

W.I.

Tweedsmuir
History

RIVER
Road

Vol. 5



Gather for WI London Area Conference

Nov 5 1962



Some 300 women from Women's Institute branches in five counties are attending the two day annual of London Area Convention which opened at the Hotel London yesterday morning. Pictured at the

registration desk, standing from left to right, are: Mrs. M. B. Stockton, Strathroy; Mrs. Florence Cupples, Tillsonburg; Mrs. S. A. Fulton, River Road; Miss Florence Eadie, Toronto, supervisor of Homemaking Clubs, Ontario Department of

Agriculture; and Mrs. Curtis Campbell, West Elgin. Seated are board members Mrs. John E. MacLean, Seaforth; Mrs. Milton Pardy, Mount Brydges, and Mrs. Mervin Hicks, Ostrander.



By MAXINNE BARKER
Free Press Staff Reporter

Exchange programs through which Women's Institute branches are paired with similar branches in other parts of the world was suggested as a means for local women to literally become "women of the world" by Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, president of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario, speaking at the two-day London Area convention which opened yesterday in Hotel London.

Mrs. Lymburner, recently returned from Australia as delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World conference stressed the importance of Canadian women accepting the responsibilities and challenges facing women all around the world.



Nov. 3 1964
THEIR WEDDING GOWNS—A highlight of last evening's program at the London Area W. I. convention was the parade of wedding gowns from days gone by. They were the carefully-kept treasures of families, brought from their safe repositories for showing on this memorable occasion. Only two of the gowns, which dated back to 1850, were worn by their owners, Mrs. Fred Bawden (left) of Payne's Mills W. I. and Mrs. William Metler, St. Thomas, a member of the River Road W. I. Both were married in 1900.—(T.-J. Photo)



Nov. 3 1964
DESIGNED TWEEDSMUIR COVER—The award for the prize design to be used on the Tweedsmuir Book for London Area was presented to Mrs. R. G. McBride, of Ilderton, at last evening's banquet. The prize-winning design will be tooled in leather to encase the history in story and picture, of events of the London Area Women's Institute. The presentation was made by Mrs. C. M. Williams, R. R. 8, St. Thomas, London Area curator.—(T.-J. Photo)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1963

NEWS OF INTEREST TO WOMEN



'WAY BACK WHEN—Early shoppers on Talbot Street this morning rubbed their eyes at the sight of this quintet, and wondered if perhaps they were dreaming of things as they were in grandma's day. But it wasn't that—nor was it some early celebrants of Hallowe'en. Instead, in company with their fellow employees at Zeller's, the five are wearing these

old-fashioned costumes for the next several days to mark the company's anniversary. Hoop skirts, crinolines, top hats, fancy vests and poke bonnets are the order of the day, and to judge by the broad smiles, no one is having more fun than their wearers. From left to right are seen Miss Lillian Ross, Warren Smith, store manager; Miss Bonnie Barner, Mrs. Allan Walters and Mrs. Dorothy Lang.—(T.-J. Photo)

1963



RURAL SCHOOL CHOIRS SING AT FESTIVAL OPENING—

Always a highlight on festival programs, the singing of school choirs this morning again delighted patrons attending the Rotary Music Festival. Seen above are pupils of the one-room River Road School, S.S. 4, Southwold, who competed this morning. Left

to right, front row: Rosemary Reck, Karen Jane McPherson, Mary Campbell, Arend Groenendyk, Bob VanHoeve, Peter Groenendyk, Stephen Fulton; back row: George Wymenga, Paul Minor, Dugald Campbell, Alex Lindsay, Shirley Allison, Miss W. Schipper, teacher, Clarence Reid, Wilco Wymenga, John Campbell and John Reck. —(T.J. Photo.)

N 24/24/52



BARBARA EDITH REID,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril
Reid, RR5, St. Thomas.

June 1952

Mrs. W. Cummings Is Stricken at 61

A well known White's Station district woman, Mrs. Ethel Cummings, wife of Thomas Cummings, died at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital late Wednesday morning. She was 61 and had suffered a long illness.

Born in Bottery, Eng., Mrs. Cummings was a child when she came to Canada and lived for a number of years in Chatham before moving to Port Stanley. Since her marriage, she and Mr. Cummings had farmed in Southwold Station a short distance west of White's Station. She was a member of the River Road branch of the Women's Institute.

