

Maple Hill United Farm Women of Ontario

This branch was organized April 2, 1921, in the school room of S.S.2 Admaston, by Mr. P.H. Bolger, United Farmers of Ontario, Director for South Renfrew. Mrs. John Box was first President, Mrs. Alex. Gibbons - Vice-President, Mrs. W.L. Pender - Secy.-Treasurer, and Mrs. G.F. Cardiff, Mrs. D.F. Forrest, Directors.

The club worked along the lines adopted by Women's Institutes. An organ was purchased for the school. Special prizes were given for School Fair work; hot lunches in the school during winter months were aided by the purchase of dishes for the hot lunch purposes.

Aid to the Children's Shelter in Renfrew, also aid in the form of clothing and bedding to fire-sufferers in Northern Ontario, were other projects. The sick and aged and "shut-in", were remembered with reading material and Christmas Boxes. This club had several cases of excellent reading material supplied by the Travelling Libraries of Ontario. Those excellent books were available to all in the community and were well read and enjoyed.

The Annual Convention of United Farmer's Co-Operative, United Farmer's of Ontario (Men's Division); United Farm Women and United Farm Young People of Ontario was held in Toronto usually the last week in November. Several of the lady members attended the convention through years. In some cases it was arranged that a man and his wife had the pleasure of attending together, each as delegate from his or her club.

The experiment in co-operative buying of groceries from the Co-Operative Society in Toronto did not prove very successful, and was discontinued after handling a few orders.

In the early days of the club, Canadian Civics was studied with the hope of our becoming better informed on "how we are governed".

If a Dominion or Provincial Election were in the offing the verbal commendations or criticisms of the respective candidates were highlights of our meetings.

Perhaps a word here explaining how these clubs were financed would be in order. They received no financial aid from any Government or organization other than their own membership. Each member paid an annual membership fee, amount of fee decided by each club, but in each case one dollar per year of the fee went to Head Office in Toronto to defray the cost of the Organization. The local club arranged the fee to cover club expenses or raised money for its own individual operation in other legitimate ways.

Women's Clubs were able to avail themselves of the lectures, demonstrations, etc. in Home Economics provided by the Women's Institutes and on several occasions members of our club were able to attend Home Nursing and other courses as well as having girls classes carrying out the various Home Economics projects and taking part in Achievement Day, the highlight of the project.