

FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET



When a loyal group of women of the Lindsay Women's institute gathered recently at the town hall for a pot luck supper they found themselves definitely out of luck.

After 65 years of community service the WI members discovered that all equipment and furnishings in the room they have occupied for many years in the town hall had been moved, and "the cupboard was bare."

The secretary, Mrs. Lorne Hutton expressed the situation in this manner. "We gathered for the monthly meeting and we brought our lunch with us. We found the kitchen we furnished was stripped bare and the caretaker said he had "followed orders".

"The dishes, cutlery, kitchen utensils and chairs were piled up in the cellar.

"Our president, Mrs. Hiram Neale, was not asked about this matter, and I, as secretary, did not know about this "high handed dealing"; no one had been notified.

"The Women's Institute is a non-demoninational organization that through the years has rendered great service to

the community, to many organizations, to Canada and to the Empire. The women worked hard during the war years. They presented the old hospital with \$1200 and the new hospital with \$1500.

"At one time the WI placed a drinking fountain in Victoria Park and donations of money from time to time and for many causes have been contributed.

"Members of council or the town officials were not very considerate or even gracious when some person or persons were authorized to clean out the room in the town hall and carried our equipment to the cellar.

"Some people apparently have forgotten that the WI own the stacking chairs in the town hall and also own the piano.

"I would also mention that at one time the Institute paid a woman \$15 a week to look after the women's wash rooms at the east end of the town hall. Many times the women have helped out different town groups by serving lunches and refreshments. The women have lived up to their

motto "Home and Country."

"We have not yet learned who to blame. Perhaps it is the chairman of town property, perhaps the entire council. We did hear that one official said there is a room available in the fire hall, then it was reported this is not fact.

"Members feel that some one should have been contacted before the "chucking out" took place. In the meantime we have no official meeting place and we do not know how well our equipment has been cared for."

Minutes of a meeting of the town property committee held May 13, 1968 report "It was stated that the chairman and Councillor Everall would be contacting representatives of the Women's Institute concerning a move to the fire hall for their meeting place.

On June 24, 1968, the town property committee recommended to council that the chairs being used by the municipality in the renovated council chambers be purchased by the town from the Women's Institute.

Town property committee chairman Carl Brown reports

representatives of the WI executive have contacted him and assumed some of the blame. He said the executive members admitted they were aware some move was to take place but they decided to wait and see.