

YOUR FARM HISTORY FOR THE TWEEDSMUIR BOOK OF HISTORY

Will you please write the story of the History of your farm/home and family using the following questionnaire as a basis for the information desired?

If you do not wish to write it in story form, please fill in the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

- 1 . Who were your ancestors that first settled in Canada?
- 2 . Where were they from?
- 3 . Their Family (briefly).
- 4 . Your parentage and family— listing all names and where they are now.
5. Why did your ancestors choose this tract of land?
- 6 . How many acres originally were in the tract?
- 7 . Cost per acre ?
- 8 . Term of purchase ?
- 9 . Purchased from whom ?
10. When first house built?
Of what?
Where?
How large?
11. First barn?
Type?
Where?
How large?
12. First livestock
How many?
Where Bought?
What kinds?
How much?
13. Water, history of systems.
14. When was the present house built?
15. When was electricity installed?
16. When was the telephone first installed?
What system?

TWEEDSMUIR BOOK OF HISTORY (CONT'D)

17. When was the first bathroom installed ?
18. When was the present barn built? Type: Size:
19. Type of farming done on this land?
20. Special crops? When grown? Acreage?
21. Outstanding yields?
22. Any additions or sales from original tracts? When?
 To whom?
23. Any additions to buildings? When?
24. Any fires? Cause? When?
25. Any orchards? Planted when? Kind?
26. History of antiques or old implements.
27. Reforestation?
28. Outstanding seasons remembered?
29. Comparative taxes of 1800's, 1900, 1925, 1950, 1960, 1990, 2000, to present?
30. Any information of interest?
31. Have you any pictures of former or present buildings or others of interest which you would care to donate to the Book ? Please enclose.
 If you do not wish to part with them I can arrange for them to be copied.
32. What is the location, giving lot and concession, and name of this farm above described?
33. Why was this name chosen ?

Your Farm History for Tweedsmuir Book Of History (con't)

Thank you for any information you can offer and we trust to have this returned by

.....

TWEESMUIR HISTORY COMMITTEE:

BRANCH:.....

CURATOR:.....

N.B. If you need more space to answer, turn to the empty sheet provided, number the question you are answering and continue your story.

FWIO's 75th anniversary marked by Elgin branches

It is 75 years since the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario came into being, and the anniversary was marked in happy fashion by Elgin County WI's, last evening, when members from all points in the county gathered in the Grace United Church to view the numerous displays and enjoy the program.

A highlight of the evening was the cutting of the huge anniversary cake, and this pleasant ceremony was performed by Mrs. Keith Heipleh, chairman of the rally committee.

It was an evening of fellowship and reminiscence, as speakers recalled how Erland Lee and Adelaide Hoodless laid the groundwork for what was to become a world-wideing of the WI took place at Stoney Creek, Ontario, and the FWIO have purchased the homes of Mrs. Hoodless and Mrs. Lee as lasting tributes to their memory.

Displays depicting the history of Elgin WI's and the areas which they represent were inspected by the many who attended the event. A great deal of work went into these displays, with most of them containing precious memorabilia whose history is entwined with that of the community they represent.

Rev. L. J. Coates, pastor of Grace Church, welcomed the assemblage and told how he had admired and respected

their accomplishments and helping to build good citizens.

"The WI is something to be admired," he said. "This year it is 75 years young. We really need what the WI stands for in these times, for it is always so alert and alive.

Greetings from the Provincial Board were brought by Mrs. Lorne Daniels, FWIO Board director, and from London Area by Mrs. Wallace Laidlaw, second vice-president of the area.

A. V. Langton, Elgin County's representative for the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, conveyed his good wishes and those of his department. He introduced Elgin's new home economist, Miss Lois Ferguson, who arrived in St. Thomas on Thursday, to begin her duties. She extended good wishes on behalf of Mrs. D. G. Marcou, who has been acting home economist.

A paper, prepared by Mrs. J. Robinson Fulcher, titled A Few Highlights of My WI Experiences, was read by Mrs. Herb Jackson, who also presented highlights of Elgin County Rally. The history of East Elgin was given by Mrs. J. Gowan Young, and that of West Elgin by Mrs. Vermont Pow.

A skit, The Women's Institute Story, was much enjoyed, and its presentation was given by Mrs. Roy McNeil and Mrs. Young.

