

Probably because I was born on a Saskatchewan homestead and love to stretch my eyes for miles I have an affinity for this topic and I strongly recommend it as a subject for study in our Institutes. It is a change from the usual round and is a worthwhile exercise in citizenship.

Editor's Note: Here are a few excerpts from letters Mrs. Lewis received from women in the territories. One writes from Fort Providence: "We sponsor a basic English class for five-year-old natives. One member takes the class, the rest of us help by getting supplies and making cookies for their lunches. This year we are making warm footwear and mittens for these five-year-olds and clothes for the needy children so that they can attend the classes . . . Our main project is to buy moosehide handicrafts from the natives, then find a market for them. Since we have been doing this the natives have greatly increased their handicraft." At Christmas, Easter and Hallowe'en the Institute meeting is usually turned into a party. The Institute also provides reading matter for interested people. The first of this came from Granton Women's Institute in Middlesex County; the Middlesex County Institutes also sent a donation of \$200 for the expansion of the work in the North.

Discovery, the site of another Institute is a gold-mining camp about 55 miles from Yellowknife. Here the program is much like that of an old Ontario Institute. They report demonstrations in sandwich making, fish cooking, meat cutting; and they had a lawyer from Yellowknife speak to them on Women's Rights in the North-West Territories. They do sewing and make crib quilts for people needing them and when one of their members was hospitalized with cancer in Edmonton, they collected \$1,500 for her, mostly from the mining camps.

## St. Mary's District Museum

By Mrs. L. A. Ball

**S**T. MARY'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE had a busy season in 1962 when, assisted by members of other women's organizations in St. Mary's, they welcomed 500 callers to St. Mary's District Museum — 200 more than in the previous year.

This museum began in a most modest way in 1955 when one room in the Old Collegiate Institute was granted to us rent free by the Town Council as a place to keep our old historical gifts. To-day we are housed in the first large stone dwelling ever erected in St. Mary's, in about the year 1838, and it is known as Cadgar Park House. It is surrounded by beautiful grounds and tall old trees, and the swimming pool for the children is also situated in Cadgar Park. These young citizens are always welcome and are becoming really enthused about the early history of St. Mary's.

The museum is open from three to five o'clock every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from June till September and, even with the help of other women's organizations in the town, it was becoming quite a task to keep it staffed during the summer holidays. We decided to ask about ten girls from Grade 12 of the Public School, who were quite familiar with the museum, to come on open days and assist the ladies and, with a little training, they became splendid guides and enthusiastic boosters for the museum.

When the visiting season is over we begin to house-clean, sending the woollen clothes to be dry-cleaned and the cotton clothes to be washed. At first we did all this work ourselves but now we can pay to have it done. It is not all voluntary labour.

We are also papering and painting the large front entrance hall, which will greatly improve



Members of Cloverleaf Women's Institute in the old-time costumes they wore to take part in a skit depicting an Institute meeting of fifty years ago.