

Middlemarch Homes

Smoke

James Stanton, builder of Middlemarch Church, owned a farm on the west side of Middlemarch side road. It was sold to David Lyle and then to Norman Watson.

Inez Gilbert, daughter of Leslie Gilbert, was adopted by James Stanton who owned the hotel at Middlemarch. Inez married Delbert Smoke and they lived in the hotel, which was then a residence. Their four children were -

Verne Leslie - deceased

Wilfred Allen - (2 sons - Wilfred and Verne)

Laverne May

Jean Eileen (Registered Nurse - married Charles Hammersley
one son - Robert William)

1961 - House sold to Walter Jacus and his wife Helen. They tore down the back portion of the house (the former dance hall of the hotel) and moved the house back from the road and put it on a foundation. They built a kitchen and bath on the back of the house and installed an oil furnace. There was a garage east of the house, which used to be the meeting place of the men of the area. When the Fingal Road was widened - this building was torn down. Helen Jacus died suddenly of a heart attack and after a few years Walter remarried and sold the house.

Mike and Grace Ilik were the next owners - they did some remodelling inside the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Seymour and their 5 children were the next family to live in the house. They installed white siding to the front part of the house and built some greenhouses - they sold plants in the spring for a year or two.

Roger Cassandro and his wife Kathy were the next owners. They have removed all the siding and completely insulated the house and have also installed a heat pump with an electric furnace.

Part of Lot 34 S.T.R.E.

This lot was purchased by Peter Owen Richardson and his wife Virlie Christina in 1949. Peter Richardson was born in Surrey, England in 1911, and came to Canada in 1930. Virlie Christina Donaldson was born at Corinth, Ontario in 1914 and came to St. Thomas in 1927.

Peter and Virlie were married in 1935, and moved to lot 34 in Middlemarch from St. Thomas on December 11, 1949, with seven year old twin sons William Dorian and David Charles. The boys attended Middlemarch Public School and A.V.V.S. in St. Thomas. After graduation from A.V.V.S., Bill worked in a factory for a few years and then took a course in nursing at the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital and graduated as R. N.A. in 1968. On Jan. 22, 1966 Bill married Ann Fellowes R. N. from Liverpool, England in the chapel at Elgin Manor. They live on Isabel St., St. Thomas with their daughters Jean Elizabeth - born Nov. 30, 1967 and Alison born November 14, 1970.

David did office work in factories and Elgin General Hospital and then went to the office at the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital in 1968. He decided to take the nursing course and he graduated as R. N.A. in 1970. On April 20, 1974, David and Bonnie Marie Crossett, R. N. were married in Union United Church. They live in Union with their daughter Amy Marie born March 13, 1975 and Christopher David Peter born March 11, 1977.

Both Bill and David work in their spare time doing Ambulance Duty with the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

In January 1972, Mrs. Nellie Donaldson, Virlie's mother, came to make her home with them. She died suddenly on June 5, 1974

following a heart attack,

Peter and Virlie bought a cottage on 21 Margaret Street, St. Thomas on January 10, 1977 and moved to it on July 27, 1977.

The house on lot 34 was sold to Carl and Pauline Chute of St. Thomas who with their two daughters moved in on July 29, 1977.

There have been many changes since 1949, as we had water piped in and hydro, furnace, bathroom etc. Also changed the lot from a field into a yard and garden with shade and fruit trees, bushes and flower beds. Previous owners of the lot were - Thomas and Julia Ann Casey

Feb. 7, 1886 - sold to Henry and Catherine House

Nov. 18, 1907 - sold to Charles Welter

July 21, 1932 - sold to Mrs. Rosa Welter

Nov. 5, 1949 - sold to Peter and Virlie Richardson.

May 1952.

ELGIN COUNTY

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Down through the centuries anniversaries have been celebrated to honour men, women and events. During the week of August 3rd to 10th, plans are being made here in Elgin to honour the pioneers of our county and to celebrate the centennial of its formation as a county. St. Thomas, too, is celebrating this year the hundredth anniversary of its incorporation as a separate municipality.

