

Olive Diefenbaker Charms Wallacetown Fair Goers

WALLACETOWN (Staff) — The wife of Canada's Prime Minister is surely his best public relations representative. Gracious, charming, and with a serene beauty, Olive Diefenbaker won the hearts of all whom she met at Wallacetown's Centennial Fair yesterday.

Accompanying her husband, who officially opened the 100th annual exhibition, she was smartly gowned in a slim two-piece dress of black textured crepe. This was a perfect foil for the white orchid corsage, which was presented to her during the official ceremonies. She complemented her gown with a chic hat of black woollen lace which covered a coolie-shaped foundation of silk, and a tailored coat of brown gabardine completed her ensemble.

From the United Nations in New York, with its stress and international flavor to the quiet countryside that forms the backdrop for the fair, is a major transition, but Mrs. Diefenbaker slipped into it with ease, and the enthusiasm with which she greeted Elgin residents was spontaneous and genuine. Politics, and the affairs of state are strictly her husband's department and she prefers remaining apart from any discussion of these subjects.

Several delightful incidents occurred during the time she mingled with the guests in the fair

building, where tea was being served. One was the presentation to her of a box of raspberries from Edward Newman, a West Lorne resident, whose bushes have borne a small second crop of the succulent fruit. Mrs. Diefenbaker was truly pleased by Mr. Newman's gesture and when he told her, proudly, "I'm a veteran, too, like your John. I fought in both wars, and I want you to tell your husband no country has done as much for its veterans as Canada," she gave him an appreciative smile and said she had noticed he was wearing two service buttons. She assured Mr. Newman that she and the Prime Minister would enjoy the fruit on their arrival in Ottawa Friday evening.

Then she insisted on posing for a picture with Mrs. John Graham, wife of the rector at historical old St. Peter's Anglican Church at Tyrconnell. Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Graham attended university together, and the Graham grandchildren are loathe to believe that their grandfather was a classmate of the Prime Minister. This photographic proof, Mrs. Diefenbaker believes, should convince them.

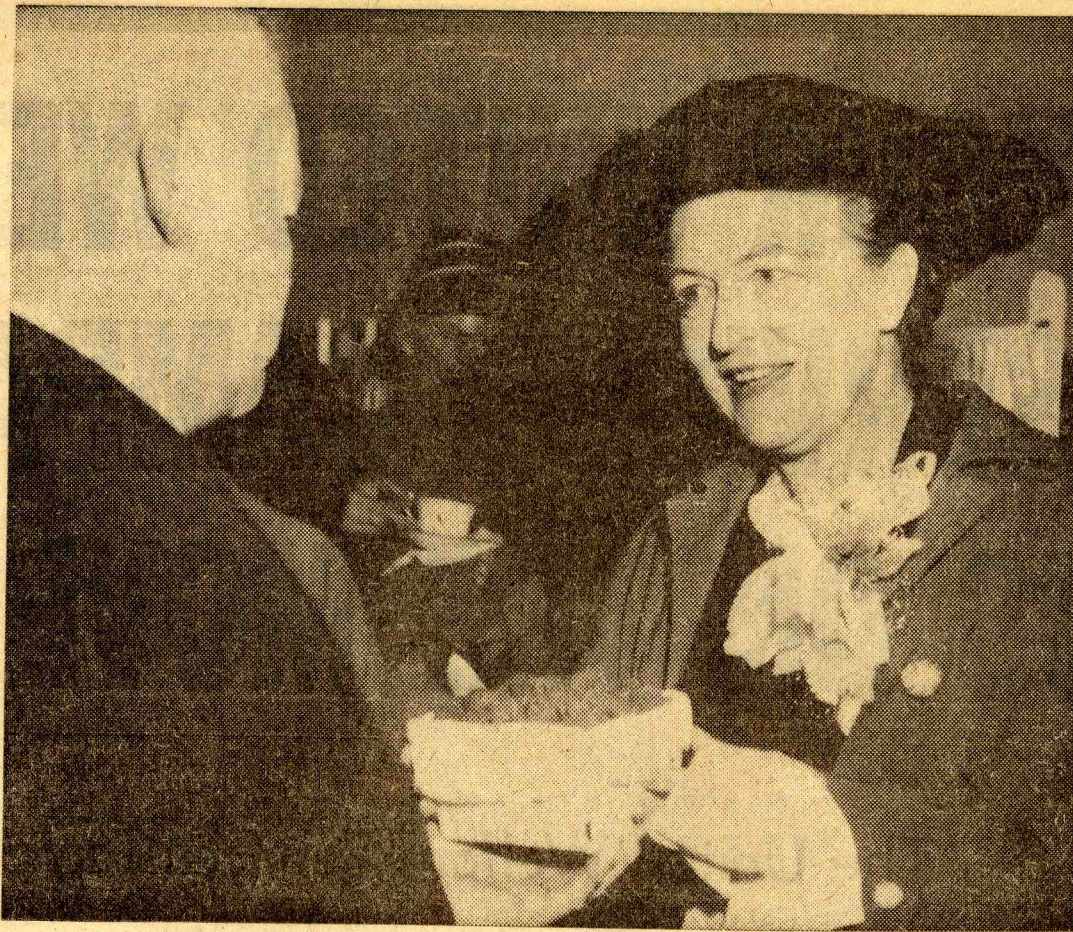
Several school boys, standing in wide-eyed admiration caught her attention, and parting the crowd, she held out her hand to the smallest of the group, and shaking it vigorously, told him how nice it was to meet him, asked his name and if he were enjoying the fair. The other two were greeted in similar fashion, and it's almost a certainty that the young Dunwich trio have definitely decided the wife of Canada's Prime Minister is pretty special.

