

They ¹⁹⁷² founded well

By MARY ANN LUMLEY

That a man had much to do with the founding of the Women's Institute has been, until recently, a little recognized fact. But in this, the seventy-fifth year of the WI's being, it seems only right that Erland Lee be given credit for his viewpoint and forward thinking in encouraging Adelaide Hoodless to speak to a meeting of wives of Farmer's Institute members.

Mr. Lee had heard Mrs. Hoodless speak on the need for instruction in sewing and the domestic skills at a meeting of the Experimental Union when he was a student at the Ontario Agricultural College and her talk made such an impression on him that he asked her to repeat it.

She made her point so well that "even the hard-boiled men" were convinced. Mrs. Hoodless suggested an organization for women similar to that formed for the men and thirty-five of the women present at the meeting said they would attend the inaugural gathering.

During the week that followed, Mr. and Mrs. Erland Lee were busy people. They visited many homes in the district, endeavouring to arouse the interest of the women and persuading them to attend the meeting. Their efforts bore fruit, for when Mrs. Hoodless arrived at Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, on the evening of February 19, 1897, she found awaiting her there one hundred and one women and one man. Needless to say, that man was Mr. Lee who acted as chairman for the evening.

The address which Mrs. Hoodless gave was practical as well as inspirational. She pointed out that if the men felt the need of an organization, and it enabled them to grow better crops and produce better livestock, then an institute for the women would be equally helpful in their work.

Indeed, she declared, it was much more necessary, since women's work, homecraft and mothercraft was much more important than that of the men, since it concerned the home and care of the loved ones who lived in it.

The women attending realized the importance and responsibility of their duty as homemakers. They decided to organize, and shortly afterward, the original name, which was lengthy and tedious, was changed to the Women's Institute of Saltfleet Township and later to Stoney Creek Women's Institute when others were organized in the township.

These pioneer leaders were both sincere in their efforts and practical in their ideas. Looking over the first minute book of the mother institute, this statement is found: In order that we may carry out to better advantage the objects for which the institute was organized, we shall divide them into six divisions or classes, as follows: (1) Domestic economy; (2) Architecture, with special reference to heat, light, sanitation and ventilation; (3) Health, embracing physiology, hygiene, calisthenics and music; (4) Floriculture and horticulture; (5) Music and art; (6) Literature, education, sociology and legislation.

It is highly significant to note how closely these six divisions correspond to the standing committees of the Women's Institutes of today, because that indicates how well the pioneers built the foundation.

The founding of the Women's Institute took place in the Erland Lee home. On their walnut dining table, the constitution and bylaws of the Women's Institute were written by Mrs. Lee in her own handwriting and were sent to Toronto. This elastic constitution provided for the development of this society into an organization of world-wide proportions reflecting the ability, wisdom and vision of those responsible for its framing.

All his life (he died in 1926) Mr. Lee was consulted by officers of the Women's Institute, and many of his ideas and plans were carried out. He never made any effort to have his work acknowledged, but Mrs. Lee always felt that it should be known that without him and his untiring efforts, there never would have been the Women's Institute.

After seventy-five years, can we picture the world without it?

Family & Consumer Affairs theme at Wallacetown W.I.

The new president for the coming year, Mrs. K. Dieleman, was in charge of the May monthly meeting and opened with the Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and Lord's Prayer.

After welcoming the guests, she called on the secretary-treasurer, Mrs. R. Gowan, to read the minutes of the last meeting, the financial report and any correspondence, such as thank-you notes, etc., to be read.

Mrs. Dieleman and Mrs. R. Gowan will be in attendance at the Clinic in Shedden on May 17th. Those tending the Tuck shop at Elgin Manor on May 26th will be Mrs. W. Robson, Mrs. E. Shipley and Mrs. K. Dieleman.

The District Annual will be held on May 18th at Cowal. A goodly number from Wallacetown W.I. are planning on being there.