Surviving besides Mr. Cummings are three daughters and six sons, Mrs. Jack (Edith) Gudgeon, Aylmer; Mrs. Glen (Winnifred) Morse, Bayham; Miss Alice Cummings, at home; Wallace R., Aylmer; Alfred E., 98 Gladstone avenue; Clarence R., 49 Moore street; Laurence G., Sparta; Gordon K., Shedden, and Jackson R., at home; also two sisters and one brother, Mrs. William Tatford, Sarnia; Mrs. Nora Johnson, Niagara Falls, Ont., and Alfred Britnell, St. Catharines; also 29 grandchildren.

The remains are resting at the P. R. Williams and Son funeral home where Rev. S. A. Selby, of the Union United Church, will conduct the funeral service at two p.m. Friday. Interment will be made in Union Cemetery.

Elgin Manor, Built in 1875, Being Razed

A building that has housed the aged and homeless since its erection in 1875 will soon be no more.

The old Elgin Manor, located three miles west of St. Thomas on the Talbot Road was replaced last year by a new Elgin Manor and the old one being

The third such establishment to be built in Canada, the Manor was erected under the provisions of the House of Industry act passed in 1866. It was also designated "House of Industry" until 1949 when the present legislation covering the housing of the aged was enacted, changing the name to "Elgin Manor".

The purpose of the Manor has not always been the housing of the aged. When first completed it was occupied by persons of all ages who were destitute, homeless or unable to care for themselves. They took up residence there under the jurisdiction of a magistrate's court order.

Demolition of the main building and the laundry and lounge sub-structures will be completed by this spring.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1965



WALLS TUMBLE — The 90-year-old former Elgin Manor yielded to men and modern machinery yes-

terday. The building has been replaced by a new one-storey Elgin home for the aged.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1965



SOON AN EMPTY SPACE — The Elgin Manor, built in 1875, will be no more than a memory in the spring when demolition of the building is completed. Now only a skeleton remains of what had been a home

for the aged and homeless since its erection. The new manor, built in 1964, provides residents with spacious, modern facilities that were not possible within the walls of the old building.—(T.-J. Photo)



REMINDER OF PAST — This chest is the only article left on the second floor of the old Elgin Manor laundry. The only marking on the chest was a pin-up—1890 style—which might have been taken out of a newspaper or magazine read in those days. Whether or

not the chest ever contained treasures of the old world or even if it contained the belongings of the manor's first tenant will never be known. The laundry along with the other buildings attached to the old manor will be demolished and cleared by the spring.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1964

Elgin County's New Home for the Aged To Be Officially Opened



A CREDIT TO ELGIN COUNTY—The new Elgin Manor, situated on the old Talbot Road just west of St. Thomas, is not only a credit to the committee, designers

and contractors responsible for its completion, but will be one of the most attractive sites in the county when landscaping is complete. The building will be

officially opened on Wednesday by the Hon. Louis Cecile, Ontario Minister of Public Welfare, at a ceremony at the Manor beginning at two p.m.—(T-J. Photo)



VISITS RESIDENTS — Hon. Louis P. Cecile, Minister of Public Welfare for Ontario, took a few minutes before Wednesday's official opening ceremonies at the new Elgin Manor home for the aged to visit some of the resi-

dents. Left to right the photo shows: I. J. Patterson, superintendent of the home; Mr. Cecile; Russell C. McKibbin, Warden of Elgin County; and Miss Margaret Currie, the oldest living graduate of the Amasa Wood Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. (T-J. Photo).

400 Attend Official Opening

"A home, not an institution" "home with a capital 'H'"; "a great link in the overall program of Elgin County municipalities," and "a landmark of the continuity and progress of Elgin County in its second hundred years of development".

These are but a few of the descriptions applied to the new Elgin Manor, opened officially Wednesday afternoon by Hon. Louis P. Cecile, Minister of Public Welfare for Ontario.

About 400 persons, half of whom braved a chill wind in -degree weather, witnessed the impressive ceremonies.

Mr. Cecile spoke as follows: "We consider that new buildings are required to embody the new concepts of care for the aged. The County Home of the present day serves far different purposes than those in the nineteenth century. In that era, the homes were mainly intended as shelters for the elderly who were too poor to live elsewhere. Then, it was not so much the fullness of years, but the emptiness of their pockets that brought the residents to a Home.

"One evidence of this is the fact that each home used to maintain a large and well-stocked farm. The residents were expected to work the farm and many could do so because they were still comparatively young and fairly active. This was a means of self support. Now the average resident is much further along in years and usually beyond the capability of working. In the typical home of today, half the people are over 80 years of age and most are over 70. Needless to say, they are not required to work and the farming aspect has come to an end, practically everywhere.