She poured tea for a time, in company with Mrs. James McBain, wife of Elgin's MP, and admired the antique vase of rose hobnail glass which centred the lace covered table. She complimented Mrs. Peter Love, Wallacetown, general convener of the pleasant event, and Mrs. Clare Blue, Wallacetown, her assistant, on the arrangements of chrysanthemums which graced the tea table area.

Most of all though, in informal and friendly fashion, she enjoyed herself. There was no rigid schedule to be observed, no thought of protocol or precedence, just an opportunity to relax and delight in the opportunity of being a spectator at an event that is a Canadian tradition, a country fair.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's visit to Elgin Friday—the first since he became head of the government in Canada—shows what a remarkable man he is. In coming here to officially open the Wallacetown fair on its hundredth anniversary he honored the pioneers who with faith in the future of the County inaugurated the fair and the people who during the intervening years by direction and participation have made it a continuing success. But it was the sacrifice of time from his complex duties and the energy he had to expend to make the trip that showed his great devotion to duty and his loyalty to his fellow Canadians, as he refers to the people when he addresses them. A man in his position and at a time of international crisis such as we are undergoing today could very well have asked to be excused from coming to the Wallacetown fair's centennial. He was shuttling back and forth between Ottawa, where national affairs had to be constantly attended to, and New York, to deliver at the United Nations what many have since said was the most momentous address of his career and to confer with the leaders of other nations. Yet he hastened to Elgin to fulfil an engagement he had made some time ago and which no doubt he considered as much of his duty to fulfil, if he possibly could, as those of more vital importance. That he did find time to make the trip is to his everlasting credit and to that of Mrs. Diefenbaker, who accompanied him and whose gracious presence at the fair was genuinely appreciated.



APPRECIATED GIFT—The offering of a box of raspberries to the wife of Canada's Prime Minister, by Edward Newman, of West Lorne, was

graciously received by Mrs. Diefenbaker, who assured the veteran of two World Wars, that she and Mr. Diefenbaker would enjoy eating them on their arrival home last night.



PICTURED FOR POSTERITY—At Wallacetown Fair yesterday afternoon, Mrs. John G. Diefenbaker renewed acquaintance with Mrs. John Graham, of Tyrconnell. The Prime Minister and Rev. John Graham, who is rector of historic St.

