











Curators' Workshop

The Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Curators' Workshop was held at Dashwood Community Centre on August 9th, 1988. Huron South District acted as hostess and there were eighty-eight ladies registered from the ten districts in the London Area.

Mrs. Kay Ross presided over the meeting, with Gertrude Sloan reporting on the secretary-treasurer's work.

Greetings were extended by Mrs. Marion Dougall, F.W.I.O. Board Director; Mrs. Irene Richardson, London Area President; Mrs. Helen McKenzie, District President of Huron South, and Mrs. Dolores Shapton, Curator of Huron South.

Mrs. Katherine Becker and Mrs. Mary Rader gave interesting information on the "History of Dashwood."

Mrs. Mary Moore and Kay Ross discussed "House Logs."

The afternoon speaker was Mrs. William (Fern) Dougall, of Dashwood, spoke on the "History of Usborne Township," displaying original maps and deeds. "When you recall early history, it is hard to realize what the pioneers thought."

A book is being compiled to celebrate 150 years of Usborne Township in 1992.

In collecting pictures or clippings, be sure to put a date on everything and the name of the person supplying the information.

Draws were made for awards for the 23 House Logs on display. There were also several Tweedsmuir books and an agricultural display.

Next year's workshop will be held on the 2nd Tuesday in August, 1989, in East Elgin, probably in Straffordville.

Mrs. Shapton and her committee were thanked for hosting the successful event.

Attending from West Elgin were Mrs. Robert Walker, Mrs. Elgin McIntyre, Mrs. Frances McCallum, Mrs. Gertrude Sloan, Mrs. Emma Pyatt, Mrs. Ron Leitch and Mrs. Malcolm McArthur.

Shedden W.I. holds Christmas meeting

Mrs. Kaye Chamberlain opened her home for the December meeting of Shedden Women's Institute. Christmas decorations and a cozy natural fire in the fireplace enhanced the Christmas season.

The meeting was chaired by President Brenda Silcox who read "The Legend of the Poinsettia, the Christmas Flower." After a brief business meeting, reports of various committees were given.

A social time followed in which Mrs. Beth Vicary entertained with a Christmas solo accompanied by Kaye Chamberlain. Mrs. Chamberlain gave a reading, telling the story of the midwife present at the birth of Jesus. Carols were sung to accompaniment of Kaye Chamberlain, Brenda Silcox and Beth Vicary on organ and keyboards. The highlight was the performance by all members in a rhythm band, instruments and instructions provided by, and under the baton of Mrs. Chamberlain. The evening ended with a Christmas contest and lunch served by the committee of Kaye Chamberlain and Beth Vicary, assisted by other members.

Dates to remember:

January 30th, Workshop at Yarmouth Centre - "The Art of Delegating", 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; February 25th, Outreach Seminar at Southwold Public School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oneida councillor discusses tribe

Wayne Hill, a councillor with the Oneida Nation of the Thames Valley Council, was the guest speaker at the Shedden Women's Institute family night January meeting.

A pot-luck supper was enjoyed by members and their families, after which Mr. Hill, a Fanshawe College Graduate and formerly with the Department of Indian Affairs London and Toronto, gave an enlightened presentation. He explained the council is made up of the chief plus 12 members, each member overseeing certain issues. His responsibilities include education and welfare. Within the Oneida Band are three clans — Wolf, the negotiators, Bear — the strength of the band, and Turtle — the framework of the Tribe.

The Oneida Tribe is one of the six nations, having come to Canada from north New York State, buying the reserve land from the Canadian government in 1840. The Oneida clan has a population of 2,800 with 1,700 living on the original land which covers 5,000 acres. Children are educated on the reserve until Grade 5, with Grades 6 through 8 attending school in Lambeth. One of the current education issues is returning the teaching to the native language from Grades 1 through 5. After responding to questions from the floor, Dora McArthur thanked Mr. Hill and gave a monetary gift to the Oneida clan.

Roll call was answered and a brief business meeting was held. June has been proclaimed as Women's Insti-

tute Month for 1989. The theme for 1989 is women and the environment.

The next meeting is Feb. 22 with a tour of the St. Thomas Ford Plant in Talbotville.

Shedden Women's Institute tours Talbotville Ford plant

A tour of the Ford Motor Co. Talbotville Plant was the highlight of the February meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute. Retired Ford Co. employees Bill Herdman and Bill Kroble conducted the two-hour tour which took members through the process of the building of a car from body shop, paint shop, trim line to the finished product in quality control.

The Crown Victoria and Grand Marquis models are built exclusively at Talbotville Plant with 90 per cent shipped to the United States.

A short business meeting followed over dessert and tea at the Wayside Inn, with roll call, name a product made in Canada, answered by 10 members and four guests. It was agreed a donation would be made to the

Shedden 4-H Club. *Feb. 1989*
Jean Palmer, Margaret Campbell and Pauline Silcox will work at the tuck shop at Elgin Manor on March 13. Dora McArthur, Carol Gordon and Cheryl Garvin will form the nominating committee for Institute offices for next year. A court whist party and auction will be held at the home of Mrs. Palmer on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. with proceeds from the auction benefitting the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

Convenor Mrs. Gordon and her committee were thanked for an enjoyable and informative evening and the meeting adjourned with the motto "It's good to linger, stop for a chat. There should always be a time for that."

