



Ontario Delegation – FWIC National Convention with ACWW President Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller

March 2 1971
'DOC' CRUICKSHANK, BROADCASTING PIONEER, PASSES AWAY AT 73 YEARS

W.T. 'Doc' Cruickshank, who pioneered radio in Southwestern Ontario with the establishment of CKNX Wingham in the mid 1920s, died 7 o'clock Sunday evening in Victoria Hospital, London.

Mr. Cruickshank had been ill for some time. He was 73.

At one time a chauffeur for a Wingham doctor, Dr. Cruickshank laid the groundwork for CKNX radio when he assembled a radio transmitter from plans outlined in a copy of Popular Mechanics magazine in 1926.

He soon opened a radio repair shop, and for the next 10 years broadcast programs to Wingham area listeners under an amateur radio license.

In 1953 he obtained a commercial license, and the new radio station was given the call letters CKNX.

"If I had been missing one part," he once commented in an interview, "or if I hadn't been told that my signal was received, I might still be working in that foundry."

His first transmitter broadcast for some six months before a government inspector came around to say a permit was needed. Friends banded together into a "radio club" and paid for the license through membership fees.

At 59, he plunged into what was then the relatively unknown world of television, only three years after the medium had been introduced in Canada.

When the license for CKNX-TV was approved in 1955, he became owner of the 13th television station to be founded in Canada.

Doc Cruickshank was born Wilford Thomas Cruickshank, a Morris Township farmer's son, on a farm two miles south of Wingham in 1898.

At 15 his father died, and he was forced to leave school and find work to support the family. He soon held three jobs, working 10 hours daily at the local foundry, evenings as a projectionist at the

local theatre, and, in his "spare time" as a driver for Wingham's Dr. J.P. Kennedy.

The last job earned him the nickname which stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Doc's first radio transmitter was built on a blustery February day in Wingham. He tested it by stringing wire across the street from the Brunswick Hotel to a dentist's office and ordered a friend to play I Am Seeing Nellie Home through the microphone with a harmonica.

The music came through loud and clear at the other end. He then went on to develop a more sophisticated network to reach Wingham radios. Early broadcasts were sporadic but included regular Thursday night "jam sessions" of music.

One of the original members of the Cruickshank broadcasting team was Harry Boyle, at that time a newsman in the Goderich-Wingham area and now vice-president of the CRTC.

Mr. Cruickshank is survived by his wife Mabel, son G.W. "Bud" Cruickshank, current president and general manager of CKNX radio and TV, daughter Mrs. Ross (Lois) McCaul of Brussels, brother John Cruickshank of Wingham, sister Mrs. Varen (Kay) Ripple of Detroit and eight grandchildren.

His brother Pat Cruickshank predeceased him by one year.

The remains rested at the Currie Funeral Home, Wingham with a memorial service on Wednesday in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, at 2 p.m.

FIGURE 8

What more can be said except "CARNIVAL IS ONLY ONE WEEK AWAY"! Weeks of work have gone into our "Ice Nicks '71" and only the support of the public can determine its success. The members of our club are



Candle-Lighting Ceremony *1982*

Mrs. Nita Roderick, member of the Stoney Creek WI Charter Branch, lights the candle on the 85th Anniversary cake. She is assisted by three associated presidents. They are, left to right, Mrs. Bernice Noblitt, FWIC; Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, ACWW; and Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, FWIO.

CKNX SALE TO THE LONDON FREE PRESS IS APPROVED *1971*

An application under which the radio and television stations in Wingham, Ont., would be taken over by a holding company owned by the London Free Press was approved Thursday last by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission.

The CRTC announcement of approval noted the "clear intention" expressed by the London, Ont., publishing and broadcasting interests to ensure CKNX radio in Wingham would continue to be a distinctly local service with a continuing presence of local residents in the direction and operation of the station.

For CKNX-TV, the commission said financial difficulties this has experienced could be reduced

by provision of an "attractive combined rate" for national advertising accounts using both the Wingham station and CFPL-TV, the Free Press station in London.

The CRTC said it also noted the undertaking by CFPL-TV that separate advertising purchases would be the rule during "the high-audience news services periods on each station."

CKNX-TV told a public hearing at which the application was made that the station had been "singularly unsuccessful" in trying to sell air time to certain large national advertisers. The Wingham area, about 40 miles north of London, gets signals from bigger TV stations in London and nearby Kitchener. —CP.