The nineteenth century was truly one of busy settlement in the region bordering Lake Erie on the north. Prior to this time a few French explorers, travelers and missionaries had skirted the Lake front. The Indians had massacred many of those who had attempted to settle and only an occasional one remained. At the close of the eighteenth century the only established settlements were at Niagara, Long Point and Detroit. In 1791 the new Province of Upper Canada (Ontario) was created. When the first Lieutenant Governor arrived in Quebec, before proceeding westward to his new duties, he found Lieutenant Colonel Talbot, the young Irish Officer born in Malahide castle in Ireland, stationed there with his regiment. Governor Simcoe passed the winter there preparing for his new task and Colonel Talbot joined his staff as private secretary. After the opening of the new Provincial Parliament in Newark (Niagara) 1792, plans were made for an exploration party to explore the country to the west and Detroit, and to the site of his proposed capital on the Thames.

Colonel Talbot was so impressed by the beauty of the country and the possibilities of a settlement throughout the region that, after eight more years spent in the army, he sold his commission, and proceeded to carry out his plans. While it was inevitable that a land of such fertility and beauty as this part of Upper Canada possessed should eventually be settled, no small measure of its rapid growth was due to Colonel Talbot, the "Father of the Settlement".

He chose Dunwich township as the location of his 5000 acres, the usual grant for a field officer. The first hundred settlers were to settle there, each one being given 50 acres, while 150 went to himself, so that this arrangement allowed him no more than 20,000 acres. The terms of Talbot's grants formed much controversy later on. He more or less worked out a scheme of settlement to suit himself. But he insisted on his settlers performing their settlement duties before he gave them their certificates.

Elsewhere in our Tweedsmuir books we have written of Colonel Talbot and his settlement, but a brief review of the beginnings might be discussed. We are familiar with the story of his arrival at Port Talbot in 1803 in company with four men servants. Here he built his Canadian "Castle Malahide" on a high cliff. The nearest settlement was eighty miles to the west and sixty to the east and an unbroken forest to the north. In 1806 the first settler, George Crane, was granted land, and three years later three families, the Pearces, Storeys and Pattersons, Pennsylvania Irish, arrived.

Townships had been blocked out, but roads were unknown. John Bostwick is reported to have blazed the first line of what is now known as the Talbot Road in 1804. In 1809 Mahlon Burwell surveyed the road from the east line of Middleton to Port Talbot, followed in 1811 by a survey through to Howard township. About the same time the north Branch, or Back Street, was surveyed. By 1812 a small number from Pennsylvania had settled near Port Talbot, and a few more settlers located in Yarmouth on the site of St. Thomas.

Then came the war of 1812 and the settlement remained at a standstill. Some property damage was suffered, especially at Colonel Talbot's estate.

In 1811 the control of the London (the counties of Norfolk, Oxford and Middlesex) district, and the western district was given to Colonel Talbot by the Provincial Government. The roads gradually improved, the region was advertised by the government, and by 1822 there were at least 12,000 people in his settlement. By 1824 Colonel Talbot

was given control of 28 townships and in 1831 the population was between 30 and 40 thousand, reaching 50,000 by 1837. The rebellion of /37 involving many of the people of the district, disclosed by the dissatisfaction of the people, that they were ready for some form of self-government.

In 1826 London was founded on the site chosen by Governor Simcoe in 1793 as his future capital and the new village became the judicial capital of the district. In 1837 the county of Oxford was set apart as the District of Brock, Norfolk as the District of Talbot, leaving Middlesex only in the London District. Kent and Essex formed the Western District. The civil affairs of these districts were administered by the magistracy in quarter sessions, assisted a little later by Commissioners chosen in each township. In 1841 district councils were provided one or two representatives, according to population, with a warden, clerk and treasurer appointed by the Governor. By an act in 1849 the wardens were elected from the county councils, which took the place of the district councils and the municipal system became much as we now have it.

An agitation began in 1846 for a movement to partition Middlesex County and organize a new county. In August notice was given to Parliament for the separation of the townships now forming Elgin County. A meeting was held in St. Thomas in the Talbot Mansion Hotel which was gaily decorated for the occasion. Mr. Benjamin Drake offered a site for a market place, court house and goal. A large executive committee was appointed and meetings arranged to be held in the townships. Some of the arguments advanced for the partitioning were that the district was too large to be properly managed, that injustice was done the southern part of the district in the matter of improvements, and that representatives had to pass through St. Thomas to reach the district capital of London, thereby benefiting the latter. It took six years before an act of the Legislature in 1851 gave authority for the setting apart of the new county called Elgin in honour of Lord Elgin, the Governor General.

