

The Women's Institutes Were There

Information by Mrs. Verne O'Hare
Board Director Subdivision 25

Involvement — lots of work — tired — sore feet — but Successful.

This is the story of Lambton County Women's Institutes at the International Plowing Match at Alvinston, held on the farm of Mr. J. B. McGugan. Mrs. McGugan, the farm hostess is a busy and active member of Brooke W.I.

Mrs. Clare Freer was responsible for feeding the 1,400 at the closing banquet held in Petrolia. Each Institute prepared the menu of home cooked ham, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, corn, rolls and cherry pies in sufficient quantity to serve 50. To Mrs. Freer and her workers a special thanks.

Everywhere you turned the crowds **knew** the Women's Institutes were there. The Plowmen **knew** the W.I.'s would come to the fields with their box lunches. Mrs. Margaret Campbell, Alvinston, headed the Committee preparing, packing and delivering them each day of the match.

Walking down the streets of the tented city, lineups could be seen waiting to buy a snack, these people **knew** it was an Institute booth.

The Women's Institute members served as ushers in the **Women's Tent**, as well as donating all the gifts given out during the programs.

However, the **County Tent** was the centre of activity for W.I. members and visitors and the majority of women visiting the match found their way to this area. We often hear it said, "W.I.'s don't make their efforts known." How refreshing to walk into the tent and be greeted by signs "Lambton County Women's Institute" and "We are Proud to be Members of the W.I.". Mrs. Verne O'Hare, chairman of the exhibit, along with her Committee have worked, planned and attended meetings during the past year.

Exhibits

An excellent W.I. exhibit consisted of displays of quilts, mats, cushions, crewel work, leather craft, and papier maché. The **Tweedsmuir Books** were on display and the visitors were most interested to see the variety of history and impressed with the quality of workmanship. The Curators who displayed the books found the public keenly interested and were kept busy answering questions.

The large copper tooled W.I. Crest in the central display emphasized the work of the ACWW. The display of flags indicated where Constituent Societies are located around the globe. Ontario is a Constituent Society and is part of the eight million membership on all continents.

One of the tables displayed material, brochures, handbook, leaflets and booklets and signs told about various levels of the organization. The Erland Lee Home with pictures was there, as were the hasti-notes and serviettes, which drew attention to the F.W.I.O. project. Many questions were asked about the organization.



Lambton County W.I. Display

If you wanted to stop and chat and rest, the W.I. served tea and home made cookies. Each day there were **demonstrations** — candle making, broom stick lace, mats from bread wrappers, daisy making for afghans, quilting and fashion parades of the wool suits made at the tailoring course.

The **Guest Book** was signed by many personalities, and those working in the exhibit shook hands with the Governor General, Roland Michener (who officially opened the Match), the Hon. Wm. A. and Mrs. Stewart, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Food, the local Members of Parliament and Councillors. The W.I. Members from Newfoundland, as well as visitors from the North West Territories, Holland, South Africa, U.S.A., England, Wales and Ireland were part of the huge crowd, mainly from Ontario.

Pens were sold, inscribed "Welcome to 1973 International Plowing Match — Lambton County W.I.'s." The profit from these sales paid for the tent space and a donation to the Erland Lee Home. \$300.00 was sent to the Committee to purchase an article needed at the Home on behalf of the three District Women's Institutes in Lambton County.

The W.I. Exhibit Committee was chaired by Mrs. Verne O'Hare who acted as Treasurer as well, Secretary, Mrs. Earle Gibb, a former Board Director, Committee chairman and members, from Lambton North District, Mrs. Orville Dailey, President, and Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Victor Smith; from Lambton Centre, Mrs. George Robbins, President, and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Vaughn White; and Lambton South President, Mrs. Milton White and Mrs. Earl Johnston, Secretary-Treasurer, as well as Mrs. Finlay McKinlay and Mrs. Ross Donald.

This was a co-operative effort of members working together toward a common goal, to promote the work of the Women's Institute.

Did You Know?

Today's pork has 22% more protein, 57% less fat and 36% fewer calories than pork of a few years ago. It is digestible and nutritious, versatile and delicious. And weight-watching groups and dieticians are now recommending the new, lean pork as regular fare.