

socials with maybe the Oneida Indian Band for an added musical attraction.

Today the Junior Farmers and Junior Institute organizations use the hall for their meetings and socials.

They were not always gala occasions that the hall was used for. In the years 1914 to 1918 farewell parties were given for the boys entering the armed forces. At these farewells the boys were each given a ring and a Bible and it was one of these Bibles that saved the life of one of the boys. A bullet struck the Bible in his breast pocket but was prevented from entering his chest which would most certainly have caused his death. Some local boys who joined their country's ranks were Garfield Page, George Bowes, George Carter, Norman Harris, Art Davidson in the First World War, and in the Second World War Ross Berdan, Claire Payne, Tom Blackman, Archie Malcolm and Russell Dawdy.

These are only a few of the events of interest that took place in the old hall before it was obtained by the Womens Institute in 1950

Since 1927 the women of this community belonged to what was the Talbotville and Paynes Mills Womens Institute, but, owing to the growing number of members and there being 2 schools to work for, it was thought best to form 2 seperate branches and in 1946 the Paynes Mills W. I. was formed with Mrs. W. H. Sutton as its first president. At that time the Union Hall was owned by the Township Council and governed by a board of trustees and used for community activities.

After 1950 under the direction of the W.I. it still played an important part in the social, cultural and educational activities of the community and halped enrich the lives of the people.

In 1952 the W.I. celebrated its 25th anniversary in conjunction with Talbotville.

Much of the money needed to keep the hall in repair and in running order has been raised by catering for such worthy groups as the Kiwanis, the Rotary, the Y.M.C.A. and other clubs from St. Thomas. Receptions have been held for weddings and anniversaries; banquets for Plowing Matches and Ball clubs, lodges and private groups. At one banquet the departmental Minister of Agriculture for Holland was a guest.

The old foul supper gave way to the Chicken Barbecue and is a great success too. Oyster suppers that used to be given for the patrons of the cheese factory are now an annual popular event each February and a means of making money for the W. I. We have held teas, card parties, and dances and all have helped to keep the coffers full and the community together. Many bus trips have been sponsored and enjoyed by the W. I. to the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, Cinerama and the Ice Capades in Detroit, to the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, to the A.C.W.W. convention in Toronto, the 50th anniversary of the W.I. in Guelph, to the Royal Winter Fair, the glass factory in Wallaceburg, the Libby, McNeil and Libby factory in Leamington, Kellogg's and McCormicks in London, the McConnell nursery in Port Burwell and Pinecroft Pottery in Aylmer, and this summer to the Quilt and Craft Fair in Orilla and the Stephen Leacock

Memorial Home.

Many short courses have been taken and enjoyed--hat making, glove and mocassin making, block printing, lamp shades, copper toolong, furniture renewal and many more.

Interesting programs have been given at meetings like "Live A Borrowed Life", "Queen for a Day," films and slides and travelogues, demonstrations and many interesting speakers on all subjects.

Newly-weds and those leaving the community have been honored and remembered. The sick and the shut-ins and elderly are always remembered at Christmas.

The W.I. has sponsored the 4 H homemaking clubs for girls from 12 to 26, and many girls have gone on to receive their Provincial Honors. The leaders deserve special tribute for their faithful leadership, some have worked for 5 years or more.

Many other Institutes have been entertained throughout the years--one busload came from Amherstburg and were entertained at a dinner at the hall and then taken on a tour of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum in St. Thomas. Our institute has always taken an active interest in the Museum and helped in many ways to make it become a reality. We have generous supporters of the Cancer Society, the C.N.I.B. and the Children's Hospital.

Five members have received life membership pins and certificates--Mrs. W. H. Sutton, Mrs. E. Gilbert, Mrs. F. Dawdy, Mrs. Anna Kelly and Mrs. M. Adams for their ability, leadership and devotion.

