

Memories & More

By Rosella Clancy

Since the first attempts to compile Tweedsmuir Histories, the resulting pages have become valuable sources for researching and reminiscing, as well as programs. The celebrations and happenings this year, our centennial year, will bring our Tweedsmuir to the forefront.

Maybe during this eventful, busy year, Curators should consider enlisting the support of a friend, especially if they have photographic know-how or writing skills. The Branch, I'm sure, would appreciate their contribution, and maybe they would eventually join as a member.

This year, the updating of our Tweedsmuir will be in vogue. Fashion Shows featuring styles through the decades will feature an often overlooked topic. Other events may feature the ever popular quilt, giving curators an opportunity to note quilting designs, binding techniques and patterns (etc.).

Perhaps this is the year to launch a new idea, with each Branch member asked to submit a profile. The results would reveal inspiring women with varied accomplishments. The WI Trail Blazers of 1997? Another topic might be our life styles in the '90s - camcorders, internet access and electronic deadbolts. Wouldn't this be interesting reading for WI members in the year 2097?

As your Provincial Tweedsmuir History Curator, I hope to encourage members to consider compiling family books, to be known as "A Grandmother's Legacy." I found the preparation of such books rewarding. I included family records (condensed from years of research), pictures, biographies of loved ones and stories.

One of the first stories I wrote covered "My Public School Days." Once you've caught the needed enthusiasm to compile "A Grandmother's Legacy," pass it on to other family members and friends.

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Warwick Women's Institute members in Lambton North District are currently twinned with Westbrook WI near Cochrane, Alberta. Letters and articles have been exchanged, and last summer, member Maxine Miner (seated in front, far right) visited with Westbrook members and their families. She thoroughly enjoyed the personal visit and face-to-face exchange of ideas.

Submitted by Maxine Miner, Warwick WI member, Lambton North District.

TWINNING

- the tie that bonds

The Motherwell Women's Institute in Perth South District is enjoying being twinned with Hughenden WI in Alberta. Letters, birthday cards, WI newsletters and small WI mementoes have been exchanged. Helen McLean Nethcott (centre) and her husband drove many miles out of their way on a trip west to visit some members from the twin Institute. They visited Shirley Mitchell (left) and Jean Will (right) and were treated royally.

Submitted by Laurine McIntosh, Motherwell WI, Perth South District.



Poker Anyone?

By Elma Sutherland



If I may, I'd like to say a few words on a subject dear to our hearts - volunteer hours. If, for instance, your Branch decides to put on a poker game to raise funds, playing poker would fall under volunteer hours. As would planning the meeting or discussing whether four of a kind beats a straight. If it's a Women's Institute project, it all counts.

Your planning and meeting time counts. Phoning for a ride counts. And if she's late and you're waiting in the hall with your coat and boots on, count that as well.

I know some of you have questions. You're at the sink whipping up a cake mix for a bake sale. The dish cloth falls into the cake mix and you have to start again. Yes. You include all the time from start to finish. Likewise, if the turkey stuffing falls out on the floor. If the end result is a WI project, count all the time and the hours.

Except for plants. Count the actual planting and time lugging them to the plant sale. The plant does the growing. Don't count that!

I'm pretty sure most of our volunteer hours are underestimated, but with a bit of ingenuity or imagination, we should get them up where they belong.

You might wonder when you fill out your form, where to enter the hours spent on the poker game. It's not 4-H, health, history, fairs, malls or education. Even though playing poker at WI might very well turn out to be an education, it's not really. Under leadership there is a category called other WI opportunities, put the poker game there.

And don't forget to count the hours you spend counting hours!

Submitted by Elma Sutherland, PRO, Renfrew South District.