Peter's Anglican Church at Tyrconnell, attended university together, and for the benefit of the Graham grandchildren, Mrs. Diefenbaker suggested a picture of herself and Mrs. Graham as a memento of the day.—(T.-J. Photos).

Miss Joan Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Simpson, Wallacetown, presented a gift of jewelry to Mrs. Diefenbaker and flowers were also given both Mrs. Diefenbaker and Mrs. McBain. Warden Harvey Liddle made the presentation of a book on the Tarbot settlement to the Prime Minister.

Unveil Centennial Gates At Wallacetown Fair; Diefenbaker Here Today

WALLACETOWN (Staff) — A tribute in stone to the agricultural pioneers of Elgin County was officially dedicated today at Wallacetown's Centennial Fair. Officiating at the ceremony held under leaden skies was John A. Carroll, of Brampton, former provincial assistant deputy minister of agriculture.

Mr. Carroll cut the ribbon and officially opened the new gates to Wallacetown fair grounds.

The stone entrance carries two plaques, the first one states: "To honor the pioneers of this community and all those who during the past 100 years have served the cause of agriculture."

The second one reads: "West Elgin Agricultural Society, 1860-1960. Presented by the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture in recognition of 100 years of service, Sept. 30, 1960."

TRIBUTE PAID

Mr. Carroll reviewed the early days of agriculture in Elgin County and paid striking tribute to the agricultural societies who "hammered away in the 80's to obtain provincial establishments and institutions which have greatly benefitted the cause of agriculture over the years."

Mr. Carroll was introduced by Arnold Lee, of Rodney, immediate past president of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. Also participating was Rev. R. B. Cummings, assistant minister of Calvary United Church, London, Ont.

Mr. Cummings gave the dedication and the blessing. He first came to the Wallacetown area in 1907 and said he considered himself an adopted son.

Also speaking briefly was the Rev. H. R. Stevenson, of Chesley United Church. Mr. Stevenson is practically a native of the area having been born only three miles away at Tyrconnell.

Gate Dedication

The society's 100th birthday and the contribution of those who had gone on before were marked by the dedication of the handsome memorial gates at 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

In the absence of President Colin Morrison who had gone to London to greet the Prime Minister, Arch. McTavish, first vice-president acted as chairman.

J. A. Carroll, Dunwich native, and a former Ontario assistant minister of agriculture, officiated at the dedication. He told of some of his first impressions of Wallacetown Fair and referred to the difference in exhibits then and now.

Mr. Carroll gave credit to agricultural societies for the establishment of a Provincial Department of Agriculture as well as other organizations so helpful to the industry today.

"This idea of memorials," Mr. Carroll said, "was begun in my regime, because it was decided that fairs reaching 100 years should not go unrecognized." . . . "I hope when we see these gates and enter them we will remember those pioneers who founded this society."

Bearing two plaques, the new gates consist of central ticket office and two flanking angelstone pillars.

On the east plaque are the words: "To honor the pioneers of this community and all those who during the past 100 years have served the cause of agriculture."