- The Provisional Council was called to meet April 15th, 1852 in the Town Hall, with David Parish as Chairman and Elisha Tanson, reeve of Yarmouth, as warden. Mr. Thomas Locker, reeve of Malahide, was warden when the first regular county council met August 8th, 1853 in the new county building erected on the site presented by Mr. Drake.

Colonel Talbot had passed away February 5th of that year. His earliest settlement had been in Elgin and it then became the youngest county.

Local histories of the townships and Communities have been completed for the Tweedsmuir books. Briefly the nationalities found in each of the townships from the beginning of the settlement until the formation of Elgin as a county, may be summed up as follows: Aldborough was settled by some groups from Pennsylvania and by Scotch Highlanders, followed later by Germans.

Scotch direct from the old land, and those who had returned from the ill-fated Red Deer Settlement or from the United States settled in Dunwich.

Into Southwold came Scotch and English.

Highland Scotch settled in North Yarmouth and some English in South Yarmouth. Quakers, too, from the States and a sprinkling of people of German descent from the Niagara district made up more of Yarmouth's early settlers.

Malahide, named after Col. Talbot's home in Ireland, was settled by United Empire Loyalists from New York. Families from Nova Scotia settled along the first concession, and gave it the name of Nova Scotia Street. Bayham's first settlers were mainly English and U.E. Loyalists. South Dorchester is the only township not bounded by Lake Erie. Its first settlers were mainly from New York.

In 1950 all the townships, except Malahide and South Dorchester, celebrated their centennial as self-governing municipalities. These two later remained in the London District until Elgin became a separate county in 1852.

Elgin has long taken its place among the progressive municipalities of our great Province. Its seven townships have a combined area of 436,850 acres and contains approximately 700 square miles. Possessing a soil unsurpassed for fertility, agriculture is its first industry. Excellent highways extend throughout the county as well as main railway lines. Telephones, radio and hydro, mail delivery are all considered necessities. Industries have increased in the city of St. Thomas and in Aylmer and smaller centres. Elgin has kept well in advance in educational matters as evidenced by its fine schools. Many churches of all denominations are located throughout the county. New recreational centres have been built, public buildings improved or new ones erected and organizations for the betterment of social life found everywhere. Truly the early pioneers, the ancestors of many of us here in Elgin, laid their foundations well. They came to this country to seek a life of freedom. With incredible labour they cleared the forests and made the wilderness blossom. The changes wrought in the last hundred years are almost unbelievable. We ^{feel} that our generation and future generations have greater insight into the lives of the pioneers who by their sacrifices, courage and privations, laid the foundation for our way of life.

To honour these pioneers and to join in the observance of the centennial of Elgin and St. Thomas as municipalities, invitations are being sent to the former residents of the district to attend, with us, the Centennial, the week of August 3rd - 10th. Committees have been formed to arrange for entertainment and to get pioneer costumes and other articles in keeping with a celebration of this kind. A pageant is being designed as a cavalcade of Elgin during the last 100 years. A parade, choral singing, a religious service and a picnic are some of the features planned for the event. Trees are to be planted and

it is hoped that a pioneer museum may be started. Many relics and records surely might be gathered and preserved for future generations before it is too late. Pauline Johnson said "I will never forgive myself for letting my grandfather die without trying to find out what he knew". This may be too true in our own case, but our centennial year may be instrumental in bringing much more knowledge of our local history to light. May Elgin's hundreth anniversary be a memorable one.

Mrs. Sam Fulton,

River Road Women's Institute.



When Elgin County was preparing for its Centennial celebration the Women's Institutes made quilts which they sold to raise funds for their awards to Home-making Club girls. Central Yarmouth made this "Pride of Elgin" quilt, portraying one hundred years of progress in the county. The quilt was designed by Mrs. Angus McKenzie and Mrs. M. Field. It is shown here after it was presented to Lady Elgin who is an active member of the Scottish Institutes. Lord and Lady Elgin are central figures in the picture.

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THE ST. THOMAS & ELGIN CENTENNIAL

To the people of Elgin County and St. Thomas, the year 1952 will instantly bring to mind the celebrations of the St. Thomas and Elgin Centennial, for it will not be likely that such a celebration will again take place until the year 2052.

It was in 1851 when Elgin took on County status in a separation from the District of Middlesex and it was in 1852 that St. Thomas was incorporated as a village.