Singsongs, led by Mrs. Max Alton, with Mrs. E. McCurdy at the piano, were enjoyably participated in by all present, and other segments of the program which were a source of entertainment were the Dutton Highland Dancers, a ballet dance group, and the latest in fashions.

The 75th anniversary song was sung to conclude this part of the evening, and following

this, a candlelighting ceremony was conducted, with Mrs. George Corneil as soloist.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 1972 Elgin WI Centennial Scholarship of \$100 to Miss Kathy Martin, RR 8, St. Thom-

as, to further her studies at the University of Guelph.

APRIL 21. 1972
Times Journal



THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE — Mrs. Keith Heipleh, chairman of Elgin County Women's Institute Rally, had the happy task of cutting the 75th anniversary cake last evening, when WI members from all points in Elgin County, gathered to mark the founding of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. (T.-J. Photo).



A LABOR OF LOVE — The display arranged by Middlemarch WI, traced not only the history of the branch, but of the community as well. Mrs. Robert Lyle puts a few finishing touches to the exhibit, which included items beloved by members of the community, and which are silent reminders of days gone by. (T.-J. Photo).

Times Journal

APRIL 21, 1972



WORLD PRESIDENT HONORED — Members of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute hosted a tea in honor of World President Mrs. Zina Westebring Muller of Holland, President of the Association of Country Women of the World. Pictured here from left

to right is Mrs. Grace Campbell, Board Director of Subdivision 22 of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, Mrs. Sylvia Cerna, Elgin East District President, Mrs. Muller, Mrs. Eleanor Stover, President of Kingsmill-Mapleton WI and Mrs. Janet

Hiepleh, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and Mrs. Muller's hostess during her visit in Ontario. Mrs. Muller will be guest speaker at the 85th celebration of the formation of the first WI group in the world Thursday in Toronto. — (T-J Photo).

WI members honor World President

It's not often a world leader drops by Elgin County.

Saturday night, members of the Kingsmill-Mapleton branch of the Elgin East Women's Institute hosted a tea for Mrs. Zina Westebring Muller of Holland, world president of the Associated Country Women of the World, one of the largest WI's in existence.

Mrs. Muller, who has visited WI branches in the Caribbean, the United States and Canada for the past 20 weeks, arrived in Elgin County late Friday afternoon, one week prior to the 85th celebration of the formation of the first WI in the world.

About 1,700 members are expected to attend the celebrations Thursday at the Constellation Hotel in Toronto, where Mrs. Muller will be guest speaker.

The evening tea held at Mapleton Church of Christ (Disciples) attracted about 100 WI members.

Greetings were extended to Mrs. Muller from Ron McNeil, MPP for Elgin, Bob Millard, reeve of South Dorchester, Mrs. Sylvia Cerna, President of East Elgin WI and Mrs. Ralph Palmer, president of West Elgin, Larry Shaw, warden of Elgin County, Mrs. A. E. Dale of Oxford South WI and Mrs. Grace Campbell, Elgin

County rally chairman and Mrs. Ruth Pappelle of London area WI.

Also in attendance was Karen Van Roojen, the Kingsmill-Mapleton representative for the Aylmer Fair Queen competition. Music was provided by the Mapletones and Mrs. Aletha Bradt and Cindy Bradt.

Mrs. Muller, who can speak five languages, said she hopes to meet as many WI members during her three year term as possible.

She described her eight-week visit in South Africa and the lifestyle of women in that country, noting that many earn money by working in the mines,

creating handicrafts or weaving.

She said as president of a group of nine million

members she never declines an invitation.

Mrs. Muller has now visited Canada four times.

AUG 7, 1982



**Kingsmill-Mapleton
Branch
of the
ELGIN EAST
WOMEN'S
INSTITUTE**

Hosting a Tea
in Honour of
ZINY WESTERBRING-MULLER,
A.C.W.W. World President,

August 7, 1982
6:15 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

MAPLETON CHURCH OF CHRIST
(DISCIPLES)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Leader: Mrs. Gertrude Davies

Organ prelude: Mrs. Inez Smith

Institute Ode:

A goodly thing it is to meet
In friendship's circle bright,
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet,
Nor dims the radiant light.
No unkind word our lips shall pass
No envy, sour the mind
But each shall seek, the common weal;
The good of all mankind.