NOT JUST SHELTER

"The home is different because it exists to serve a different need. We can say, thankfully, that they no longer are intended to shelter the elderly person so poor that what he needed most was a roof and three meals a day. The word pauper has gone from our language because that figure has largely vanished from our society. Certainly, there are still old people who are not well off. We cannot be complacent about the unfulfilled needs of some of our elderly citizens.

public authorities suffers from a lack of the ordinary necessities of life. Absolute destitution in old age is a spectre of the past.

"This is basically because of a general rise in standards of living. Directly, the absence of all but the rare case of destitution is due to the Old Age Pensions and welfare allowances that are so widely distributed. One may concede that in some instances these are meagre. But the difference between "not enough income" and "no income at all" is vast. We all consider we suffer a little from that insufficiency, but our senior citizens do have some funds in their hands for their day to day support.

"Other welfare programs supply such things as low rental housing, nursing and health care on a free or partly free basis, to those who need them. Actually, the percentage of aged people who require public assistance of any kind is surprisingly low.

"So the great expansion of homes for the aged must be explained from a different point of view than economic necessity.

"Men and women come to a home primarily for personal attention, not for support. Almost all of them can afford to contribute a part of the cost. In fact, I note from our records that fully one half the people in Elgin Manor pay the total charge.

CARE ALL IMPORTANT

"The home for the aged is built around the concept of care. This is a fact that I insist should be well known. Only by an understanding of this function, can we have the right attitudes to, and do justice to our homes for the aged and the people who live in them.

"I am glad to see that this is recognized in the new Elgin Manor. Like other municipal homes, it is divided into sections for normal care, bed care and special care.

"I can tell you that I know of Homes built in the last decade where six or seven years after completion the demand

was so heavy that a new wing was added and then, perhaps, a few years after that another wing was built. This demand proves that the typical modern municipal Home is answering a real social need.

"It is a different need, as I have tried to point out, than in earlier times, just as this new Home is different from the Elgin Manor built ninety years ago. Yet, it is something to be recognized that you are carrying on a local tradition of public care for the aged almost a century old. This building is one of

the landmarks of the community and progress of Elgin County in its second hundred years of development."

After his address Mr. Cecile turned over a cheque for \$15,000 to Warden of Elgin County Russell McKibbin, which represented a portion of the \$343,000 paid by the Province for the new building.

SUCCESS APPARENT

Noble Tufford, Reeve of Southwold, chairman of the opening program, told the audience that Elgin County Council during the past three years, has endeavored to follow the policy of the home being "a home, not an institution" in all their planning.

"As you can see, it is apparent that we have achieved a fair degree of success. But it has only been because of the great degree of co-operation that existed throughout the planning."

Msgr. W. S. Morrison of Holy Angels' Church, St. Thomas, and Rev. E. J. Shilliday, of St. John's Anglican Church, St. Thomas, officiated at the invocation, dedication, and benediction.

In dedication, Msgr. Morrison said: "May this building always stand as a testimony to the fine and noble quality of Elgin County."

Both clergymen asked the blessings of God upon the building and its occupants.

N. Drew, director of the homes for the aged branch of the Department of Public Welfare, who acted closely with the Elgin County Council throughout the building of the home, said it was with pleasure that his department shared the pride of the Council and residents of the county.

Former director of the branch L. E. Ludlow, spoke briefly also, and commented: "This is a home with a capital 'H'."

Others speaking briefly included Reeve C. D. Phillips, of Bayham Township, who introduced dignitaries on the speakers' platform: Elgin County Warden Russell McKibbin; Mrs. C. W. Sinclair, president of the newly formed Elgin Manor Auxiliary; Ivan Patterson, superintendent of the home; Ron. K. McNeil, MPP, Elgin, who introduced the guest speaker; Jack Spence, MPP, East Kent, who thanked the guest speaker; G. Duncan Black, designer; and Reeve K. C. Emerson, of Vienna.



—Photo by Stollery.

Erie Midday Smoke Pall Has Millions of People Wondering

Darkness Envelops Ontario and Thousands of Square Miles of America from Great Lakes Border to New York and Down to Virginia

Sunday was a day of eerie twilight. It was the day the sun turned blue.