2 But there was more than 100 years in this Centennial - there was the foresight and courage of the pioneers who originally came to the Talbot settlement. Then the dogged determination of those who cleared the dense forest, built small villages and established flour, grist or saw mills, foundries and wagon works. Now add the pride and ambition of today's citizens who work Elgin County's fine farms - or toil in business and industry.

The Centennial just didn't arrive - it involved months of preparation and organization. A special committee under the leadership of Mrs. Helen Potts was appointed. This committee appealed to local clubs, societies and organizations for funds and ideas. It helped stimulate interest and enthusiasm throughout the area.

3 C.H.L.O. repeated daily early in the year that the Centennial would be "the biggest do in '52" - and it was.

Like heralde of a coming event, the beard-growers or "Mossbacks" made their hoary appearance in the early spring. This county-wide Beard-Growing Contest aroused interest and humour in the coming event. The "Mossbacks" female counterparts, the "Hoop-de-Doos" astonished many by-passers by parading in costumes of a century ago.

Letters and invitations were mailed to former St. Thomas and Elgin residents inviting them to return in August to their old home town and county.

The combined Women's Institutes of Elgin early in the year began to

resurrect old quilt patterns or began designing their own quilts. These appeared in an exhibition held at Anderson's Department Store as one of the great pioneer arts and crafts.

Centennial teas were in vogue too, and patrons found it quite novel to be served by ladies in beautiful nineteenth century dress. The funds raised by the sale of the quilts and the W.I.'s teas were placed in the Elgin County Women's Institutes' Centennial Scholarship Fund.

Attics were ransacked, dusty old trunks pried open, old warehouses were searched. Everyone was looking for costumes and relics of the past.

In tribute to a visiting fellow-member, Lady Elgin guest of honour here with her husband the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, the Women's Institute of Elgin made a presentation of a special Centennial Quilt. The design of this quilt carried out the Centennial theme in map and contrasting pictures of 1852 and 1952.

Shops along Talbot Street showed the 100th Anniversary influence too in their window displays of jewellery, fashions, sports equipment, vehicles, etc., in models and designs of yester-years.

The Caledonian or Highland Games at Dutton officially opened by Lord Elgin attracted hundreds of interested spectators.

These, and others I haven't mentioned, involved a great deal of preparation and thought, but the event that made the greatest impression and was the best success of the Centennial was the Pageant or Spectacle held at Athletic Park. By success is implied the overwhelming spectacular results achieved by those public-spirited Elginites who were members of the cast or stage crew in the production which told in pageant form the story and highlights of Elgin County. People from every phase of life in St. Thomas and Elgin participated - from the farms, military organizations, service clubs, churches, bands, schools, institutes, to say nothing about the countless housewives who left their supper dishes to attend rehearsals.

A group of experienced men and women were imported to attend to the problems of production and staging. These people worked hand-in-hand with home talent and searched deep into the history of the county for material with which to base the pageant.

The natural backdrop made by tree-clad hills on three sides of the park made an ideal stage to reveal the story of Elgin. The performers entered by way of winding paths down through the thickly wooded hillsides to the north of the grounds. It was mysterious and thrilling and gave the touch of realism to: the early days when the Red-skins roamed this area, to Col. Talbot's blazing a trail through the woods on to his historic estate at Port Talbot; the first settlement; the crown lands; the early pioneers; the hardships they endured; their mode of travel; their recreations; their dress.

The narrator told of the first railway and roads. The dramatic performance showed the participation of the citizens in the World Wars I and II, the advances in agriculture, machinery, motor travel, education, right up until the present, when the army and men and women of the Airschool at Aylmer concluded the Spectacle with an impressive military review.

A parade which took place during the latter part of the week was attended by an estimated fifty thousand people who lined the streets from East Talbot right down to Athletic Park, to watch the jubilant paraders in costumes and conveyances of a past era go by, to be followed in the modern way of '52.

The Centennial Band Tattoo at Pinafore Park drew a large attendance and this rounded out the week.

Yes, there was plenty entailed with the task of the Centennial. It must have been a source of pride for old-timers to return and show off their town to visitors they brought with them. And though it is hard to visualize the Celebration of 2052 we take the pessimistic view that we don't think it could be as great a success as this one!