The Mary Stewart Collect

THE MARY STEWART COLLECT

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness, let us be
large in thought, in word and deed;
Let us be done with fault finding and
leave off self-seeking;
May we put away all pretence and meet
each other face to face, without self-
pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and
always generous;
Let us take time for all things; make us
grow calm, serene, gentle;
Teach us to put into action our better im-
pulses, straightforward and unafraid;
Grant that we may realize that it is the
little things that create difference;
that in the big things of life we are one,
And may we strive to touch and know the
great human heart common to us all,
and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

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*The Mapletones* (accompanied by Carol Reith):

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Welcome: Mrs. Eleanor Stover, K.M.W.I. President

*The Mapletones*: "Pass It On"

Greetings

Duet: Mrs. Aletha and Cindy Bradt

Introduction of Mrs. Ziny Westerbring-Muller, Guest  
of Honour: Mrs. Janet Hiepleh

Duet: Aletha and Cindy

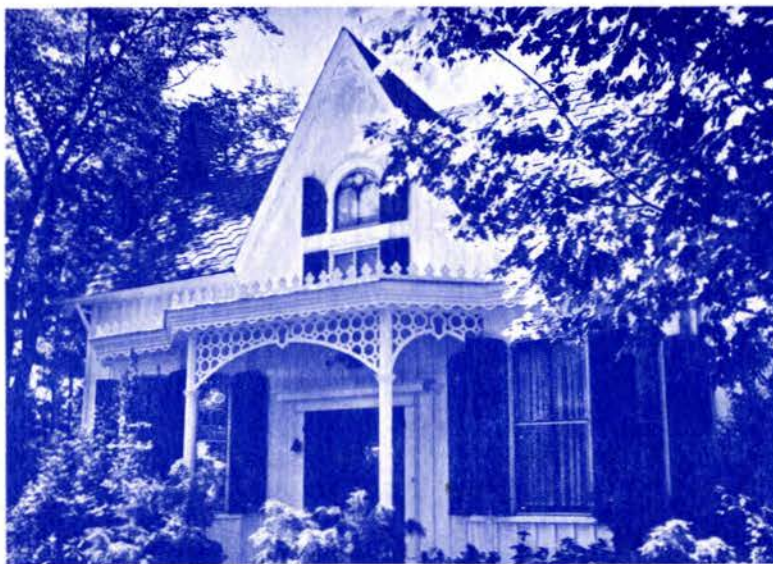
God Save the Queen

Institute Grace

"We thank Thee, Father, for Thy care,  
Food, friends and kindness we share;  
May we forever mindful be  
Of "Home and Country and of Thee."







The Erland Lee Museum Home

## 85th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON



in honour of the founding of  
the Women's Institute in Ontario

**GALAXY BALLROOM**  
Thursday, August 12, 1982  
12:00 noon

**CONSTELLATION HOTEL**  
Rexdale



1897



1982

## PROGRAMME

### CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Keith Hiepleh

President, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE GRACE

We thank Thee, Father for Thy care  
Food, friends and kindliness we share;  
May we forever mindful be  
Of "Home and Country" and of Thee

### HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

### GREETINGS

### GUEST SPEAKER

Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller,  
President, Associated Country Women of the World

### THEME

"From a flicker to a flame"

ELGIN COUNTY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE RALLY  
RECOGNITION NIGHT

in honour of  
MRS. KEITH (JANET) HIEPLEH  
President

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario 1981 to 1983



Banquet 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, November 4, 1982  
Springfield Lions Community Hall  
Springfield, Ontario



# History of Women's Institutes is outlined

The first Women's Institute in the world was organized at Stoney Creek Ontario on February 19th 1897. From there the organization has spread around the world and now boasts of over seven million members. All these women believe in the motto of "For Home and Country" and in doing so they are not only able to help themselves and their community but also their country and the whole world.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario are divided into 14 Areas. The women from this area belong to the London Area with the counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford, Huron and Perth. Each area is divided into Districts and one of these is Elgin West.

