

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

THE TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORIES—HOW TO COMPILE

Once again it is my privilege and great pleasure to greet the Members of the Women's Institutes throughout the Province, and to enlarge on what I have said previously regarding the compilation of the Tweedsmuir Village Histories.

A year ago I wrote to you. Much has transpired since that time of historical interest. As you know, the compilation of these Histories was commenced in 1940 under the gracious endorsement of Lady Tweedsmuir and a great number of our Institutes have already undertaken this work. For the benefit and guidance of those Institutes which have not yet commenced the assembling of these books, I would like to enlarge on my previously given suggestions as to the most efficient manner of carrying out this duty.

First, I would recommend that a stiff-backed, loose leaf book be obtained, approximately 15" by 18" in size, with leaves of good quality paper. I am stressing the quality of the paper due to the constant handling it will receive.

On the first page of the book the name of the Institute and the date of its inception should be recorded, along with the date of the commencement of compilation of the History.

On the next page should be inserted pictures of Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir. These pictures may be obtained from the Provincial Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater, Ontario. Accompanying these pictures should be the "Foreword" as written and authorized by Lady Tweedsmuir. This "Foreword" may be obtained from the 1940 Summer issue of "Home and Country" or from the Loan Library, Women's Institutes Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto 2, Ontario.

The next page should carry a picture of Mrs. Hoodless, the founder of our Women's Institutes, which may also be secured from Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, at the price of 60c.

The subsequent sheets should be used for historical data. This information if written by hand should be done in a clear, legible manner.

If typewritten a thin sheet of tissue paper should be placed between each leaf of the book to prevent blurring of the typewriting. The information to be recorded should be along the following lines:

HISTORY OF LOCAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY. Covers situation, size and physical characteristics of the district covered by the Institute. Have your boundary lines definitely defined. Do not go too far afield or poach on other's preserves.

Natural Resources — Agriculture — Mines — Forests — Fisheries, etc. Tell how these influenced settlement. **INDIANS, Etc.** Covers the history of the Indians of the district; Indian life and civilization; how they lived and how they adopted the white man's way of life.

PIONEER SETTLEMENTS. Map of the area if possible and sketches of the lives of outstanding pioneers.

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, INDUSTRIES, Etc. History of establishment of these, and growth of same.

NEWSPAPERS—FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS. Histories of existing or defunct Newspapers of the district. **HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENTS** of the local Women's Institute in marking historical spots by Cairns etc. in the district.

Pictures of all records should be included where possible. These add greatly to the interest of your History.

All data recorded should be absolutely authentic. They form a permanent record and will be regarded

as authoritative historical documents. For accurate information regarding historical data the following sources may be consulted.

Local Church Records, Local School and Library Minute Books, Registry Office for your district, Toronto Reference Library, and Local Municipal and Township Records, Surrogate Court Records, Surveyors Maps, and The Department of Public Records and Archives, Toronto.

Current Events

The second section of the History Book should be confined to a history of current events as they transpire in your district. Include an account of the part your community played in the wars of our country. This can be recorded under the sub-sections.

1. **Home Front, World Wars I & II.** (a) The role of women on the Home Front. (b) Women's Institute War Work.—Red Cross, Salvage, Rationing etc; (c) Munition plants and war industries of the district.

2. **Armed Forces.** (a) Record of men and women in the Armed Forces. (b) Meritorious Awards — decorations, etc. (c) Honour Roll of Casualties. (d) Military Population — proximity of camps, air bases, naval stations, etc. Pictures of all above should be included where possible.

3. **Peace Celebrations.** (a) Tell how your community marked these eventful dates. (b) Tell also how you welcomed your returning Armed Forces' personnel — parties, — presentations, etc.

The desire to perpetuate the memory of noble sacrifices and heroic deeds is both natural and useful. The future generation may know the spirit of the generations who served their country so nobly in World Wars Nos. 1 and 2 it is our duty to perpetuate these things.

Names of Towns, Villages, Etc.

A point of interest to consider is the origin and derivation of the names of the towns, villages, and settlement as served by the Institutes. Tell how your community received its name.

In conclusion, I would ask you to remember that the purpose of these Tweedsmuir Village Histories is to stimulate and maintain interest in local history and to build up a permanent historical record of the pioneer days and subsequent progress of our country.

(Signed) Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard, Prov. Convener, Historical Research.

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 4)

School girls, farm daughters with home responsibilities, young women in homes of their own, all find the vegetable garden a grand help in serving right food at family meals.

All This and More

Yes, club work means all this, and more. It gives girls an opportunity for all kinds of interesting experiences, including making new friends and getting better acquainted with girls in home community. War brides have received a warm welcome from club members, have joined clubs and assisted with demonstrations at achievement days. New Canadians in Northern Ontario and old Ontario have found a friendly place in Homemaking Clubs. Betty Wong, a little twelve year old Chinese, was a member of the Cobden Milky Way Club. Betty took her Milky Way seriously and succeeded in getting her family to consume their milk quota each day. At achievement day Betty, along with other club members, staged a delightful skit on Play Safe with Milk. Verla Mutrie, a Norfolk County member and leader, now a teacher, carries on club work with her pupils. Four of her ten members are new Canadians,—Dutch, Belgian and Hungarian.

