

Erland Lee Homestead Finance Committee Report

Mrs. Noblitt reminded the Board that there is a comprehensive and informative program of food information through news media, home economists, schools and exhibits, etc. The popular mail-a-menu programs will continue.

Provincial Tweedsmuir Histories

Mrs. R. C. Walker, Provincial Tweedsmuir History Curator reported 27 more histories than last year. A district survey was done to try to tabulate the number of histories in the province but the exact figure is not possible because not all of the area curators gave figures. Using previous figures from unreported areas there could now be 1256 Tweedsmuir Histories in Ontario.

The Women's Institute is the only rural organization assembling a record of the local communities. The curator stressed the importance of these histories in the preservation of records of our Canadian way of life and its progression throughout the years. Mrs. Walker said the information contained in these histories is unique, invaluable and an ever-ready source of authentic material for students, genealogists, and other interested folk. Many requests re "House Logs" were received by Mrs. Walker following her suggestion regarding these in various reports. She suggests a durable notebook or smooth surfaced board being fastened by a fine chain to stairway or some part of house where it can remain. On this should be recorded the name of the builder of the house, when built, original owner, followed by succeeding tenants and any changes to the dwelling.

About one hundred Tweedsmuir Histories have been microfilmed and there is a waiting list. Mrs. Walker is to be notified if a Branch wishes their volume to be microfilmed. Thanks was extended to the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food for this service. Any group wishing to work on local community history may do so. Workshops have been held in various parts of the province.

Reviewing area reports Mrs. Walker reported a vast amount of work being done by curators and their committees. She expressed a wish for greater use to be made of the Tweedsmuir Histories by students, and a keener interest in compiling family trees; and urged displays of the Tweedsmuir Histories at teas, shows, etc., thus creating greater community involvement.

Mrs. Russell Wise, Chairman, reported donations of \$7,800 received towards the purchase of the Erland Lee Home. Word had also been received that the Stoney Creek Women's Institute will send a cheque for \$3,000.00 and Wentworth County Council a grant of \$5,000.00 when the home is purchased and a further promise of grants for the next two years.

The property contains 2.9 acres on which there are two houses, the historic home where the Constitution of the first Women's Institute was written, and a smaller home. Certain furnishings including Mrs. Lee's walnut dining room table on which the Constitution was written will go with the purchase of the home and also an opportunity to buy other furnishings at such a time as Mrs. Lee might wish to sell them. Mrs. Lee has had to take up residence in an apartment but suitable tenants to care for the home are now residing there.

Other representations for support to this project are being made to Hamilton City, etc. by this committee. The option on the Lee Home was signed in 1969 and it is to be picked up in 1972 for \$40,000.00. The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario is considered a charitable organization for this project and receipts for income tax purposes will be given to contributors.

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AGE

"Age is not a unique experience — everyone is doing it. It has been said, 'How you look at it may well make the difference in how you look.' It is rather a feat to have lived to three score years and ten in spite of wars, accidents—disasters.

Years open wide windows—giving an opportunity to surround ourselves with friends, to acquire wisdom, knowledge, skills and material things. Age is calculated like income tax—a bit different for everyone and each is faced with the calculation. Everyone has an ideal age but hanging on to youth is cheating oneself. It's like hanging on to the soup course when everyone knows it is the beginning of the meal and that the best is yet to come! Accept age gracefully and try to keep a sense of humour regardless of the years by making a conscious effort to improve one's attitude to life, radiate happiness, and be optimistic. In fact the art of growing old should be rephrased to 'The art of growing ageless!'"