

PEACE CELEBRATIONS

WORLD WAR I

When our boys returned from World War I, Sparta citizens tendered them a reception and gave them the following printed address with the gift of a ring, viz. -

"The community and citizens of Sparta desire to extend to you a very cordial welcome on your return to Canada. We appreciate the noble deeds of valour performed by our soldiers, who by their splendid conduct, have brought everlasting honour to themselves and our fair Dominion.

We therefore ask you to accept this ring as a constant reminder of our gratitude."

Sparta 1919.

WORLD WAR II

On Friday evening April 5th, 1946, the citizens of Sparta and district showed their appreciation of the war services of their young men and women, when a "Sparta Community Night" was held, starting with a full course turkey dinner in the basement of the United Church, and concluding with a presentation ceremony and entertainment programme in the auditorium of the Continuation School.

Attractively engraved book-ends were presented to twenty-four Sparta veterans who attended the function. In all, forty-nine veterans received memorial book-ends, while others were presented to the families of the three young men who paid the supreme sacrifice. Each book-end set was engraved with the name of the recipient and carried the crest of the branch of the services to which he was attached, as well as the Sparta inscription. It was a general expression of goodwill, appreciation and thankfulness from the community.

The Sparta Women's Institute, the Red Cross branch and the church groups were active in promoting and financing the commendable idea.

At the presentation ceremony Mrs. Alice Higgs was chairlady. The honoured guests were welcomed by Rev. G. W. Sherman, pastor of the Sparta Baptist church; the names of the recipients were read by Walter Rogers and the presentations were made by Rev. J. G. Barnard, pastor of the Sparta United Church.

The entertainment was provided by Jack Metcalfe and associates of St. Thomas and by local talent. Mrs. Norman Oille was general convener of the committees that arranged and carried out the Sparta Community Night plans and the presentation ceremony was very largely attended.

SPARTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - WORLD WAR II

During the years of World War II, the members of the Sparta Women's Institute worked through the Red Cross, this being the policy of the Women's Institutes throughout Canada.

A Yarmouth Red Cross branch was organized with headquarters at Yarmouth Centre and the women of Sparta and district formed a very active work group. A worthy share of the sewing, knitting and quilting was contributed by members of the Women's Institute through this group.

An electric sewing machine was also purchased by the Women's Institute to help speed up the work in the Sparta Red Cross rooms.

The making of jam for Britain was a special project of the Women's Institutes throughout Canada. In 1941 the Sparta branch made 1,520 pounds from fruit donated by local growers, the sugar being purchased by special permit through the Red Cross. Many hands made light work as groups met in various homes to prepare and process the different fruits in season. No definite records were kept of the amounts made in the years that followed, but we know they equalled and sometimes exceeded the standard set in 1941.

In 1944 when fruit was scarce 264 pounds of honey were purchased and sent to Britain and twenty-five cases of Infant's Food were shipped in 1946.

Cash donations to the Red Cross amounted to \$120.00. There were also donations to other funds such as the Institute Central fund and the Russian fund and \$200.00 was invested in Victory Bonds.

In the spring of 1942 maple syrup was purchased, which Mr. William Roberts made into sugar, 141 cakes in all. This was sent to the Navy League.

Men, women and children of the community all worked together in the salvage drives which were conducted at frequent intervals.

Boxes were also sent from time to time to the boys in the services and to the people of Britain.



Sparta War Veterans Honored



Top row (left to right) -

James Weir, Harold Smith, Bill Wesleyson, Shirley Smith,

Second row -

Jack Crocker, Roy Bond, William Baird, Bill Corner, George Alden

Third Row -

George Martyn, Bill Norton, Donald Kay, Robert Harvey, Robert McCaw

Fourth row -

Adrien Gervais, Steve Gruber, Harold Garrod, Arthur Crocker, William
Fishleigh

Fifth row -

Bruce Player, Gordon Precoor, Norman Oille, Bob McGregor, James
McCartney.



Chartered Bus with Sparta Members
going to 50th Anniversary at Guelph.



Viewing the grounds at O.A.C.



Grandmother's Meeting, Sparta W.I.

Superintendents Through The Years



MR. J. I. HODSON
1897-1899



DR. G. C. CREELMAN
1899-1904



MR. G. A. PUTNAM
1904-1934



MISS M. McDERMAND
1934-1939



MISS MARY A. CLARKE
1939-1945



MISS ANNA P. LEWIS
1945-



Miss Helen Mc Kercher