



AN 1839 BICYCLE MODEL NOW ON DISPLAY AT THOMPSON'S BICYCLE SHOP

AN OLD TIMER

Bicycling Craze Reached Its Peak in Late 1890's

High Wheel Enthusiasts Startled People In Early 1880's;

FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN THE 1890'S
THE BICYCLE CRAZE DISPLACED ALL OTHERS.
ROADS WERE ROUGHLY GRAVELLED, SANDY,
DUSTY AND COVERED WITH LOOSE STONES, OR
WERE CLAY AND SLIPPERY WHEN WET, BUT
NOTHING COULD KEEP PEOPLE AT HOME.

BICYCLE CLUBS SPRANG UP EVERYWHERE
PROMOTING RACE MEETS, OR JUST SHORT
SOCIAL RIDES IN THE COUNTRY.

MANY TIMES, COMPANIES OF 50 EVEN 100
RIDERS PASSED THROUGH WALLACE TOWN
FROM DETROIT TO BUFFALO. IT WAS GREAT
ATTRACTION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO SEE.

Quilting Bees a Happy and Useful

Heritage of Pioneer Days



Photo. by Stollery

A hundred years ago and more, a quilting bee was one of the much-enjoyed social events of the community. It is a happy and sociable custom which has never really died out and which has had a considerable revival in the past few years in both city and county. They are not held quite so frequently now, however, conditions are different and the setting of many such gatherings today is quite different from those of the old days.

The setting for this photograph, however, goes back to the period when quilting bees were most popular. It is the home of the Misses Frances and Eva Pearce and Stewart L. Pearce, of Wallacetown, and although the deft and busy needlewomen came by car rather than with horses and were welcomed in a modernly-equipped home, the attractive room in which they are seen was once the central room of the pioneer home of the grandparents of the hostesses, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Pearce. The house was erected by Mr. Pearce some time in the 1820's before his marriage, and this room had seen much of pioneer living by the time Elgin became a county.

The busy group here is the Dorcas Society of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Tyrconnell. Although the Society is comparatively young as history is recorded, being organized just after the First World War, it belongs to a church in which is centred much of the history of the pioneer days of the community, having served the early settlers as a place of worship from 1827.

The members meet once a month for quilting in different homes and the quilts now are

used for mission purposes, while many were contributed to the Red Cross Society during the war. The grandmothers and the mothers of many of these members met thus in days gone by for similar shared work. Part of the quilting frame in use belonged to the mother of the hostesses and the interesting design of the colorful work in hand is like a "crazy" quilt of early days.

Starting at the left front and going clockwise, those shown seated at the quilt include: Miss Eva A. Pearce, Mrs. Sidney Turville, Miss Bernice Halpin, Mrs. Gordon Ford (just the back of her head visible), Mrs. George Gilbert (looking on from the left background), Mrs. John S. Pearce, with her daughter Joyce on her knee, Miss Gertrude Pearce, Miss Ella Sifton, Miss Mabel Backus, Mrs. Gordon Bedford, Miss Marion Bobier, Miss Millie Sifton, Miss Ethel Hann, Mrs. Jack W. Gilbert. Standing at the back and watching the work with interest, Mrs. H. F. Cross, wife of the rector, and Miss Frances Pearce, one of the hostesses for the day, holding little Diane Bedford while her mother sews. Also present and intent on the work of the afternoon, but not visible in the picture were Mrs. William Pearce and Mrs. William Griffiths. Mrs. Miller Page, of Tyrconnell, president of the Society, was unable to attend the quilting that afternoon.

Of Interest to Women

Honor Charter Members On WI's 50th Anniversary

Costumes from fifty years ago added a fitting touch to the Wallacetown Women's Institute's special program, yesterday afternoon, on the oc-

casation of the fiftieth anniversary of the group.

Mrs. W. S. McKillop gave the welcoming address and followed by greetings from the president of the county executive, Mrs. D. J. Galbraith, the district president, Mrs. E. S. Down, and a representative from the Elgin Junior Farmers, Mrs. James West.

Mrs. Clarence Blue read the minutes from the initial meeting in 1912, and in a short ceremony conducted by Mrs. Allan Crawford, Mrs. Morley Page and Mrs. Clarence Small, corsages were presented to charter members.

They are: Mrs. M. A. McKellar, Miss M. Gow, Mrs. Fred Moore, Mrs. Harry Fox, Mrs. Will Pearce, Miss Ella Sifton, Mrs. J. Lucas, Mrs. Andrew MacWilliam, Miss Maggie Kelso, Miss Gertrude Dromgole, Miss Jeanette Small, and Mrs. Sydney Turville.

Mrs. Edward Cairns, assisted by Mrs. Page and Mrs. Small presented boutonnieres to past presidents and secretaries.

Mrs. Clarence Blue and Mrs. Mac Graham were in charge of the memorial service.

A history of the branch was given by Mrs. E. Martelle and Mrs. John E. Pearce introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Ernest Pearce of Byron, a former member of the Wallacetown W.I.

Musical numbers were sung by Mrs. J. R. McKellar, Mrs. Archie McFarlane, Mrs. Edward Lamb and a costumed chorus of nine members, who formed the Triple Trio.

Mrs. A. Crawford gave the courtesy remarks.



W. I. CELEBRATES FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY—Members of the Wallacetown Women's Institute in turn-of-the-century costumes gathered on the steps of the Community Hall prior to a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the group. They are: left to right, top row, Mrs. J. A. Lucas,

Mrs. W. S. McKillop, Mrs. E. A. Cairns; second row, Mrs. John E. Pearce, Mrs. M. Foreman, Mrs. J. R. McKellar; bottom row, Mrs. Morley Page, Mrs. Clarence Small, Mrs. Archie MacFarlane, Mrs. Edward Lamb and Mrs. Mac Graham.



Charter members - 50th Anniversary



XCV Triple Trio 1960



50th Anniversary