

## Introducing Norma G. Howe



Mrs. Fred Howe, R.R. 5, Embro, Provincial Tweedsmuir History Curator.

A Perth County native, Norma is the only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Norman Coulthard of St. Pauls. She grew up in an Institute family environment, her mother is a life member of St. Pauls Branch and a former Board Director.

Norma married Fred Howe and together they farm in Zorra Township, Oxford County. Their three children all have different interests. Gordon is the sportsman, Brenda a 4-Her and Sandra the highland dancer.

In 1955 Norma joined the Stratford Junior Women's Institute and was secretary for two years. After marriage she transferred her membership to Braemar W.I. and has belonged for 23 years.

An active member, she has held the office of President as well as President of the Oxford North District. At present she holds the office of Curator. Internationally she is a life member of A.C.W.W.

Community and church activities take much of her time. She serves on the Board of Managers and is President of the Ladies Aid and a life member of the W.M.S. Every Sunday finds her singing in the church choir and she is kept busy as a soloist at weddings.

Interested in the activities of her children, she has led 4-H Homemaking Clubs and is presently a member of the Board of Western Ontario Highland Dancers Association. An entirely new venture, and one that will take a great deal of work. Norma now is chairlady of the Women's Program for the International Plowing Match which will be held in Oxford County in 1980.

The office of Tweedsmuir History Curator for F.W.I.O. comes as a real challenge, but with her enthusiasm and great curiosity to learn, we are lucky to have this talent.

Any question on the Tweedsmuir History, micro-filming, etc., just drop her a note. Because of constraints, there will not be any Tweedsmuir History Workshops provided by the Home Economics Branch in the coming year.

Mrs. Howe succeeds Mrs. R. C. Walker who held the position for twenty years, now the office of Curator is a six-year term.

## A COMMITTEE OF TWO —and the Project was on its way

### Pediatric Playroom Project, Kairshea W.I.

A stay in the hospital can be a trying experience at the best of times, even for those of us who realize why we're there, and that it's a temporary visit. For a child, who probably has no idea what the whole thing is about, a few days in the hospital can represent a pretty frightening experience. It's important for him/her to have comforting and interesting toys to play with, to help ease confusion and fears.

When the Kairshea W.I. in the Bruce South District realized that the Wingham Hospital pediatric playroom was in desperate need of toys, they launched a four part project to help out. Sheila Clarke and Kathy Howald formed a committee of two, and the project was off and running.

The ladies started out with an old-fashioned sewing bee, the result—a delightful selection of definitely "huggable" toys. Secondly, three major toy companies were contacted. They quickly showed how generous big business can be. Somerville Belkin Industries Ltd. donated some Playskool toys, and Mattel Canada Inc. donated a toy and very kindly invited the committee down to their factory to purchase directly from their company store. Fisher Price Sales Canada donated a 35 lb. (that's 16 kilograms for the metric-minded) box of reconditioned toys, which included a hospital set and a crib activity centre.

A fund-raising blitz of organizations in the wider hospital community also comprised a part of the project. A hefty \$240 was raised, thanks to the generous response of a number of groups, including some of the area Women's Institutes. The Lucknow Jr. W.I., the Lucknow Sr. W.I., the Bluevale W.I., the Teeswater W.I., the Belgrave W.I., and the Holyrood W.I. all chipped in, along with several other service organizations. After a day trip to Toronto, Sheila and Kathy (with Wilma Clark as navigator) were amazed to see just how many toys \$240 could buy. It very nearly became a question of who would have to ride on top on the way home!

Finally, a used toy drive was held in two towns, with the help of the local schools and newspapers. The year-long project culminated with the delivery of a great mass of boxes being delivered to the hospital in May. Local newspapers sent reporters to photograph the hospital toddlers at play, and included articles in their papers to thank the many community participants in the endeavour. Thanks to the support of a warm-hearted community that really cares about its hospital, and to the interest of the Kairshea ladies, little ones who find themselves in Wingham Hospital now will have a wonderful batch of toys to alleviate their fears and ease their visit.

As was noted by one participant, the playroom must be on the right track. Every child who has seen the pile of toys so far, can't wait to get sick . . . yesterday, at the very latest!