

Women's Institute Activities



House before restoration.

Adelaide Hoodless House

By Maryn Pardy

So this is the house
Where an inspired woman lived.
A woman who was distraught
As she saw her young child die.
A woman who berated herself
For her own ignorance
Of the things needful to sustain
Life in small bodies.
Then, out of her grief,
A thought came nagging.
There was so much ignorance
Of common things among
The women of her day.
And yet there were those
Who knew and could teach
These women of the farm
If only they could be got together.
So this great woman
With her mind on fire
With an idea, set forth;
And out of her determination
Grew a great movement
Which has spread
And grown and enriched
The lives of many thousands.
We then revere this house
And count it as a shrine,
For because of the death
Of one small child
Countless other children
Have had better lives.
Step softly then, you who enter,
For here a grieving mother lived and dreamed.

WESTWOOD 1964

The August meeting of the Westwood Women's Institute was a tour of the DeLaval plant in Peterborough. The ladies learned the many different products manufactured there. The tour also included a visit to the Public Library where they viewed museum pieces. This trip was arranged by Mrs. Earl Deen, Home Economics convenor.

The members went to Foster's Restaurant for supper where a short business session was held. Mrs. Howard McKeown was appointed delegate to the Area Convention, which is to be held in Belleville Sept. 14-15. Mrs. Thomas Cardwell is alternate.

The date of the September meeting was advanced one week.

An invitation was received to attend a Rally in Selwyn Hall on Sept. 23, at which Mrs. Clarence Mann will give a report on the Annual Convention held in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, in June. Slides of the trip will also be shown. Mrs. Earl Deen held a contest which Mrs. William Post won. Plans concerning the Women's Institute rest centre at the Plowing Match on Oct. 7-10 were discussed. Two members from this branch are to assist Oct. 10.

Adelaide Hoodless Homestead

Restoration of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead has created much interest throughout Canada, reported Mrs. Haggerty, and word has been received from the Historic Sites Board recognizing Mrs. Hoodless as an historic figure and advising that a plaque would be erected in her honour this coming summer. At the recent conference in Vancouver a substantial sum was donated by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada towards the restoration and furnishings of the Homestead. General satisfaction was expressed that this project had been undertaken. Several donations were mentioned by Mrs. Haggerty. These included work and supplies donated by Ontario Hydro, wall paper donated by a wall paper company (the paper was put on the walls by local Women's Institute members), discount allowed on the purchase of paint, hand-made stair carpet from North Waterloo District, donations of money, "clean-up" work by the local township and clearing of a parking area, advice and help from Miss Mc Kercher and Miss Armour of the Home Economics Service. Much work has been done by the Brant County members who, in addition, held a very successful Tea to raise funds for this project. The sale of linen tea towels, showing a view of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead, is another fund-raising project of Brant County members.

Furnishing of the Home will be continued under the guidance of Mr. James Gooding of Toronto. Gifts of books by Nellie McClung and Judge Emily Murphy, to be placed in the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead, will be appreciated, but it is requested that to avoid duplication members write before sending in such donations.

Hearty approval was given the suggestion that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. John Moles of Ontario Hydro and to Brant County members, expressing appreciation of their work and interest.

At Grey County's Summary Day on Block Printing the Briar Hill and Annan sang this parody composed by Mrs. Harold Scott. Here are two verses and the chorus. The tune of course is "Jingle Bells".

Dashing thru' the snow
On cold dark nights we went
To join with other girls
And learn to lino print,
With cutting tools so sharp.

Well fashioned for the trade,
We set to work and now we're here
To show you what we made.

CHORUS

Little ducks, maple leaves
Posies large and small,
Gay designs of every shape
We have tried them all.
Luncheon cloths, pillow slips,
Place mats of all sorts,
Oh, what fun it is to take
An Institute short course.

One night we mixed our paint,
The blue, the green, the brown.
We rolled it on our lino block
And turned it upside down.
When gently lifted off
Why, there before our eyes
Were birds and cherries, thistles too,
Acorns and butterflies.

Parody Poets

SKITS and other variety numbers at extension service Summary Days seem to bring to the fore a lot of talent in writing parodies of well known poems and relating them to the project in hand.

Here is one by Mrs. Joanne Barrie of South Thunder Bay District, on the "143 Pounds of Meat" project. Mrs. Barrie introduced her verses by saying:

"Many of you are familiar with the poem 'If' written by the famous poet 'Rudyard Kipling'. I am going to quote a few lines from the poem 'If'.

'If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too',

"and the last four lines:

'If you can fill the unforbearing minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And what is more—you'll be a Man, my son!'

"This is a sequel to Rudyard Kipling's 'If':

If you can cook your meat when all about you
Are buying roasts and using them in stews;
If you can train yourself to buy the right cut,
Then the culinary arts have met your cues.
If you can fill the pocket of a beef heart
With dressings seasoned to the right degree;
And cook it in a moistened heat procedure,
My ladies, you will earn a pedigree.
If you can take some carrots and some celery
Some turnips, onions maybe one or two;
And add them to your meat browned **without** flour
And from these make a very tasty stew.

SUMMER 1962

Another contribution on the Meat project by Mrs. Jim MacKay was read at Bruce County Summary Day. These few lines explain one objective of the project.

"One hundred and forty-three pounds of meat.
When applied with just the right kind of heat,
Can tickle the nostrils and spur the appetite
Or achieve the opposite if not cooked right.
And that's where the problem enters the scene—
Should you boil it or fry it or roast it, I mean."

Editor's Note: Original poems, like original skits, give liveliness to an Institute meeting, and the above are presented rather as samples of what is being done. There is not space in Home and Country to introduce this as a regular feature but we would suggest that occasionally a place might be found for such contributions in the local paper.