Elgin West District Women's Institute began in Dutton, Ontario on February 10, 1905, through the interest and enthusiasm of Mr. Archie MacColl secretary of the Farmer's Institute. For the next three years meetings were held regularly with ladies from all over West Elgin attending. The first District Annual was held in Dutton on June 12, 1908, with 50 women present; this meeting was the real beginning of Elgin West, and by 1913 the thriving group could pay their secretary twenty dollars a year. In 1917, seven branches reported raising \$3,384. for the war effort. Now Elgin West boasts 14

branches in the townships of Southwold, Dunwich and Aldborough.

A scholarship fund was begun in 1951 to commemorate the centennial of Elgin County. This is a joint project with Elgin to reward an Elgin County girl each year for her outstanding 4-H work.

Early projects of Elgin West District included medical inspection of all schools, area health nurses, St. Thomas Memorial Hospital, Byron Sanatorium, music instructions in schools, public speaking competitions, prohibition and legal rights for women and immigrants.

Two ongoing projects of Elgin West District are the Daffodil Tea and helping at Elgin Manor. In 1960 Mrs. Ida Galbraith, then Elgin West District W.I. president saw the need for service to Cancer patients in the area. She held a tea at her home, it was a success and from this beginning the Annual Daffodil Tea was started. Each year a branch hosts the tea with the other branches assisting and attending. This is one way of helping the people in our community. Another way is helping the aged of the community. For with out their work in the past Ontario would not be the province it is today. When the Elgin Manor Home for the aged (or Senior Citizens Home as it is now called) on the outskirts of St.

Thomas was still in the planning stage The Administrator, Mr. Ivan Patterson called a meeting of the executives of Elgin East and West Women's Institutes to discuss organizing an auxiliary, the purpose of which would be to provide extra comforts for the residents such as bus trips and furnishings not provided by public funds. The Auxiliary operates a Tuck shop where residents can purchase candy, tobacco products and toilet articles. Also a small tea room is operated. This Auxiliary has now spread from the Women's Institute involvement to include other church groups and service clubs.

The late Mrs. J.R. Fitcher, a former president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, felt the need to establish a Museum in Elgin County in order to preserve our wonderful heritage of artifacts and history. She approached Elgin County and with the help of Elgin East District, and the Imperial Daughters of the Empire the funds were secured and the museum established. Just another one of the things that the community now has thanks to the Women's Institute.

During the past year the Cowal Branch of Elgin West obtained a Bicentennial Grant from the province and published their Tweedsmuir History.

They were pleasantly surprised at how quickly the copies were sold.

Not only do the Women's Institute of Elgin West help with The Elgin Manor and the Pioneer Museum but also with 4-H clubs, local fairs, Bobier home, local halls, shut-ins and bereaved of the community, War Memorial Childrens Hospital, collectively for Heart and Cancer Funds, helping women of the third world through pennies for friendship, sponsoring children overseas, providing education for its members through OMAF short courses, support of the Erland Lee Home and the Adelaide Hoodless Home, scholarships for the young people of our community, making a cookbook to sell at the up coming Ploughing Match in Elgin County. Where ever there is a need in the community the Women's Institute of Elgin West will be there helping in the background without a great deal of fanfare.

Other districts in the London Area also do a great deal for their community. Without the Women's Institute rural Elgin West and in fact rural Ontario would not be the great place it is to live today.



As I take up my knitting and sit in the sun,  
I count o'er my blessings, one by one.  
And the best of all, without dispute,  
Is being a member of the Institute.

When as a bride I settled here  
Life for women seemed cold and drear;  
I'd like to hear any mere man dispute  
The boon that came with the Institute.

Oh, how I hated the daily grind,  
Dreading to stop, lest I get behind  
So over-wrought that I wanted to hoot,  
When they asked me to join the Institute.

Then the coldness melted, it did me good  
To meet other women, as I should.  
And my heart warmed up, that was the fruit  
Of that cup of tea at the Institute.

They made me President, and I learned  
To love the women I had spurned —  
The lovely things that constitute  
The hearts of the women of the Institute.

At first I felt my knees grow weak  
And how I dreaded to get up and speak.  
But with a heart that was resolute  
I gained new poise at the Institute.

Now if the men sometimes make a fuss  
It's just because they envy us.  
For they have nothing of such rapture  
To compare with the Women's Institute.