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- The Canadian Triennial Conference of the
Associated Countrywomen of the World. -

Last August, in 1953, the Triennial Conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World, (A.C.W.W.) was held in Toronto, from August 12th to August 23rd, in the Royal York Hotel, the largest Hotel in the British Empire. It was the 7th Conference of this great International Organization. Previous conferences have been held in Vienna in 1930, Stockholm, Sweden 1933, Washington 1936, London, England, 1939, then a lapse of years here, because of the 2nd World War. The Head Office in London, kept the organization alive and together in spite of the blitz of London, and in 1947, brave Amsterdam in Holland, despite terrific bombing that left the city in a shambles, held a Conference amidst her war rubble. Then Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1950 and Toronto, Canada in 1953. Canada is the youngest country in which a Conference has yet been held, and the interest of all delegates in our own Canada was amazing and heart-warming. The Conference will never come to Canada again in our life-time. Meeting once every three years with 26 countries as Constitutional members makes up a span of 78 years.

Nearly 1000 eager women came together for the Conference, around 700 being delegates and the rest official observers and accredited visitors. Observers were present from Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel for the first time. The countries represented were, Natal, Kenya, Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, Australia, Ceylon, Canada, Denmark, Eire, England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Finland, France, Germany, India, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Scotland, Sweden, and the U.S. Large silk flags of these countries and the flag of United Nations decorated the platform at all times.

At the formal opening ceremonies, held in Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, hearts were stirred by these colorful flags, led by the beautiful blue flag of United Nations, and carried by the girls of our Ontario Junior Institutes and Homemaking Clubs. With everyone standing at attention, the girls, dressed in Royal blue skirts and white blouses, decorated with a red and green maple leaf, walked down the two main aisles, and deposited the flags in receptacles at the back of the stage.

The theme for this Conference was "How Can I as an Individual, and through my Society, contribute to better International Relationships?" Mrs. Raymond Sayre, of Iowa, U.S.A., President of the Association, was the inspiration and centre of the whole Conference, and the high moments of the Conference were when she spoke to us. Here are a few thoughts from her address at the Opening Ceremonies.

"I have been asked the question in our theme many times by members all around the world. The answer is not easy. We live in a world divided. Freedom struggles with dictatorship. No magic formula will bring peace to this tense and fearful world. The problems are too deep for that. We must face up to the fact that there is no easy way, no short cut, no pat answer. The compelling need of our time is to bring some sense of unity to a chaotic world; to build spillways of understanding that channel emotions and feelings into constructive paths. We have no alternative in this small world but learn to live together.

"Now the frontiers are all closed,
There is no other country we can run away to,
There is no other ocean we can cross over,
At last we must turn and live with one another,
There is no man on earth, who must not face this task now."

In our personal lives, we accept the idea that problems cannot be solved immediately. Yet we expect great international issues to be solved quickly and decisively. We must wait for growth in the attributes of maturity of the human race. You, who have learned to wait for seedtime and for harvest, know the necessity of this patient waiting for growth. The hopes that built United Nations are always going to survive. Man's long, upward struggle for freedom and justice and peace, will not perish with us. We must remember it is the things of the spirit that will prevail; that where there is no vision the people perish; that caring counts; that faith and hope count. Our task lies in answering the call that has been given to each of us. 'Give me your life and I will make it a spade to dig the foundations of a new world, a crowbar to pry loose the rocks, a trowel to bind stone on stone and make a wall. You cannot build that wall alone, but you can make sure that you have put one stone in place and made it secure.'

With leadership like this, you can understand why delegates were willing to tackle difficult tasks and why faith and hope were being constantly rekindled.

English is the working language of the Conference. Those delegates who couldn't speak English brought interpreters with them, or one or two of their delegation who could speak English would hurriedly translate important matters to the others.

Here are the objectives of A.C.W.W. Each member is to put them into practice or as Mrs. Sayre so aptly said, "give hands and feet to these ideas."

- (1) To do everything possible to further friendship and understanding between countrywomen of all nations.
- (2) To stimulate interest in the international aspects of rural life.
- (3) To work together for the betterment of rural homes and communities.
- (4) To secure for all countries, the basic necessities of healthy, happy living.
- (5) To maintain our heritage of a fertile and beautiful countryside.

All those attending the Conference wore badges, supplied by the hostess country, Canada. Voting delegates wore one colour - visitors another, and Canadian Committee members still another. All, also wore proudly the large silver maple leaf, the gift of Ontario Institutes and taken home as a prized Souvenir of their days in Canada.