The Victory Gardeners and David's Diggers,—two Huron County Brigades with 14 members, spent two days at Kintail Camp on Lake Huron. Miss Flora Durnin, Home Economics

PUBLICITY

With the ending of hostilities and returning to normal living, we look back over the last six years to consider and evaluate all we have done as a group of women who have for their motto — "For Home and Country."

Our war charities, our jam projects, and the aid we have rendered to Red Cross and other societies, that have claimed our time at knitting, sewing and other activities are only a part of the work that has been accomplished. Not only those who went into the "thick of the battle" have been sufferers, but those who remained at home had their "battles" to fight. By carrying on with our daily tasks, our regular meetings and projects, we have helped ourselves and others to live courageously. The scene changes; we are now given the opportunity to help build a better, nobler world.

One of the first duties as a member of the Women's Institutes is to understand the set-up of our organization. How much do we know about it? Can we answer questions intelligently and thus give the right publicity? Or, do we at times impress the public with a lack of pride and indifference, creating that attitude in them. I have found a great deal of pleasure and pride in wearing my Institute and Provincial pins. They have given me the opportunity to explain their significance, and by that, new members have been brought into our organization. Let us wear our pins and be proud of them.

Some people complain of too many standing committees. But let us know our set-up study the "Functions of Standing Committees" and there will not be the confusion in reporting.

Do not confuse the duties of the publicity convener with those of the secretary. Have this clearly understood in your Institute. The publicity convener makes public the what, why, how, and results of the activities in as many ways as possible. If it is a report, make it read like a story-book make it sound so attractive that those who read it will want to be a part of it. The publicity convener should send reports to farm magazines as well as to local papers. Then we, in Ontario, know what you are doing in York, Elgin and Carleton. This information gives us suggestions.

How we did enjoy reading in the

Coach, says, "The days were crammed full of activities, play, camp duties and club work." They held their garden achievement day program and made plans for their club exhibit at Stratford Fair. We who saw it at Stratford considered it an excellent exhibit. Two posters along with a variety of quality vegetables tumbling out of a bushel basket, made up their exhibit. The background poster featured a drawing of the hemisphere with a picture of a girl with an armful of vegetables. The other poster read, "Food will win the peace. Our gardens save food for others, doctors' bills for us. Eat for health. Follow Canada's Food Rule."

Miss Verna Bambridge, Home Economics' Coach in Kent reports that the Beechwood Milky Way girls had a Milk Bar at the Ridgeway Fair, while Miss Petty writes that one of her former Club Girl Stands on Guard members rendered first aid at the Port Arthur grain elevator disaster.

Ten Years of Club Work

This summer completes ten years of Homemaking Club program—The Cereal Shelf, Meat in the Menu, Dressing Up Home Grown Vegetables; Clothing Clubs,—Being Well Dressed and Well Groomed, Cottons May Be Smart, Summer Clothes for Girls, Sleeping Garments; House-

various farm magazines about Miss Christmas! The story of her visit with us was so splendidly told. Those who were privileged to meet her found her so charming, that the story meant even more to us. It has been a good piece of publicity and it has done a great deal in bringing new strength to our work.

What about posters announcing the events of the Institute? These can be done by members or would the children in the school have an incentive for better work in art classes if this real problem were given them? Offer a prize if you wish.

Do you remember the bulletin boards some of the gas stations used before the war? How eagerly they were read by the passersby and how many comments were heard about them. Could we make use of this idea?

What do our own actions and statements offer in the way of publicity? What do you talk about after your meeting, that Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Smith had a disagreement or that Mrs. Jones presented some good ideas on "Better Buying" which were most practical and that you intend to put into practice? When your Institute asks for a Short Course, what happens? Do your members arrange their work so they can attend and when it is over practice what they have learned? Yes, your Short Course can be good publicity or bad, for your organization. We sometimes forget "That what you do talks louder than what you say."

Are we older women forgetting how to play? With our example of good recreation we will be in a better position to get results when we encourage and ask for recreation centres for all ages in our community. Our interest in the recent drive for funds for the Sick Children's Hospital has proved that we are interested in the health of children. In providing places for them to play we are helping to build strong vigorous boys and girls and better citizens for the next generation.

There are great things ahead today for the women of vision, and such women are found in the Women's Institutes. As we go forward let us think of what the late President Roosevelt said on one occasion "The only limit of our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

(Contributed by Mrs. N. J. White, Convener of Publicity.)

furnishing Clubs,—Clothes Closets Up To Date, Cotton Accessories for the Club Girl's Bedroom.

An ever-increasing number of local leaders have directed the clubs after attending Leader Training Schools. Countless leaders, like Mrs. D. W. Crosier, Ontario County, Mrs. W. H. Armstrong, Durham County, Mrs. R. A. Dodds, Cochrane District and Mrs. A. E. Reekie of Grey County have acted as leaders for nearly every year during that ten years. Mrs. Reekie has had over 100 girls enrolled in her clubs. Many former members are now successful leaders. Scores of girls have achieved Provincial Honours, having completed twelve Homemaking Clubs, while hundreds have County Honours having completed six Homemaking Clubs. What a joy it is to hear from and meet these former members in homes of their own, teaching, nursing, in the services, doing many things exceptionally well. How delighted we are when we find them established in farm homes and giving valued leadership in their communities.

Yes, commendations and thanks, leaders and members everywhere, who demonstrate magnificently that knowing what and how means doing.

(Contributed by Miss F. P. Eadie.)