And my husband soon saw that our home meant more  
And we were happier than ever before.  
When I come home, you can hear him toot —  
"Well what's the news from the Institute?"

And my eyes fill up at the thought of it  
How common place things have come to guilt  
When faced in the spirit of the Institute.  
God bless the woman whose thought it was  
To do this thing for the women's cause.  
The good of which we can ne'er compute  
When she gave to the World the Institute.

NOTE: Next week we'll give an inkling of how the  
activities are envisioned by the men.

**H**aving given members of area institutes an entire  
week to gloat we now find some delight in  
offering the (Men's Version) of the Women's Institute.

As I sit at home and smoke my pipe,  
I think the time is almost ripe  
For women to wear long pants and a suit  
From the wisdom they've gained at the Institute.

The Mother of old spun our homemade clothes  
Our sisters mended our battered hose.  
That our fare was plain I will not dispute,  
For we had never heard of an Institute.

Our food was plenty — good, wholesome and clean,  
But salads and jellos were never seen;  
Our mothers were housekeepers of some repute,  
Though nothing was known of an Institute.

But now I am old and unable to roam,  
I would very much like the comforts of home.  
But my wife plays the piano and my daughter the  
flute,  
At meetings of the Institute.

My shirts are all torn, the buttons are off;  
I wash my socks in the old horse trough;  
That my wife is busy there is no dispute,  
For she's a member of the Institute.

I eat my toast raw and drink cold tea,  
For my wife is as busy as she can be;  
She's writing a paper on canning fruit,  
Which she will read at the Institute.

Now I make my own bed and sweep the floor,  
And clear all the rubbish away from the door;  
While my wife is busy preparing to hoot,  
About "Home and Country" at the Institute.

"You need not expect me at home for tea,"  
Was the parting salute my wife gave to me,  
"We're having a lady of some repute  
To lecture today at the Institute."

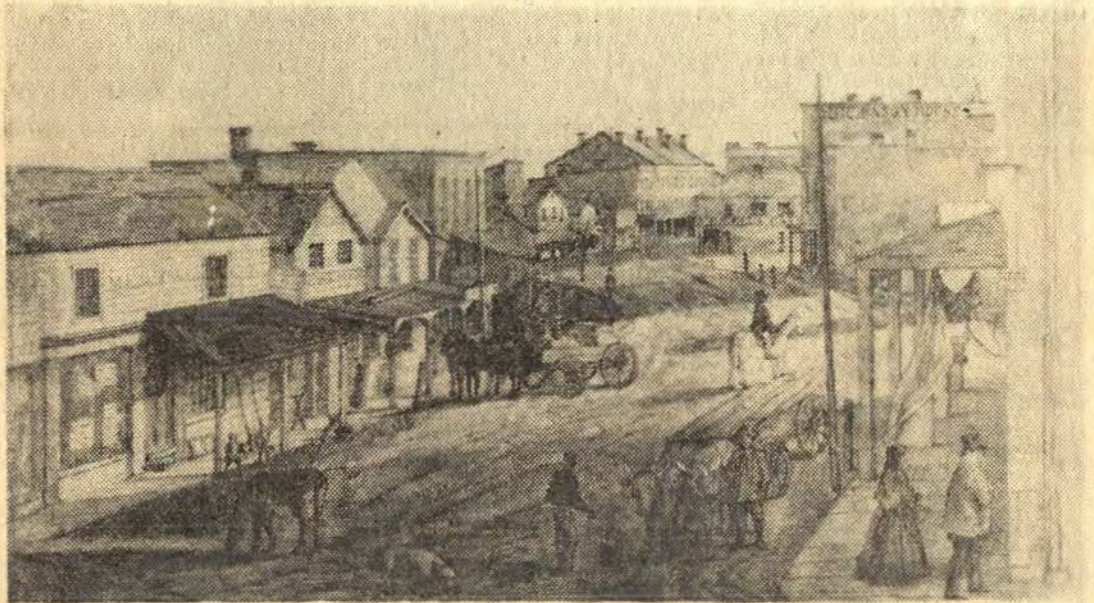
"There are some old potatoes on the pantry shelf,  
If you find anything else just help yourself;  
The lady comes prepared to refute,  
Your silly views of the Institute."

Presented as a skit by Middlemarch W.I. members  
at Elgin West District Annual.