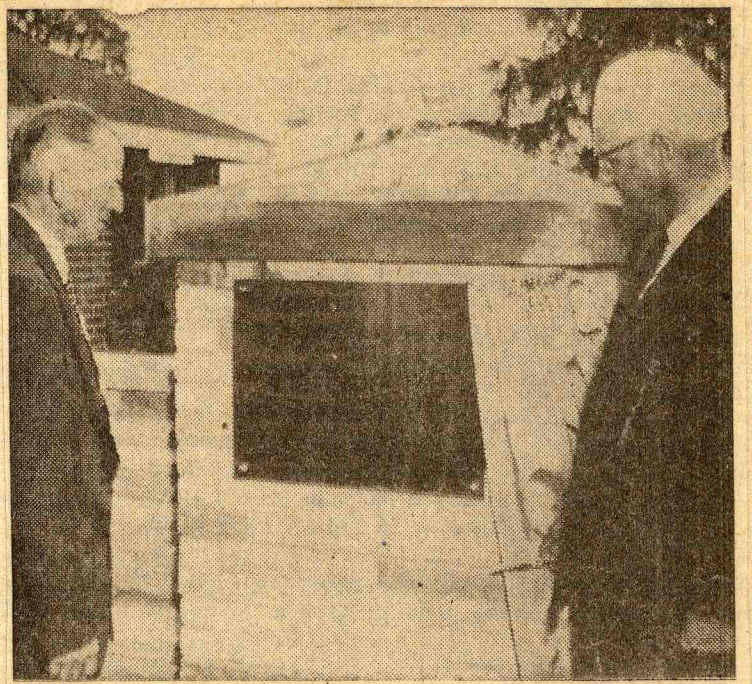
The west pillar bears the inscription: "West Elgin Agricultural Society, 1860 to 1960, presented by the department of agriculture in recognition of 100 years service, September 30, 1960."

Leading dedicatory prayers was Rev. R. B. Cummings of London, pastor of Calvary United Church. Others assisting in the ceremony were Rev. H. R. Stevenson of Chesley United Church, formerly of Tyrconnell, Arnold Lee, of Rodney, past president of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and S. M. Pearce, Iona, former fair board president.



J. A. CARROLL

Who will preside at the gate dedication on Friday at 11:30



FAIR GATES DEDICATED—A permanent tribute to those who have served the cause of agriculture in West Elgin during the past 100 years was unveiled yesterday at Wallacetown Centennial Fair. John A. Carroll, Brampton, on right, officiated at the opening of the fair ground's new gates. He is shown with Archie McTavish, first vice-president of the West Elgin Agricultural Society, examining one of two plaques on the gates.—(T.-J. Photo).

One of the most interested spectators at the unveiling was C. W. Buchanan, former Elgin Agricultural representative, now living at Thamesville. Mr. Buchanan told The Advance that it is 49 years since he first attended Wallacetown Fair.

Centennial Fair Draws Thousands To Wallacetown in Four Days

After four event-packed days, the centennial of Wallacetown Fair passed into history on Sunday. In its wake it must have left a feeling of gratification among fair officials over a big job well done and certainly one of pleasant recollections among the thousands who were in attendance.

The event had just about everything to make it successful—the visit from Prime Minister Diefenbaker, dedication of memorial gates, typical fall weather, an excellent parade, fast-stepping bands, plenty of entertainment for young and old, a fine showing of the best in agricultural products—and finally and appropriately, a divine service.

Prime Minister's Visit

Outstanding in the recollections of most fair-goers will be the visit of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and his gracious and kindly wife. Many were dubious about the Prime Minister being able to find time from his heavy duties to attend the fair. But he made it and obviously enjoyed his few hours on

the grounds as much as people appreciated seeing and meeting him.

Chats With Children

On the way to Wallacetown from London, where Mr. and Mrs. Diefenbaker landed in a Department of Transport Viscount, the Prime Minister noticed several children lining the road in front of S.S. 6, Southwold. His car and police escort pulled over and stopped and the Prime Minister shook hands with half the children. Mrs. Stewart Munroe, senior teacher at the school, beamed: "Now my children won't say again that our Prime Minister's name is Eisenhower."

At S.S. 8, Southwold, his cavalcade stopped again while he spoke with more school children lining the road.

"It's a great country," he said. "Any of these boys could become prime minister. The first prime minister I ever saw was Sir Wilfrid Laurier—when I was a newsboy."