A discussion took place on the best time for a W.I. workshop and it was decided to have one in November.

An invitation from Tyrconnell W.I. to a social Tea on May 25th at the hall was accepted.

The report of the Bobier Home Auxiliary was presented by Mrs. Mac. Graham. Their Annual Tea will be held on June 3rd with the regular bake sale, candy table and country store. Donations will be welcomed and a draw later in the afternoon, tickets for which are available from directors, etc.

The W.I. bus trip will be held on June 13th. It will be a well-planned tour of the many historic and scenic spots around Elora, Elmira and Stratford. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. C. Morrison or Mrs. W. Robson.

Members are reminded, some dues are late, and that museum membership tickets are now available.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. H. Sloan, convener for Family and Consumer Affairs.

The motto, "Much good could be done in the world, if no one cared who got the credit," was commented on by Mrs. M. Page.

After two poems by Mrs. H. Sloan, Mrs. J. West entertained with two songs, "Today Is the First Day of the Rest of my Life" and "What the World Needs Now Is Love, Love, Love," both coinciding nicely with Mrs. Sloan's poems.

Mrs. Sloan called on Mrs. Garnet Cowell for a demonstration on crafts, including macrame, wall hangings and small flowers arranged in very pretty corsages.

The roll call, "An experience with misleading advertising," was well answered.

Lunch was provided by hostesses, Mrs. W. Robson and Mrs. M. Dale.

Next meeting will be on June 2nd at 1:45 p.m. and will be the last one till Fall.

Tug-of-War Trophy going to Sports Hall of Fame

Fifty-eight years after the Dutton-Dunwich Tug-of-War Team pulled their way to the provincial championship, the team's trophy will be put on display at the Sports Hall of Fame Museum in Toronto. Mrs. Margaret Coad of R.R. 1, Glencoe, whose father Sandy Clark captained the team, has cared for the trophy over the years and has decided to donate it to the museum.

The trophy indicates the date of the Ontario finals with the medallions on the base of the trophy engraved with the captain and team members' names. An anchorman's belt, which had been designed by Mr. Clark, had previously been given to the museum.

The Dunwich Tug-of-War Team was organized in the early 1930's under the leadership of Sandy Clark. He wanted to put together a team from Dunwich Township that would rival the 1893 tug-of-war team that competed at the Chicago World's Fair. As interest in the sport grew and Dutton people became involved, they became known as the Dutton and Dunwich Tug-of-War Team.

Practices took place at various locations such as Bennett's schoolyard, Largie, Campbellton, and Cowal, and eventu-



1938 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS – These men-of-steel were the pride of the community when they pulled their way to the top, taking the Ontario Tug-of-War title on Labour Day 1938. A crowd of 3,000 was on hand in St. Thomas to watch the event which saw the Dutton-Dunwich team take the title in two pulls

against reigning champions of Embro. Their trophy will be donated to the Sports Hall of Fame in Toronto. Team members include, left to right: Captain Sandy Clark, Fred McRae, Clarence Stewart, Dr. Arthur Graham, Charles Waucaush, Norman Hodder and anchor Max Lancaster (inset).

ally at the Sons of Scotland Park, Dutton.

With a reputation for being

one of the best teams around, they were in demand at many functions. The team from Embro, reigning Ontario champions, would be their most challenging and confident competition. With determination and strategy, the captain decided his team was ready for higher competition.

Before being able to enter the Ontario championship, the Dutton and Dunwich team had to register with the Sportsmen of Ontario to ensure all team members were from the province. They also qualified by winning 14 consecutive pulls, the best record of any entry.

On Labour Day, 1938, the local men faced the Embro team which had reached the finals by defeating...

by the Caledonian Society, will be presented to the Sports Hall of Fame with the anchorman's belt already given by the Lancaster family. A donation will

be given to the Highland Games Committee by members of the Clark family in memory of their father Sandy and his award winning team.

