

WALDEMAR UNITED FARMERS 1313

The Waldemar Branch of the United Farmers first organized in March of 1920, under the registered number of 1313. It numbered thirty-three members namely-George Gier, Jas. White, Wesley McDowell, R.G. Thompson, John McFadzean, Wilfred Gamble, George Simpson, Alex Warnock, Alex Burke, Clarke Rea, John Black, J.A. Lomas, D.H. Thompson, John Burke, Harry Whaley, John Whaley, Ernie Hugheson, John Ritchie, Joe Ritchie, N. Irvine, Ross West, Oliver Durkin, Wm. Bennett, Wilson Dynes, Wm. Jelly, George Warnock, Lyman Potter, Wm. Potter, M. Johnston, Jos. Gate, Wm. Black, Chas. McArthur, Henry Carter.

The first president was George Gier and the first secretary was J.A. Lomas. The annual membership was \$1.50 which dropped to \$1.00 in 1923, then to 50¢ in 1934 and from 1939 on, all membership in the Ontario Organization was paid out of the treasury. At first the meetings were held in the school and later in the member's homes. The meetings were held on the Thursday, or just before the full of the moon.

Many farm commodities were bought in bulk and sold to members at just above costs. As an example, in 1924 one fifty ton, one sixty ton car and one forty ton car of coal plus salt was ordered in the spring. The minutes of the meetings mention salt, wheat, oats, corn, hominy, bran, fertilizer, twine, rope, roofing and coal as being some of the articles ordered in different years. Members who paid on time received a subscription to the 'Farmer's Sun'. Farmers who did not wish to join were allowed to purchase at a little higher price.

In most years the minutes record having sent a delegate to the U.F.O. Convention in Toronto.

As the years passed, membership dwindled as the need for this service was filled by more local feed and fuel stores with more efficient ways of handling these commodities. Another reason for its demise was the decrease in the number of farmers.

It was decided to disband the organization at a meeting on June 11, 1969 with John Byers being the last chairman and Clarke Rea the last secretary. Seven members were present, namely Clarke Rea - charter member, Norman Irvine - ~~charter member~~, Alex Black, David Black, Archie McArthur, Delbert McBride, and John Byers.

While donations were given to the Dufferin Area Hospital and the Ontario Christian Assembly, the largest amount of their balance left in the treasury was given to the Waldemar Orange Lodge 566. This was to be used for improvements in the hall for the betterment of the community.

-Written by Merle Gamble and Anne McPherson 1977.