consisted of songs, poems, skits and readings - all honouring the 90th anniversary, presented by the branches.

Mrs. Betty VanPatter, provincial board director presented the 60th Anniversary Award from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to Miss Anita Dielman, of Wallacetown.



L. F. R VERA RIPLEY, BERTHA COOPER, GERTRUDE LIEPMANN, BERTHA CARTER

Four ladies who cut the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake of West Lorne Branch at the Winter Picnic.

# Winter Picnic



JEAN PALMER,  
PAT PALMER  
CAROL GORDON.

↳ presenting musical  
skit from  
Shedden N. I.

GERTRUDE SLOAN  
and  
LOUIE LACKEY  
presenting skit  
from  
Hallacetown N. I.

→



ANITA DIELEMAN

↳ Thanking the N. I.  
for her  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Award.



MRS. DONALD (BETH) VICARY

District Tweedsmuir Curator



Mary Elizabeth Ann(Beth) Turner was born May 21, 1934 in the home of my parents, Duncan C. Turner and Sylvia Campbell Turner on the Gore Road, lots 13 & 14 Concession 5, Southwold. My mother was always happy I was born the week before, not the week after the Dionne quintuplets, maybe she thought it was catching! My two younger brothers, David and Michael, and I all attended public school at S. S. #17, Lawrence Station. I am a graduate of St. Thomas Collegiate Institute and I began working at the head office of the London Life Insurance Company, where my mother had also worked, the day after I finished

school. I started as the mail girl, really the errand girl, and when I left three years later I was a claims supervisor. During this time I married Donald Vicary in Woodview Church, Lawrence Station and moved all of eight miles from where I was raised to his farm on lots 16 & 17, SNBTR, Southwold. This farm near Shedden has been in my husband's family since 1842.

As I grew up I was certainly aware of the Women's Institute as our next-door neighbour was Mrs. Dick McLellan, a member of Iona Station Women's Institute and a member at one time of the W. I. Provincial Board. She invited me to join a 4H Homemaking Club which she was leading and I took about six clubs there sponsored by the Iona Station W. I. After our marriage, my next-door neighbour was Mrs. Herbert Parks who invited me to join Shedden W. I. in 1967. I have held several offices in the branch as well as being a 4H leader for several clubs.

During my six years as Tweedsmuir Curator for the Shedden Branch we applied for and received a federal government grant to hire three students to do local historical research. This not only benefited our branch history but also resulted in a book, "Independence and Plenty", a history of Shedden, Fingal and the surrounding area.

I have also been Tweedsmuir History Curator for the Elgin West District and at that time the District Curator was also a member of the Elgin County Pioneer

Museum Board. I became secretary-treasurer of that board at a very exciting time when the Elgin Military Museum came into being and was joined to the Pioneer Museum.

When I was forty I started to college full time and became a graduate of the accounting course of Fanshawe College. For the next ten years I worked off the farm until all our children were finished their education. Our daughter, Alison, is a teacher in Guelph, sons James and Glenn work in local industries and our youngest son, Leigh, is the fifth generation in his father's family to farm this land. I am happy to be on the farm full time again and also enjoying our two granddaughters.

My husband is a graduate of Kemptville Agricultural College and also did post-graduate agricultural studies in Great Britain under a Nuffield Scholarship. We raise registered Jerseys and farm 150 acres all seeded in alfalfa. Don and I attend Knox Church in St. Thomas where we both sing in the choir and we are members of the Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario and Canadian Jersey Cattle Clubs. At present (1987) I am the treasurer of Shedden W. I. and the Assistant Tweedsmuir Curator for London Area W. I. In 1986 I received a ten year award from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture for my volunteer work with the Museum.





The River Road Institute <sup>(1982)</sup> held their March meeting at the home of Mrs. Sheila Bridge, who was Convener of the program on Nutrition. A dietician from St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital was the speaker. At this meeting, a sale of spring hats

made from household articles by the members was held. In the above photo is Miss Lillian Ross, secretary, modelling one of the hats, which sold for \$4.00. She is also holding a jar of preserves, covered with a fancy hat.



Mrs. Garnet (Marge) Cowell.

In this photo, Marge Cowell is wearing a pin on the left lapel of her jacket, which had been presented to her for 30 years of volunteer service in various organizations. Her name was proposed by the Elgin County Pioneer Museum,

and the presentation was made in the spring of 1987 at the London Art Gallery.