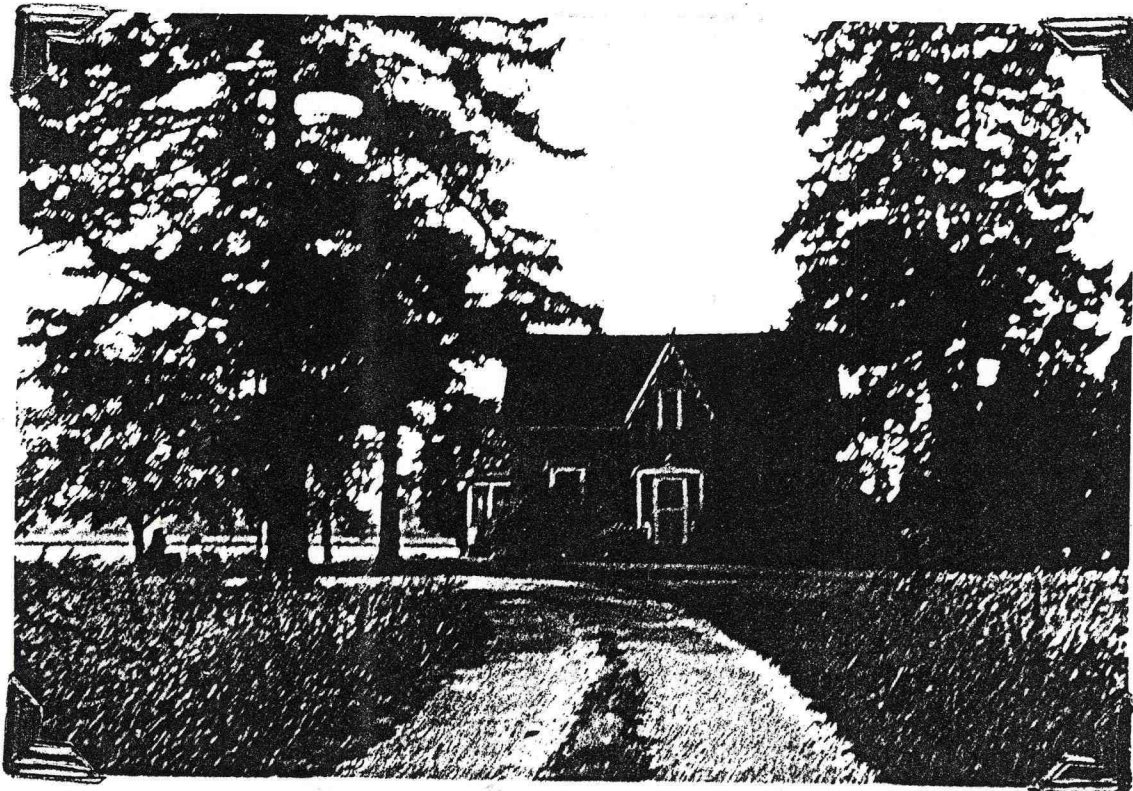


DONATING TROPHY – Margaret Coad holds the trophy won by the Dutton-Dunwich Tug-of-War Team in 1938. Her father, Sandy Clark, captained the team. His family has donated this trophy to the Sports Hall of Fame.

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SARAH ANN BACKUS
1850 - 1943

THOMAS LESLIE PEARCE
1843 - 1919



STEPHEN BACKUS - PIONEER
BORN IN PENNSYLVANIA - 1786
DIED IN DUNWICH TSP - 1875
CAME TO CANADA - 1810



MARRIED ANNE STOREY 1811

DAUGHTER OF
MARY PATTERSON STOREY

BORN IN IRELAND 1791
DIED IN ELGIN Co. 1857



*John E. Pearce recalled
seeing 3 of his aunts
spinning linen on
3 looms in the
upstairs of this
home.*

BUILT BY STEPHEN BACKUS JR.
1825-1914