Horse riding helps the disabled

Citizenship and World Affairs was the theme of the 14th meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute. The roll call "Name a Woman You Admire" brought forth names from mayor Janet Golding and England's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the neighbour next door.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Jeanne Greenberg who initiated London's first Special Ability Riding Institute (SARI) in 1978. This organization provides disabled persons with the recreational and therapeutic benefits of horseback riding and driving. SARI is a member of Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association, Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association, North American Riding for Handicapped Assoc. Inc., and Riding for the Disabled International. Riders and drivers have physical and mental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, vision and hearing impairments, Downs' syndrome, etc. They may be any age and are referred by their own doctors, assessed by the SARI Admissions team before being accepted into the program. There is no charge to riders and drivers. The exercise obtained in the program help them adjust to their disability by improving balance and co-ordination and their self-respect. They

are able to show their independence and skills, not their limitations. SARI is located on Medway Road just west of Denfield Sideroad. Facilities include an outdoor riding ring and a heated, insulated indoor arena with guidance under experienced instructors. Approximately 150 disabled persons participate weekly. 150 volunteers assist at the Institute. SARI receives no government or corporate funding. Funds are raised from private donations, community organizations and service clubs. Mrs. Greenberg presented two videos which gave evidence of the many benefits provided the participants from this program. In addition to the regular year-round program there are special summer programs. For more information regarding SARI you may address mail to SARI, R.R. 1, Arva, N0M 1C0.

Correspondence was read, various committees gave reports and Mrs. Carol Gordon reported on the District Annual meeting. The nomination committee gave their report.

Upcoming events: May 3rd, 2 - 4 p.m., The Elgin Manor Tea; May 3rd, 7:30 p.m., Kensington Club Dessert Tea; May 17th, 6:30 p.m., District Annual hosted by Cowal W.I. at Wallacetown Hall with

"Women on the Move"; June 14th, Elgin County Pioneer Museum Strawberry Social.

Lunch was served by Convenor Mrs. Jean Langley and committee Mrs. Viola Howe and Mrs. Connie Silcox.

Shedden W.I.

On March 15th an evening of Court Whist and an auction was sponsored by the Shedden Women's Institute at the home of Mrs. Pat Palmer, with proceeds going to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. President Brenda Silcox, welcomed members and guests and after explaining the rules of the game, four tables enjoyed a lively hour of Court Whist, with several members taking the hour to chat.

Eleven articles with a purchase price of \$5.00 or less, were donated by members for auction. The auctioneer, Paddy O'Brien (Lois Oldham) and his (her) assistant, Dora O'Carthur (Dora McArthur) straight from the Emerald Isle to celebrate upcoming St. Patrick's Day in Canada, gave hints re contents of the wrapped articles and an enthusiastic auction ensued, with guest, Peggy O'Leary (Peggy Lehrbass) from Alvinston, assisting as bookkeeper.

Card tables were placed to form a long table and guests enjoyed a lunch served by hostess Mrs. Palmer and the committee, with much lively conversation and laughter rounding off a fun evening, with approximately \$75.00 raised for the Museum.

April 1989

Life in China explained by woman who lived there

The April meeting of Shedden Women's Institute was held at the home of the convenor Jean Palmer and opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode. Roll call, an interesting or amusing experience while travelling in another country or Canada, prompted many tales of amusing incidents and some pitfalls of travel.

Shedden WI will sponsor the next 4H project landscaping. Pat Palmer, Madeline Parks, Eileen Orchard and Margaret Campbell volunteered for the tuck shop at Elgin Manor. Mrs. Palmer gave a report on the recent WI rally. Reports were received on remembrance, welcome and Elgin Manor committees. Margaret Turner, reported for the museum committee, stating that trips will be sponsored again this summer to the Grand Bend Summer Playhouse. Details will follow.

The secretary's report was given by Connie Silcox and the financial statement for the past year by Beth Vicary. Auditor Mrs. Campbell re-

ported the financial records to be in order.

Mrs. Parks installed the slate of officers for the coming year. All officers and convenors remained the same as last year with the executive consisting of past president — Mrs. Palmer; president — Brenda Silcox; first and second vice-presidents — Cheryl Garvin and Lois Oldham; secretary — Mrs. C. Silcox; treasurer — Mrs. Vicary.

Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Palmer thanked all officers and convenors for their co-operation and diligence during the past year.

The speaker for the evening was a former Shedden woman, Pat (Chamberlain) Stannard, of Camlachie, who lived for 15 months in Shanghai with her husband and two youngest daughters. Her husband, a chemical engineer with Polysar Canada was the chief engineer on a joint venture of Polysar Canada and a Chinese company founded in 1981, Gaoqiao-Polysar Company, a petro chemical company.

The Stannard family lived in a hotel consisting of 45-60 single family dwellings, fully furnished. This building was situated in an area which included several foreign consulates.

There was little privacy in their daily lives. The foreign families were able to buy vegetables and fruit in season. Meat and food is transported in open trucks with no refrigeration so daily shopping was required and extreme care given to washing all food.

