

Letter to the Editor

A thought concerning Tweedsmuir Histories

I have been involved in this project since the beginning, and with other curators at branch and district level. During the last few years, I have found branch curators are often intimidated by rules and regulations regarding setting up the books. They are great for those who are well organized and truly interested in history, but, let's face it, that type of person is not present in every branch. To many members, the past is past, let it rest in peace.

To me, the most important thing is to gather the information, the photos, the stories, to preserve and conserve the story of our small communities. The manner in which it is arranged should, and will, vary with the individual curator.

In my contacts, I have found a fear that, lest it be done according to the FWIO Handbook, it won't be valued. Some books I have seen are so well organized they are overpowering to one less gifted and with less time. The value in these records lies not in winning a competition, rewarding though that may be, but in preserving an account of the growth and development of a rural community and its peoples.

The six-year term sounds efficient, but in branches with small membership, there may be only one person who will put forth the effort necessary to produce a properly organized history. I would suggest in a situation of this sort, that the branch look for someone in the local historical society who might

give guidance, but not wish to become a member.

In addition, I have found that once the pressure is off to produce a superior product, the person grows into the task, and simple organizing results. I do not suggest all rules and regulations be dropped, but small branches be encouraged and assisted in their efforts to gather the history of their community and organize it in whatever manner is easiest for them. Only those of us who are or have been curators know what a tremendous task it is if carried out in the best fashion. Just because we cannot do everything, let us not fail to do something.

*Goldie A. Connell
Maynard Women's Institute*

Washago WI wiping out garbage

By **Glenys Hepinstall**

Washago WI, eager to show merchants and residents alike our concern for the ever-present garbage problem, bought three concrete type garbage containers to be placed at vital spots on Muskoka Street in downtown Washago.

The branch made an arrangement with the Township of Orillia to have the containers emptied each week on

regular garbage collection day.

The members are very pleased with the results and plan to purchase at least two more containers to be placed soon.

Washago WI also sponsored a beautification contest. Several merchants participated. The winner was Washago Trading Post.

Glenys Hepinstall is PRO for Washago WI.



Washago WI member Rita Caron standing next to one of the new garbage containers.



\$4,000 raised from the sale of a book called *Make Bake Create* was divided equally between St. Marys Memorial Hospital and Stratford General Hospital by Perth South WI members. Pictured at St. Marys from left to right are Doris Spence, Barb MacLean, Karen Rodd and baby Tyler McCurdy, Eithlene Fraser and Helen Shute.

Seminar in Elgin

The community outreach seminar in Elgin County is gearing up for its fifth year with the addition of new workshops in the program line-up.

On Feb. 23, 1991, participants will experience three of six mini workshops—recycling, crafts, personal gardening, beauty and fashion, special diets, and interior design.

The day will be held at South-side Public School near St. Thomas and is \$15, including lunch, for those who pre-register and \$20 at the door.

Snow date is March 2. For more details contact Betty Van Patter, R.R.#9, St. Thomas, NSP JT3, 519-631-2100.