Over Ontario, Ohio and Michigan, as over thousands of square miles of America—from the Great Lakes border to New York and down into Virginia—a yellow-tinged darkness spread over Sunday's sky.

To some it looked like a tornado brewing. Other feared that the cloud came from an atomic burst. And there were those who called newspapers and asked if it was the end of the world.

The real cause was human. Forest fires in Northern Alberta, 360 miles northwest of Edmonton, had been belching it up for a week until it hung in a blanket 10,000 feet thick, between two layers of clouds.

The air mass that held the smoke moved eastward and then south. Early Sunday, it floated over the border at Lake Superior. The smoke stream was more than 100 miles wide.

By 10 a.m. Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., was wrapped in complete darkness. Street lamps were turned on. Drivers snapped on their headlights.

And elsewhere where the sun had risen as a moon-like silver disc obscured by atmospheric haze, an unearthly coppery hue filled the hea-

vens at church time.

Gradually the sky turned leaden. It was black by 11:30 a.m. in Detroit.

When the sun tried to poke through that murky overcast, it came out the wrong color. It was a flat purple-blue.

Watched With Foreboding

From time to time during the day, the darkness faded a little and then a sickly yellow light seeped through the ominous clouds.

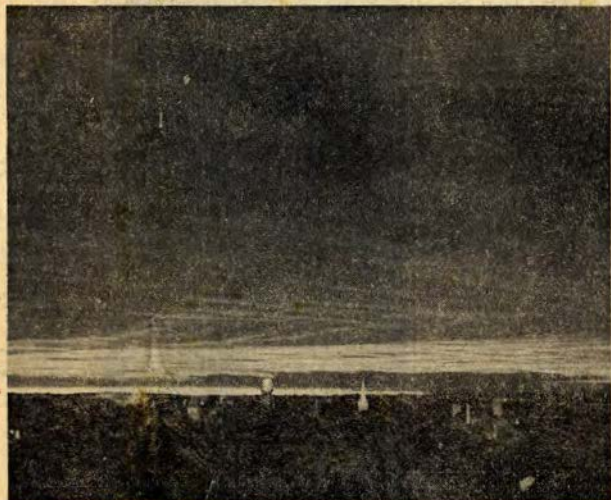
Little groups gathered in neighborhoods and watched the sky with foreboding. The phenomenon was rare but not unprecedented. The smoke hung between 7,000 and 17,000 feet, caught between a cold cloud mass above and warmer cloud banks below.

Detroit's first period of darkness lasted until about 1:30 p.m. Again at about 3 p.m. a two-hour period

HERES a photograph worth keeping if only because with most people, it will be difficult for them to visualize from memory in a day or two just what it was like here Sunday afternoon when day was turned into night by the dense cloud of smoke from woods aflame in northern Alberta which was carried more than 2,000 miles across the continent to blanket southern Ontario and the northeastern United States. This photograph was taken looking east along Talbot street as the clock on the tower at the city hall showed two p.m. and the illuminated signs and store fronts along the street were ablaze. It required a time exposure of 20 seconds at an aperture of F.11 to take this photograph, and even at that, to force the development of the negative. At that time of "night" on Sunday afternoon, sensitive light meters reading in foot candles gave no reading whatsoever. The long streaks of white along the length of the street are from the headlights of cars moving along the street during the time of the exposure.

Turn to SMOKE PAGE 6

Sunday's Darkened Sky As Seen From Court House



—Photo by Spallery.

THE rim of the horizon to the north and the east of St. Thomas spread an eerie band of light on the underside of that huge black cloud that turned Sunday afternoon into night hereabouts. This 20-second time exposure photograph was taken from the dome atop the Elgin County Courthouse at about 2.20 Sunday afternoon, looking east across the tree-tops and taller buildings of the city. Hidden among the trees in the lower right foreground may be seen the third floor and roof of Wellington street school, which was barely discernible to the naked eye when the photo was taken. More toward the centre of the picture are the spire of Trinity Church and the Tower of Knox Church, and the water tower on Amelia street silhouetted against that white band of light beneath the farthestmost edge of the cloud.

RIVER ROAD W.I. HONOURS MEMBERS WITH 60 YEAR F.W.I.O. PINS

Velma Campbell (left) and Lillian Ross (centre) were presented with 60 year F.W.I.O. pins by Cathy Cook, Branch President.

Velma became a member of F.W.I.O. in 1937 followed by Lillian in 1939.

Velma was part of a group of ladies instrumental in setting up an Auxiliary for the Elgin County Long Term Care Facility which opened in 1964 and was aptly named Elgin Manor.