The five-year-old daughter attended a school situated in and by the American consulate and was driven to and from the school by the Stannard assigned driver.

Mrs. Stannard told of the poor living conditions of the native Chinese in Shanghai. The Chinese live with several families in a dwelling with four and five members in two rooms. In most areas there is no heat so the natives wear layered clothing night and day which is washed once a week and dried on bamboo poles extended from the windows.

Since there is no plumbing in the dwellings, they use the street-corner facilities, with the refuse escaping onto sidewalks and streets. Only the wealthy can afford doctors or a stay in hospital. The hospitals are not heated and the families of patients

provide daily food. Doctors are among the poorest paid professionals in China — the highest is a taxi driver.

The Chinese are allowed by government to have only one child per family. The children attend large overcrowded schools with lunch provided. Daycare and nursery schools are provided by the government. Only the wealthy can afford high school or post-secondary school education.

The natives work seven days a week with Christmas and New Years, and four other days throughout the year, their only holidays. There is no entertainment, so the people walk, window shop, sit in restaurants or play cards by the curbside. Streets are deserted by 9:30 p.m. each night. They have no cars and many are lucky to have one bicycle per family.

Mrs. Stannard said the foreign families were provided with TV programming consisting of politics, opera and foreign language films, education films and cartoons. On display were an addicus, hand-embroidered formal occasion dress and jacket, several pieces of jade, hand-made and decorated nesting boxes and a Chinese musical instrument.

Lunch, which included Chinese cookies, fortune cookies and Chinese tea, followed the speaker.

Shedden Women's Institute meeting

May, 1989

The motto for the Citizenship and World Affairs meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was "We have much to learn from those who flee to us", and the roll call "Put yourself in the place of the refugee: What would be on your mind?" evoked a greater understanding of refugee concerns in arriving in a new country with no knowledge of language, the monetary system, sometimes without friends and or relatives.

President, Brenda Silcox, opened the meeting with The Institute Ode and The Mary Stewart Collect, after which she thanked the secretary, Connie Silcox, for the preparation and printing of the programs for the coming year.

Excerpts from Elgin County 4-H publication were read, as well as a letter from Mr. Jack Riddell.

Margaret Turner, Jean Palmer and Lois Oldham will attend the Elgin County Pioneer Museum Strawberry Social on the afternoon of June 14th, attending room displays from 3 to 4 p.m. Brenda Silcox, Jean Langley, Connie Silcox and Pat Palmer agreed to form the planning committee for Shedden Fair. Carol Gordon gave a report on the District Annual. Out of the report, area Institutes are asked to billet a group of Institute members from England travelling Canada this summer. Another speaker stressed the importance of members being willing to take office. Keeping four points in mind - prepare before the meeting, go with a positive attitude, take notes, and write up reports following the meeting.

Guest speakers for the evening were Margaret and Bill Moore of Shedden who took everyone through the step-by-step procedure of sponsoring a refugee family to Canada. Through his place of employment Mr. Moore was made aware of a family of three who were in a refugee camp in Malasia and needed a sponsor to bring them to Canada. Knowing the United Church of Canada supports the sponsorship of refugees, Bill approached Rev. Roger Rice, minister of Bethany United Church in Shedden and Frome

United Church. Both charges agreed to the sponsorship and a separate fund was set up for the project, with a contact person and a treasurer appointed from each charge. Funds were raised separately but both shared equally. Contact was made with the Immigration Dept. who located and checked out the suitability of the family, as well as Canada Manpower, the Public Health Office of Elgin, and Cultural Exchange department.

The response from both communities was overwhelming. Besides monetary donations, furniture and household items poured in. In September 1988, one year from the initial inauguration of the project, the contact persons were notified that the family would arrive in London the next day, with no actual flight or arrival times known. After many phone calls by the contact persons, arrival time was determined, and it was agreed Mr. and Mrs. Moore would meet the family in London, without even the aid of the Cultural & Exchange representative who was to assist them with the arrival. Through much sign language, the language barrier was overcome and the tired, frightened and confused family were delivered to cousins in St. Thomas. The next day an unemployment insurance number was set up for the father who had a job waiting for him at United Tech in St. Thomas. OHIP was put into effect, and both parents enrolled in English as a Second Language course at Arthur Voaden Secondary School. Within two weeks of their arrival an apartment had been located and work crews from the two charges had readied the premises for occupancy.

Now, one year later, family is coping well. Funded by the Federal Government the mother is taking a dressmaking course through Fanshawe College campus in St. Thomas, and is already doing sewing for family and new made friends. Through the father's job they were able once to finance themselves independently. The charges check regularly the family progress and are now happy to report that they are doing very well and adjusting to their new life, attending their own day-to-day living, and are happy and healthy in their new environment.

Those of the community who contributed financially made donations of furniture and household items, contributed much time toward babysitting and the welfare of the family, can feel satisfaction and be proud of a huge undertaking carried to completion in a most satisfactory manner.

Next meeting is June 28th with husbands invited, for a tour of CASCO Co. in London to meet at Bethany Church at 6:30 p.m.