Note: These maple leaves were made by the Metal Signs of St. Thomas.

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Many important resolutions were passed at the Conference, as a basis for study and interest the next three years. Some of these were

- (1) The Conference re-affirmed its faith in U.N. and its efforts to bring peace and freedom to the world.
- (2) The Conference urged U.N. to increase its effort to provide Technical Assistance programs to under-developed and needy countries.
- (3) The Conference urged the movement of goods and services freely throughout the world, and urged international trade agreements.
- (4) The Conference urged greater support for F.H.O. the Flood and Agricultural Organization of United Nations.

Great strides have been made in food production. For the first time in mankind's long struggle for enough food to exist, we have begun to find ways of meeting the problem of hunger. The great difficulty now is the unequal distribution of food. Sometimes simple improvements will raise production, such as a lighter plow, a hoe with a handle, a better strain of seeds.

All delegates had to serve on one of the following Committees; Constitution, Finance, Policy, Publicity. These committees appointed their chairman and Secretary from among themselves, and their findings, after lengthy discussion, were summarized and placed before all delegates in plenary session - meaning full session, for their approval or disapproval.

From the delegates point of view, one of the most informative features of the Conference, was the Round Table Discussions each could attend. These were chaired by the outstanding women at the Conference, assisted in discussion by Government Official and Technical experts. There were 8 in all, Round Table Discussion groups. Lady Coowaraswamy of Ceylon, an interesting visitor in Elgin County and in our Community, prior to the Conference, ably chaired the group "Problems of Rural Women in less developed countries or the World."

The most important source of income for A.C.W.W. is the "Pennies for Friendship" Plan. I'm sure, we are the only International organization who have such a simple and unique way of financing. We have 6 million members around the world, a penny or 2 from each member each year, would yield our organization \$120,000.00. This is not yet adopted by members 100% but it is our goal, and when it becomes a reality a goodly sum will be realized each year. Then, too, constituent members such as the Province of Ontario pay a yearly fee of around five pounds. Also, any Institute member can directly support her International organization by a yearly fee of \$3.00. This makes her a contributing member and entitles her to receive all bulletins and publications from Head Office. These funds support a head office, well staffed to serve 6 million members and pay the President's expenses in her world travels. As Mrs. Payne stated at the beginning of her President's report, "I have completed literally a "mountain-top" experience. I have circled the globe by air, I have looked down upon the earth's strange patterns from unbelievable heights in a jet plane

that silver-streaked its way across Africa. I have travelled by camel across the desert wastes, I have seen the face of many lands. I have travelled along the highways and byways of your countries to meet with you in crowded village halls and I have talked intimately with you by your firesides. Everywhere I have found a door of hospitality generously opened and the friendships of A.E.W.W. made a living reality."

While we are speaking of finances, you will be wondering how Canadian women financed such a Conference. Every Institute member in Canada paid .10¢ and there are 90,000 of us in the Dominion, over half, nearly 48,000 in the Province of Ontario, to help defray expenses. Government, both Federal and Provincial were most generous. A grant from Federal Government enabled us to subsidize the living costs of delegates from sterling areas of the world, \$2.00 per day, for the 10 days of the Conference. A generous Provincial grant helped us in the staging of our Pageant, "The Story of Canada" presented in Maple Leaf Gardens. Big business was interested. The T. Eaton Company of Canada, alone, provided 24,000 of these souvenir programmes for Canada Day and the day following.

Although delegates struggled with weighty problems every day, here and there relaxation was provided in the form of hospitality and entertainment and many new friendships were formed at the various social functions.

Among these events were a get acquainted party on registration day, a dinner given by the Province of Ontario, a tea on the campus of the University of Toronto, following the opening ceremonies. An International Sunday Service in Memorial Hall, at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, followed by dinner there, then on the Stoney Creek, to meet charter members of the first Women's Institute in the world, formed at Stoney Creek, in 1897 by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, whose grand-daughter attended the service there, and to attend suitable memorial services there. Mrs. Sayre, in speaking said, "From all over the world, Institute women at last have come home." A civic luncheon was given by the City of Toronto. A tour of the Ontario Hydro-Electric development of Niagara Falls followed by a luncheon, guests of the Ontario Hydro Commission. In the afternoon the Women's Institutes of Welland County served a picnic supper in the beautiful park overlooking the Falls. A luncheon at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, and a final banquet, featuring products of the 10 Canadian Provinces on the menu completed the Hospitality.

