

# What's In A Name

Did you ever wonder about some of the names of the Women's Institutes in Ontario?

Where did they originate?

Did the name have historical value? Did a group of women conjure up the name?

Take ZONE CENTRE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE for instance in Kent County. The "Centre" is fairly easy to figure out, it must be in the centre of something — a zone? — it turns out Zone is a Township.

In 1922 Zone Centre W.I. was organized with the first President, Mrs. Gwen Mahuski. All the members resided in Zone Township and their first meetings were held in the Township Hall, so when you know the story, quite good reasoning for the Women's Institute's name.

In the fifty-three years since organization, many changes have taken place. The old Baptist church which was there from the beginning is no longer used by the Baptists. In the early days, the township Council met in the red brick hall in the centre of the Township and the SS #5 school (which met its demise when the Central School was opened at Bothwell in 1966) was purchased by the Council.

The old school is now a Community Centre and the Institute hold their meetings there. The members installed a modern kitchen in a new addition to the original building and serve banquets for all types of community activities.

Zone Centre Women's Institute is not a large group, but Mrs. Fred Oliver, Tweedsmuir Curator, states "you can't beat the members for loyalty and dedication, and all have tried to carry on the fine traditions established by the founding members."

THE HART'S-RIGGS' WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH is the most recently organized branch in the Hastings North District of the Trent Valley Area. This year the branch is celebrating its twentieth birthday with "cake and all the trimmings" at a Tweedsmuir Social Evening.

Mrs. J. Horsepool, Bancroft, District President in 1955, assisted by Mrs. Ernie Moore, of Madoc, organized the Hart's-Riggs' Branch. Membership was to be drawn from within the boundaries of the two existing school sections at that time. Hart's S.S. #3 and Riggs' S.S. #13, both in the southeast corner of Madoc Township in Hastings County.

There was considerable discussion about which name should be placed first. Hart's was chosen because it was the first of the two schools to be established (in 1842 by Squire Thomas Hart). Riggs' School was later built where three Riggs' families homesteaded.

When the rural schools in the township of Madoc were closed and the children were transported by bus to the new Madoc Township Area School, the Hart's School became Hart's-Riggs' Women's Institute Hall.

Two adjacent school sections, Burriss' S.S. #9 and Cedar S.S. #4 are now part of the Hart's-Riggs' Branch.

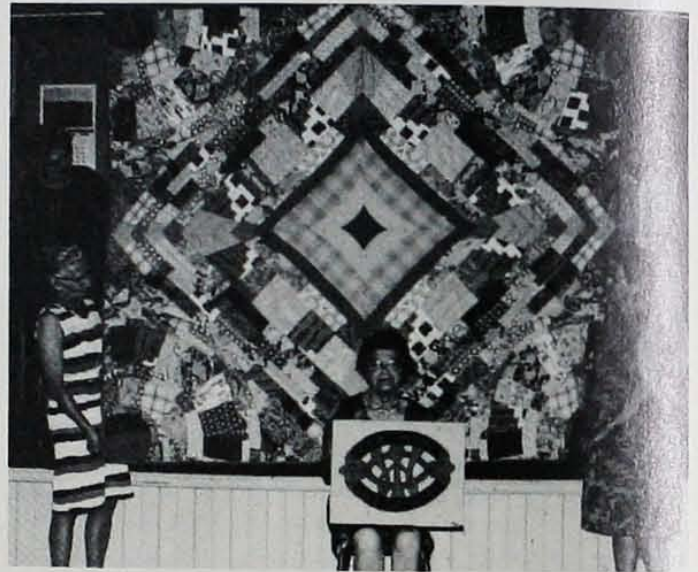
Mrs. Max Burnside points out an interesting coincidence, the charter membership was 28, the present membership 28.

## LIMESTONE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The village of Limehouse, from which our W.I. derives its name, was so named because of the active industry of lime burning here. Designed by one of our members, who is a graduate of the College of Art, this quilt depicts a lime kiln.

The dark patch in the centre represents the hole in the top of the chimney-like kiln where cord wood was thrown in, and chunks of quarried limestone rock dumped on to six feet above the top. This cone was plastered with clay to seal it. The dark corners represent the fire hole where wood was burned continuously for days to cook the rock to lime. When cooled, the lime was removed through the fire hole. The many small blocks are the stones constructing the kiln. Notice how they slant to support each other around and above the hole. Unevenly shaped ones are like those stones readily available.

The Quilt is all hand sewn and the majority of the members contributed to the project.



Limehouse W.I. win quilt competition at District Annual. Left — Top — Mrs. T. N. Anderson, organizer; Bottom — Mrs. A. W. Benton, Secretary-Treasurer; Right — Top — Mrs. S. Mileham, designer; Bottom — Mrs. F. T. C. Brown, District Director. Centre — Mrs. G. Booth, President, holding WI crest, displaying rug hooking technique on burlap made by Mrs. Anderson.

It is recorded in the minutes of the Branch's organization on November 11, 1952 that "GLOUCESTER GLEN was chosen by popular vote from a variety of names suggested." This name also is associated with a housing development in the Area.

In the name of progress, Bowesville Branch had disbanded. The members were mainly farmers, and their farm land had been expropriated for the Ottawa Airport. Many had moved to the River Road Area so it was natural that some of these newcomers felt the need for an Institute.

Twenty-five ladies gathered at the home of Mrs. John Steacy with the special guest Mrs. John Craig, District President. The first President was Miss Florence Hardy.

Today there are five charter members, Miss Elizabeth Hardy (life member), Mrs. Fred Leslie, Mrs. Howard Tewsley, Mrs. Wilton Williams and Mrs. Reginald Stock.