Each year Velma opened her home to neighbours and W.I. members to host a summer tea and for many years hosted a coffee break in the fall. She is a true believer in community spirit being kept alive.

Lillian has served the community in her own special ways. She has been actively involved with the Elgin County Pioneer Museum in both personal and Branch Delegate capacities. Her interest in historical events and documentation expertise has enabled her to write articles for presentation at special events and in Elgin County publications.

Both Velma and Lillian were active participants in the restoration and beautification of a local family cemetery some three decades ago. The Mellor Cemetery is still maintained by River Road W.I. with financial assistance from Elgin County.

W.I. friends of Velma and Lillian congratulate them for their many years of service and look forward to many more years of their dedication to W.I. activities and, of course, their continued friendship.





Elgin Federation of Agriculture

"Farmers Working for Farmers"

Elgin Administrative Building,
450 Sunset Dr.,
St. Thomas, Ontario.
Phone : (519) 633-0114

c/o Ruby Silcox
Secretary Treasurer,
R.R. 3, Shedden, Ontario.
N0L 2E0
Phone : (519) 769-2362
Fax : (519) 769-2161
E-mail : rsilcox@execulink.com

Lillian Ross, Secretary
River Road W. I.
17 Schreyer Street,
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 6E6

August, 6, 2001

Dear Sir :

Elgin Federation of Agriculture is currently in the process of developing our representation on the OFA web-site which can be accessed at this address :

<http://www.ofa.on.ca/>

Our web presence, until this time, has consisted of a single page posted by OFA, listing our board of directors, their phone numbers, and their e-mail addresses where applicable. We are replacing this page with a multi-page, internally and externally linked site which will include, among other things, advisement of current issues and concerns that pertain to our members, a calendar of meetings and events, and a photographic impression of Elgin County agriculture. We will also be providing a links section to the site which will afford easy access to weather sites, market reports, and other sites of interest to the farming community.

As part of the links section we would like to post an all-inclusive directory of commodity groups, Womens' Institutes and 4-H clubs functioning in Elgin County, much like the *Elgin County Rural Organizations* publication currently made available through the *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs*, but hopefully, far more extensive. The directory will list each commodity group with as much or as little of the following information that you may wish to provide. (Be advised that this site is accessible to the general public) :

- Full and proper name of the commodity group.
- Area/County Representatives (incl. name, address, phone no., fax no., & e-mail address).
- Board members (where applicable) with same contact information as above.
- Day, time, and location of regular meetings.
- Contact information for provincial and federal commodity affiliates with active links to their sites (where available).

Information updates will be requested annually in order to maintain accuracy of the directory.

Please use the enclosed *reply form* to provide us with the information needed to include your commodity group in the directory. When completed (a.s.a.p.), please mail or fax the form to the following address :

Lizeanne Kerkvliet, R.R. 1, St. Thomas, Ontario. N5P 3S5 Fax: (519) 633-0216

For further information about this project, call me at (519) 633-1125 or Ruby Silcox at the Federation Office (519) 633-0114. You may also e-mail us at these addresses :

**Lizeanne : mail@whitetailgenetics.net
Ruby : rsilcox@execulink.com**

Sincerely,

Lizeanne Kerkvliet
Township Director, Southwold.

Elgin Federation of Agriculture
OnLine Directory of Commodity Groups and Rural Organizations
Information Update

Please be aware that all information provided will be available to the general public

Full and proper name of group or organization :

County / Area Representative :

Name : _____ Address : _____

Title/Position : _____ Phone : () _____ - _____ Fax : () _____ - _____

E-mail : _____

Board Members :

Name : _____ Address : _____

Title/Position : _____ Phone : () _____ - _____ Fax : () _____ - _____

E-mail : _____

Name : _____ Address : _____

Title/Position : _____ Phone : () _____ - _____ Fax : () _____ - _____

E-mail : _____

Name : _____ Address : _____

Title/Position : _____ Phone : () _____ - _____ Fax : () _____ - _____

E-mail : _____

Name : _____ Address : _____

Title/Position : _____ Phone : () _____ - _____ Fax : () _____ - _____

E-mail : _____

To include more members and/or for notes and further clarification, please attach a separate sheet.

Day, time, and location of regular meetings : _____

URL / Internet addresses for Commodity Affiliates :

Provincial : _____

Federal : _____

Other information and/or Links that would be useful in this directory listing :
