

Newsmakers

The Women's Institute runs in some families as it does for the Alguires. Mother and daughter-in-law both say they enjoy it as a learning experience and social outlet.

Mrs. Arthur Alguire, was one of the three women honored at the Cornwall Centre WI, Stormont District, at their 70th Anniversary celebration. "I really enjoyed every minute of it," she says about her WI experiences. She was president in 1945 and has held many other offices over the years.

As for the changes, she says there have been many. "It was the horse and buggy days when I first joined. I can remember rocking the cradle with one foot and churning butter with the other."

Daughter-in-law, **Mrs. Basil Alguire**, current President, has spent 17 years working in various capacities in the Branch. She says she enjoys the social life of the WI, and the guest speakers always give us something to think about.

RETURNS TO HOMELAND

Ann D'Cruz, second Vice-President of **Ingleside WI, Stormont District** recently returned with her husband for a visit to their native Pakistan, after an absence of 24 years.

Then, they had been part of an isolated minority, English-speaking, born of English and Portuguese parents, western in dress, customs and culture, Christian among Hindus and Muslims.

They were there in 1947, when East and West Pakistan were created out of India's northern reaches — Ann as an employee of the American Embassy, and her husband as an executive officer with the government: "We witnessed the terrible struggle and strife that went on."

They returned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of brother Michael, a priest with the Franciscan Order. Travelling with him for 2½ weeks from place to place, "palace and hovel," Ann said she wasn't prepared for what she found — as much for what she saw as how she saw it. "I think of our life there 24 years ago, and I couldn't help thinking: where were we 24 years ago that we didn't see the needs that exist?"

Life in Canada has made a difference, both because the social structure is not so strictly defined, nor the population so dense. I remembered Pakistan was crowded, however, the country has gone a long way since we left, but unfortunately it remains small, poor, and industrially weak. It's the great crush of population (eight million in Karachi, a city the size of Toronto) that she sees as the problem, the cause for inadequate housing, illness, difficult transportation, lack of education and training.

LINDA LOU NELSON, former secretary of **ELLIOT LAKE, WI, ALGOMA DISTRICT** and 4-H leader recently became the first female millwright in Ontario.

Mrs. Roma Macmillan, former FWIC Secretary has completed a new album, "Seaway Valley Fiddle Tunes." This is her second album and includes four original compositions. Roma has more than 80 trophies to her credit and recently placed first in the North American Senior class held in Quebec. She began her career as a violinist with the Montreal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mrs. Lois Urstadt, a member of **BLUEWATER WI, GREY WEST DISTRICT**, and Deputy Reeve of Sarawak Township was elected Warden of Grey County for 1982.

Having completed her term as FWIO Board Director in 1974, Mrs. Urstadt was elected to the local Sarawak Township Council that same year.

Lois has a few "firsts" in her political career. Doubtless the most important is the first father-daughter elected Warden in Grey. Mr. Sam McMillan, now 83 was Warden in 1948. In addition to becoming the first woman Warden in Grey, she was the first woman elected Council member in her own Township, Sarawak. This is the first time in history that a Deputy Reeve has been elected Warden and she was the first woman to sit on County Council.

Lois and husband Ted, have a family contracting business and Lois is responsible for the bookkeeping and designs, and draws blueprints for houses.

She is first Vice President of the Grey Bruce Area and belongs to the Owen Sound Agricultural Society and is a qualified Fall Fair judge. In her spare time, she sews, is a skilled craft person and paints.

As a member of the Bluewater WI, Lois has only missed one meeting in over 23 years.

The Chain of Office has the crest of Grey County and each section around the chain depicts some aspect of the County, i.e. representative of Indians — the first natives, farming, fishing, education. Between each plate are the engraved names of all the municipalities.

As Lois so fittingly said, "it is a fairly weighty collar and makes me doubly aware of the responsibilities that accompanies the office."



LOIS M. URSTADT, WARDEN GREY COUNTY, 1982.