On December 27, 1961, the final and farewell party was held in the Union Hall when members and friends met and reminisced over past activity and, no doubt, planned for the future. The new hall was under construction and before the old one was bulldozed and demolished Mont Pow saved for us the old name plate with the date 1906 on it.

The new hall was first used for our Family Night supper in January 1962 and a farewell party for three families leaving our community--one into retirement in St. Thomas, one to a farm in another district and one to a new job in Toronto.

These things have all made Paynes Mills a good place to live in over the years.



MR SCOTT MCKAY ENTERTAINED FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS OF WARDEN A. AUCKLAND AT A DINNER AT THE PAYNES MILLS HALL AND FOLLOWING THE DINNER MR. MCKAY PRESENTED TO THE INSTITUTE A BEAUTIFUL UNITED NATIONS FLAG.

AT THE HEAD TABLE WERE REV. SHIELDS OF TALBOTVILLE
WARDEN ALBERT AUCKLAND
MR WILLIAM MCKAY.
MR. SCOTT MCKAY
MR RALPH AUCKLAND.



PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF A FLOWERING CRAB
AT THE ELGIN COUNTY MUSEUM-----1967

BY ELGIN COUNTY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE RALLY.

MR M.C. MOORE--MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER & REPRESENTING THE CITY.
MRS GOWAN YOUNG--PROVINCIAL BD. MEMBER.

and SECRETARY OF MUSEUM.

MRS VERMONT POW--PRES. COUNTY RALLY.

MRS E. S. DOWN-----SECT. COUNTY RALLY

MRS WM. HOLMES-----1ST VICE PRES.

MR ALBERT AUCKLAND--WARDEN OF ELGIN COUNTY.

Mrs. Douglas,
Lisnaneane,
Sandholes,
"Ireland"
Cookstown.



Delegates from overseas to Tri-annual in Mich.

April 8/69

Delegates from overseas travelling by bust to the Tri-annual Conference in Michigan stopped at the Paynes Mills Institute Hall, where they were entertained at luncheon and enjoyed a get-together and tour of the old McKay Homestead before preceeding on to the Convention. *A.C.W.W.*

GEORGE E. BERDAN IS DEAD AT TALBOTVILLE

Lifelong Resident of Talbotville District

George Ernest Berdan, a farmer of the Payne's Mills district for many years and a respected resident of Talbotville for the last 17 years, died at the family residence, Talbotville, Saturday morning, following a heart attack. His death was very unexpected. He was born at Payne's Mills on February 21, 1872, a son of the late Epaphras and Laura Smith Berdan, pioneer residents of the district. He moved to Talbotville 17 years ago after retiring from farming. He was a member of the United Church at Talbotville.

Surviving Mr. Berdan are a son, Clarence Berdan, Talbotville; a daughter, Mrs. Charles W. Kettlewell, St. Thomas; a brother, William Berdan, Talbotville; a sister, Mrs. Frank Abbott, Glencoe; seven grandchildren, Mrs. Walter Gould, Talbotville; Mrs. Raymond Saunders, Aylmer; A. B. Howard Kettlewell, R. C. N. V. R., Halifax; Olive, Joyce, Jean and Marlin Berdan, Talbotville, and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Berdan's wife predeceased him three years ago.

The remains rest at the Sifton Funeral Home where the funeral service will be held next Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. Mr. Bridgett of Guilds will conduct the service. Interment will be made in the St. Thomas Cemetery.

W. W. Styles Dies at Age 74



W. W. STYLES

The death of W. Wentworth Styles, retired Southwold Farmer and husband of Mrs. Emily E. Styles, R. R. 7, St. Thomas, occurred at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital on Monday morning after a sudden illness. He was 74.

Born at Payne's Mills, Southwold Township, he was a son of the late Isaac Styles and Rose-ltha Annett, farmers at Payne's Mills. Mr. Styles had farmed in Southwold Township all his life. In younger years he had also been employed at the Dominion Gas Company in Dutton and later in the New York Central Railway shops in St. Thomas.

