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True love is but a humble, low-born thing,  
And hath its food served up in earthen  
ware;  
It is a thing to walk with, hand in hand,  
Through the every-dayness of this work-  
day world.

—James Russell Lowell

#### SERVICE

There are strange ways of serving God;  
You sweep a room or turn a sod,  
And suddenly, to your surprise,  
You hear the whirr of seraphim,  
And find you're under God's own eyes  
And building palaces for Him.

—Herman Hagedorn

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**Gowanstown** sponsored a "Better Reading Quiz" for the children from grades three to eight in the five schools of the district. The children were required to read two prescribed books over the school term from fall till spring; then the quiz was held at a public meeting where the schools provided musical entertainment and an interested audience filled the hall. Books were presented to all the children taking part in the quiz.

When the institutes of **York County** joined the York Pioneer and Historical Society in their annual joint picnic this year, the institute women staged a series of tableaux of pioneer life. Mrs. R. H. Neil of Thornhill arranged and directed the tableaux. The background of the outdoor stage setting was an imitation of hewn log walls painted on cardboard, with a pioneer living room where women in dresses with long full skirts, aprons, kerchiefs and caps for the older ones, went about their household work. West York women demonstrated preparing food using the equipment of the early days. A farmer showed how shingles were split and tapered; another used a "neck yoke" to carry heavy buckets. The Sharon Junior Farmers demonstrated a popular recreation of pioneer times in square dancing to a fiddle and a "caller-off."

An amusing feature of **New Flos** Institute's "grandmothers' meeting" was a contest with every woman wearing something to represent a song. The report says: "They turned out wearing everything from silver slippers and old gray bonnets to apple leaves and heads of rye. The motto was "Be kind to the aged for they have come a long way. Help the young for they have a long way to go"; the roll call "Something my grandmother made to eat." Other features of the program were an amusing talk on the topic "Life Fifty Years

Ago," the reading of a poem "Loneliness," and the singing of "The Long Long Trail."

**Wooler** Institute had the original idea of presenting a plaque to a local doctor, Dr. David McMullen, on his seventieth birthday "in appreciation of service to the community." The presentation was made at a banquet and it is to be noted that there were eight other doctors at the head table, one of them Dr. McMullen's daughter . . . This Institute also reports presenting a life membership to Mrs. W. McColl who has been an active member since the branch was organized fifty-five years ago. At the meeting when the presentation was made the minutes were read of a meeting held at Mrs. McColl's home in 1922. At that meeting "music was played on the victrola."

**East Pearson and Pardee** Institute in Thunder Bay invited the community to an evening party on the school grounds during the summer vacation. The evening began with a ball game between two neighboring softball teams and continued with a program and lunch in the school house.

**Oakwood Institute** held a street dance to raise funds towards building a public library.

Bus tours and other "excursions" such as boat trips are popular with many Institutes. Sometimes these outings are planned for education as well as enjoyment. **Campania** in Dufferin county arranged a bus trip to visit the General Electric Plant at Barrie, and from there to go to the Ontario School for Retarded Children at Orillia where the Superintendent explained something of the way the school is conducted and what is being accomplished with the children. The trip included a call at the home of Kenneth McNeill Wells, well-known bee-keeper and author of "The Owl Pen" and "Up Medonte Way," and a dinner at Barrie on the way home. **Hillier** had a two-day bus trip from Prince Edward county via Guelph where they stopped at the Ontario Agricultural College, to Stratford to see the Shakespearean Festival play "The Merchant of Venice." They stayed overnight in Stratford and came home the next day by way of Hamilton, calling at the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Wholesale Market at Toronto.

**New Flos** in Simcoe county arranged a tour of historical places around Midland, visiting the Indian village and Huronia Museum.

**Port Perry** reports that they have a member, Mrs. Lawson Honey who joined the Institute twenty years ago and has never missed a meeting since.

At the Listowel fall fair, thirteen Women's Institutes entered non-competitive displays in a special class, "Dress Up Your Kitchen." The displays featured kitchen accessories—ranging from gadgets to a complete kitchen modelled in miniature—not more than twenty and not less than ten articles in each display. Each Institute received \$10 in recognition of providing this attraction for the fair.