Interest in District

Addressing some 5,000 persons, Mr. Diefenbaker referred to the fact that one of the reasons for

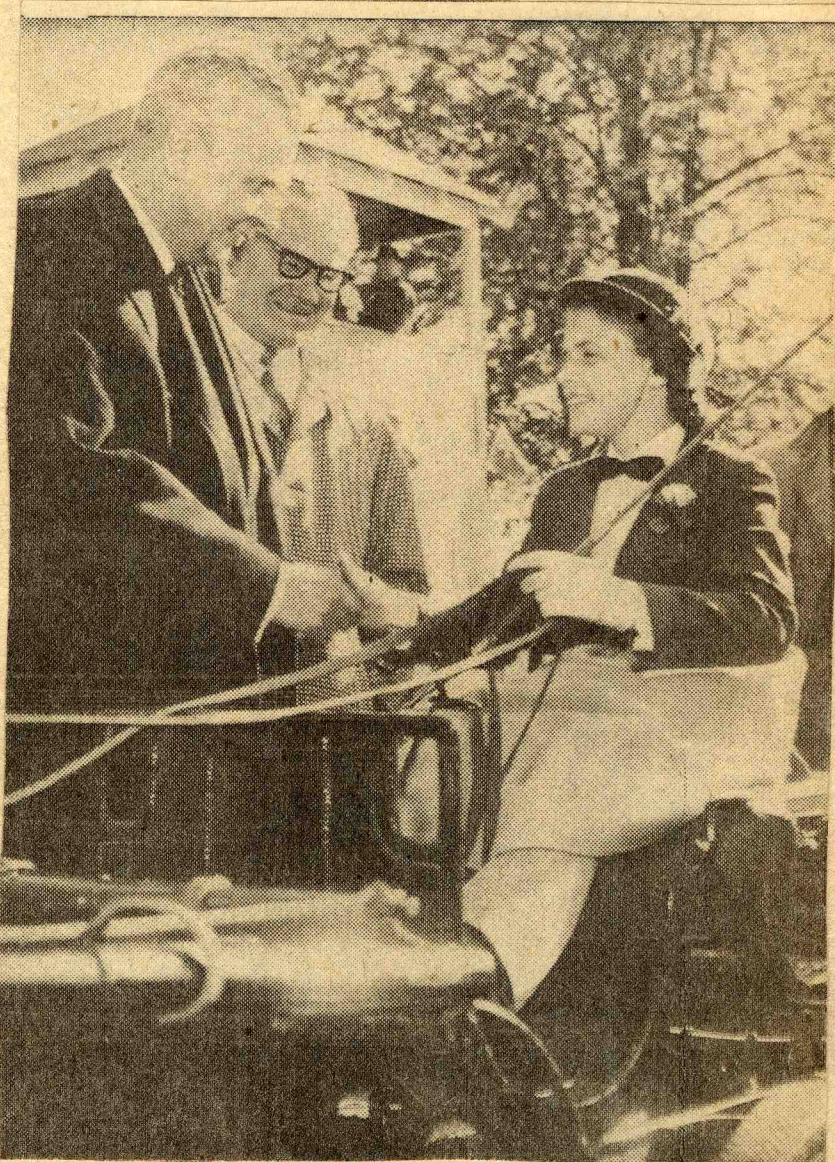
wanting to come to the Centennial Fair was because of a family connection with the district. His great-grandfather, George Bannerman, had settled on Talbot lands in Dunwich Township in 1818, he said. He still has the oath of allegiance that his forefather took in order to get the land.

His great-grandfather later moved to Simcoe County, he said, but most of the people who settled in the Wallacetown area in those days are still represented, and he rhymed off the names of the Blues, the Campbells, Dixons, MacIntyres, Fords, Galbraiths, McPhersons and many others.

Came From U.N.

Mr. Diefenbaker came to the fair directly from New York and the General Assembly of the United Nations. He had gone to New York, he said, with high hopes, but Russia's Premier Khrushchev had made a speech "which in no way indicated that he had in mind the maintenance of peace through disarmament."

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PM BUSY FAIRGOER — Prime Minister John Diefenbaker was just one of the thousands of fairgoers who "made the rounds" at Wallacetown yesterday. Here, the prime minister is shown extending greetings and congratulations

to pretty Nancy Caldwell, 10, of Shedden, one of the pony cart drivers. Beside Mr. Diefenbaker is Ernie Halpenny, MP from London and, in background, another well-wisher stands near