When the 900 delegates and visitors, using 34 buses, with an imposing motorcycle police escort to clear the way, visited Niagara Falls, a small urchin watching all this caravan, was heard to say, "Look at the policemen! They must be awful bad or else they're crazy."

A whole paper would be written about Canada Day, the day set aside for Canadian Institute members to rest and mingle with their guests. It was the high-light of the Conference. Held in Maple Leaf Gardens, which seats 12,000, the H.W.I.C. presented a dramatic and

unusual story of the History of Canada, for the pleasure of their guests, going back to the planting of the cross on Gaspé, down to the present day. Several hundred people were in the cast, including a ballet and a concert orchestra, and chorus. Institute women really took over the Gardens and the City of Toronto that day, coming by private car, special trains and chartered buses, by the thousands.

A whole paper could also be written about the interesting and dynamic personalities present. I have no time to tell you about the beauty of the native costumes, worn by the visiting delegates on Canada Day, about the lace cap worth a fortune in gold and diamonds worn by Mrs. Waiboer of the Netherlands, about a bracelet worn by Mrs. Matilda Greiss of Egypt, consisting of gems from the tombs of the Pharaohs; about the two Beguins of Pakistan (meaning Princess) one of whom, Beguin Malik, was hostess to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt when she visited Pakistan, prior to writing her book "The Awakening East"; of diminutive Dr. Mary Putnam of Ontario parentage who took the Institute movement to Ceylon and is beloved by the women there because of her great work.

It was a marvelous conference, the best and most rewarding one ever held, and letters of tribute and commendation have come in by the hundreds. To quote one "let me pay the greatest compliment to Canada who arranged the most brilliant and successful gathering, makes it doubly memorable."

Mr. Street, Manager of the Royal York Hotel said, "it was the greatest Conference ever held in this Hotel." Also coming in the year of the Coronation of our Beautiful young Queen, makes it doubly memorable.

Our beloved President, Mrs. Raymond Dayre, retired at this conference after 6 strenuous years in office. She gave outstanding leadership and has really made A. C. W. W. stand for something important in world affairs. She gave generously of her time and effort to further the work. In my estimation, she can never be surpassed in office. She was succeeded in the Presidency by Mrs. Alice Berry of Australia, a warm-hearted, capable person, with boundless energy. She owns and manages a sheep ranch of 42,000 acres in West Queensland, that is the grazing land for 10,000 sheep. Mrs. Berry is already planning extension of membership into countries not yet affiliated, such as the countries of South America.

I have been asked many times if such International Conferences were really worth while; worth bringing women around the world at great expense. The most important lesson the Conference taught me was "The importance of such a Conference in pointing the way to peace." for it is my firm conviction that women, gathered from around the world, sitting down at a council table together, to discuss world needs, with betterment of all peoples in their hearts, can do much to promote the understanding and brotherhood that must precede world peace. The foundation of a truly just and happy world, must be laid by privileged women

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like ourselves in the privileged countries throughout the world. We will only lose this opportunity if we are too lazy to think, too indifferent to see and too selfish to stretch our helping hands across the world.

The supreme moment for all, at the Conference, was the finale of the opening ceremonies held in Convocation Hall, when women of different races, creeds and customs joined together in singing the inspiring 'Hymn of all Nations!

"This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine,
This is my love, the country where my heart is,
This is my hope, my dream, my shrine,
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams the same as mine."

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine,
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are sometimes blue as mine,
Oh hear my song then, God of all the Nations,
A song of peace for their land and mine.

May 30, 1954

Dorothy E. Fatcher.

P. S. - Mrs. J. R. Fatcher was President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario from 1947 to 1950. She was sent as a delegate to the Federated W.I. of the World, to ~~Holland~~ *associated country women of the world* and sent daily reports to the Ontario W.I. through the press, (Abroad with Me.)

*A.C.W.I.?
Copenhagen
Denmark*

Mrs. Fatcher was Chairman of the Program and Hospitality Committee for the Tenth Conference held in Canada in 1953 and afterwards reported to the Dominion Board. Because of her services as Chairman of the Program and Hospitality Committee for the T. Conference, Mrs. Fatcher was one of four Dominion members to be awarded a National Life Membership Badge of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.