He was a member of St. John's Anglican Church in St. Thomas; a member of the St. Thomas Lodge L. O. L. 989; Royal Scarlet Chapter;; Royal Black Knight Chapter.

Mr. Styles is survived by his wife, four daughters, Mrs. Cecil (May) Luscombe, Gary, Indiana; Mrs. Thelma Draper, R. R. 7, St. Thomas; Mrs. Dorothy Harris, London, Ont., Mrs. Ross (Grace) Jewell, 53 Arthur Avenue; two sons, Melvin Styles, and Raymond Styles, both at home, and 11 grandchildren. One brother, Ethridge Styles, 134 First Avenue, and several nieces and nephews also survive. One son, Carson Styles died several years ago, as well as a brother, Frank Styles and a sister, Amelia Styles.

Rev. E. J. Shilliday, rector of St. John's Anglican Church will conduct the service at the P. R. Williams & Son Funeral Home on Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock. Interment will be made in the Frome Cemetery. St. Thomas L. O. L. 989 will conduct a memorial service at the funeral home on Tuesday evening at seven o'clock.

Payne's Mills Resident Celebrates 90th Birthday



MRS. MOLLY SIMPSON.

A birthday to remember is one's ninetieth, and that of Mrs. Molly Simpson, of Payne's Mills, was well remembered when the celebrant was honored yesterday at the home of her son, Ross Berdon, and Mrs. Berdan, at a family party. A marquee was erected on the back lawn, and there was lots of room for all the nieces and nephews and great grandchildren to gather and wish a happy birthday to the senior member of their family. Mrs. Simpson is the only living member of the Andrew Horton family, her parents being among Elgin county's earliest and best known residents. She is the mother of two children, Ross, and Hazel, who is Mrs. H. Willett, of Roseville, Mich. She has one grand-daughter and three great grandchildren, in whom she evidences great pride.

The late Edward A. Horton, of

St. Thomas, was a brother, as was Andrew Leslie Horton, publisher of the Vegreville, Alberta, Observer. A sister, Mrs. Samuel Down, of Frome, and another sister who resided in Windsor, composed the family, and the old family home is still a residence in Frome. Mrs. Simpson has lived in the Payne's Mills-Frome area practically all her life, except for a period, forty-five years ago, when, following the death of Mr. Berdan, she went to Vegreville.

Her keen humor was most apparent when she was giving a brief resume of her past life to a representative of The Times-Journal. "Silly to go to all this fuss for nothing," she waved her hand in the direction of the feminine members of her family who were busily stuffing turkeys and preparing salads for the birthday supper. "'t isn't anything," she disparaged, as though nine decades of living were marked every day. She went out West just two years ago to visit her brother and his wife, and remarked about the return trip, which she made to Toronto by herself: "The porters and conductors were so nice to me," she said. "Why, they just couldn't do enough for me. I got along just fine."

She is not an advocate of young marriages, but thinks 25 or 26 is a good age for marriage. "A girl has got some sense then, and has had a chance to have a good time before she's married, instead of waiting till afterward. I was 25 when I was married and I never regretted it," she concluded.

Mrs. Simpson lives alone and does her own housework. She did spend a time last winter with her daughter in Roseville, but likes being at home. She is a member of the United Church at Frome and a life member of the Woman's Association, though she said regretfully, that she couldn't get to as many of their meetings as she would like. "I don't drive and it's a little too far to walk, though there was a time when I could have made it." Vim and vigor and a love of life all seem to be attributes of the lovable nonagenarian, and are likely an excellent formula for longevity. Nieces and nephews in attendance for the party included: Mrs. Fred Lee, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Verne McKillop, London, Ont.; Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, R.R. 1, St. Thomas; Edward Horton, Peterborough; and Clarence Horton, R.R. 1, St. Thomas.