



Board Meeting 1966.

Friends are those who try to make each other's pathway brighter, and those who find real happiness in making burdens lighter.

"To have friends is to be one"—has been her philosophy in her Church, Community, University, County Home Economist, Royal Canadian Navy, Federal Department of Fisheries, Home Economics Director, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food; and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and Canada.

She proudly wears her FWIO Honorary President's Badge and is a Life Member of the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

One has only to read "Ontario Women's Institute Story" published by FWIO in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary to understand the contribution Miss McKercher has made during the last twenty years.

She believes that learning is not all in the classroom. Her vision to see rural development needs, is projected in the educational service of her Branch. It is amazing how much leadership has been given to country women from these programmes.

Miss McKercher's knowledge and sound judgment has been valuable to decisions made by many committees on which she has served. The FWIC Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and the FWIO Erland Lee Home are two on which she has been a member since their inception. For many years, Brant County Women's Institutes felt that the founder's birthplace should be preserved. A cairn inscription, erected on a two acre lot, half mile from the birthplace reads:

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS
1857-1910

WHO FOUNDED THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
ON FEBRUARY 19TH, 1897.

ERECTED BY THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF
BRANT COUNTY

UNVEILED BY HER EXCELLENCY
THE LADY TWEEDSMUIR
OCTOBER 2ND, 1937.

Before ACWW met at Toronto, 1953, road signs were erected to mark, as Historic Sites, the cairn and direction to the birthplace.

The next year North Brant District appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of purchasing the home, which later was marked as an Historic Site in 1958 by South Dumfries Township Council. In 1959 the Provincial Government unveiled a plaque when Branch, District, Area, FWIO and FWIC presidents, ACWW vice-president and many Branch members attended the ceremony. At the next FWIC Board Meeting at Charlottetown, P.E.I. it was decided to purchase the Birthplace, with Miss Helen McKercher appointed as co-ordinator of the project. The committee met, a lawyer engaged and an option taken on the home and three acres of land. Three months later the Birthplace became the property of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

The Federal Government proclaimed Adelaide Hunter Hoodless a National Historic Figure and renovations began. In 1962 a plaque was unveiled proclaiming the Homestead a National Historical Site.

Institute members across Canada donated home furnishings as an FWIC Centennial project.

Miss McKercher's same loyal support has been given to the Erland Lee Home.

May her voyage on the sea of retirement be blessed with fair weather and happiness, surrounded by friends.

Nellie Charlton