# After Sixty Years

By R. W. JOHNSON



**WEST TALBOT STREET IN 1862** — A main street scene in the village of St. Thomas nearly a century ago when the old stage coaches operated through the pioneer community over the old corduroy military road from London to Port Stanley, later

called the London and Port Stanley gravel road. The drawing by an unknown artist is of the scene looking east along Talbot from Church street, showing a row of stores and shops along the north side of the street which lined the brow

of Kettle creek ravine, all of them long since gone. At the right and at a distance of about a block stands the Hutchison House, a famous hostelry of the old days. The curve in the street in the distance is still there at the Stanley street intersection.



One of our readers has sent in a picture of the old West End of St. Thomas taken about a hundred years ago. From about Church street looking east, it shows the Hutchinson House on the south side of the street, and a row of frame buildings in the left foreground opposite what is now the westerly part of the Metal Signs property.

These frame buildings were perched along the brow of the hill, and have been long since removed. Possibly they had to go when the road down the hill-side and across the bridge to Lynhurst was first built.

But in 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie and Joshua Doan had a printing plant there or a little farther west. Loyalists became so angered at them that one night they chopped down the posts supporting the building and dropped everything in disorder down the hill.

The easterly buildings were not in so precarious a position, and one or two remained standing 60 years ago and for a few years afterward. A big brick building farther along, about opposite the Town Hall, also stood until about 40-years ago. After it was razed, the excavation and rubble remained until Sam Graham's service station was built on the site.

In one of these old frame buildings 60 years ago, Bob McCully had his harness shop, and in another, Meek Bros. held forth. These were famous gossip centres where municipal matters and political questions in general were thoroughly discussed, for Bob and Tom Meek were members of the City Council year after year.

The old ward system was still in vogue, and all they had to do to keep elected was to please the few ratepayers of St. Andrew's Ward. John Merry, carpenter, was also prominent in St. Andrew's Ward politics, but he preferred to remain on the School Board where he kept his seat similarly year after year.

In the East End, Pat Meehan, William Trott and Sperrin Chant were likewise councillors year after year for St. David's Ward.

The years went by with few changes on the Council, but in time the ward system was done away with. Then St. Andrew's, with its smaller population, and St. George's and St. Patrick's also to a considerable extent, found themselves somewhat dominated by fast-growing St. David's. The old Tammany Hall rings were broken up, and gradually the old East and West rivalry died out.

When I went back home for Easter in my first year here, a merchant who knew where I had located asked me if Bob McCully was still alive. As a young

journeyman harnessmaker many years before, he had stopped off for a few months in St. Thomas and had worked for Bob. He asked me also about the fine new Baptist Church which was being built when he was here away out in the newer part of the town.

When I told him that Southwick street was by then about the centre of the growing city, he was amazed at the thought of it. He also sent his regards to Bob. He had prospered in his shoe business in Port Hope, where he had finally settled down. St. Thomas lost a good citizen when he decided to move along.

Speaking of Bob McCully's as a meeting place for local politicians, it must be admitted that there were several others. Beal and Martin's tailor shop, in the rear of their store, was one. This was a labor centre where Zack Rowland, Albert Roberts, R. N. Price and others threshed out the country's employment problems and political economy in general.

In time, some of these men got on the City Council and modified their views. They had good intentions and were honest in their convictions. Price became

Mayor, and a good one and Roberts a valued member of the School Board and later one of the Public Utilities Commissioners.

Another small group met every Saturday evening in the back shop of Meehan's shoestore and played euchre. They were of various political beliefs, and had many arguments, but without hard feelings. Among them were Pat himself, George K. Crocker, W. E. Idsardi, Angus McCrimmon, George L. Oille, Peter Stewart and some others.

And we must not overlook those who dropped in daily at Angus Murray's tailor shop opposite Pearl street. This was a predominantly Presbyterian gang, but all were not Grits at that. They included Angus Murray, David McLaws, D. K. McKenzie, Andrew Grant, James Carrie, Sr., and sometime Dr. Duncan McLarty and the minister, J. A. Macdonald.

All these men took a keen interest in the growing community. There were no such questions as social security, income tax, atomic energy, parking lots, or cocktail lounges. What did they find besides politics and last Sunday's sermons to talk about?