



BURYING 16 persons in the ruins, fire on Dec. 11, 1916 destroyed the plant of the Quaker Oats Company. The loss, the largest ever recorded in Peterborough, was \$2,250,000. Eighteen other persons were more or less seriously injured, while scores had narrow escapes. The picture was taken from the east side of the Otonabee River, with the fire at its height.

District Route

Why The WI?

By STEVE JONESCU
Examiner District Editor

ROSENEATH — After 50 years in one organization, one could be excused for bowing out. It could be considered nothing other than a gracious exit.

However, Mrs. Thomas Elizah Sandercock, leaving the organization after all these years is out of the question. The Women's Institute and Mrs. Sandercock are in for a tremendously long marriage.

Eighty-four years old by the calendar, Mrs. Sandercock impresses the visitor as being much younger in spirit.

Despite a tumble down the stairs a few days previous to the interview, that caused several bruises and a black eye, the good looking woman appeared keen. Even in her physical actions the visitor could not detect what is known as "old age."

Mrs. Sandercock remembered why she joined the WI, why she is a member now, and why it is good for the rural community.

BREAKS ROUTINE

"We operated a 200-acre farm, and the chores could get you down occasionally," she said. "I had been a guest at a few WI meetings and knew exactly what was in store."

"It would be an afternoon away from the routine," she said, "and I would be meeting people."

And at that point she described the "Why of the WI." She explained that life on the farm was always busy. There were few occasions,



MRS. T. SANDERCOCK

other than attendance at church services, to meet the neighbors.

If it meant work (such as knitting, quilting, arranging and attending teas and bazaars), that was all right, too. A little extra work never hurt someone from the farm she said. They're accustomed to it.

But through it all, it was the friendship that really mattered. Mrs. Sandercock said the friendship aspect of the WI hasn't changed since in 50 years, although the meeting place sometimes detracts.

She said she preferred the days when all meetings were held at the homes of members. "Now we meet in the hall," she said, "and it just doesn't seem the same."

The friendship of WI members does not begin and end at meetings. Members in ill health are always remembered through cards and personal visits.

"More important, said Mrs. Sandercock, is that one need not be a member to "receive these little kindnesses."

EARLY KINDNESS

She remembered another kindness, 30 years ago. Because she was a member of the WI for 20 years, the institute voted her an honorary membership . . . which meant she no longer had to pay dues.

Mrs. Sandercock would have none of that then . . . and 30 years later, she still "pays her own way."

"I don't expect any special treatment," she said.

Whereas WI meetings began as a break from housework, she now regards the club even more important.

"I don't get out too much any more, and these meetings allow me to visit with old friends and meet countless new ones," she said.

"Although the meetings have longer business periods, and now the women play a little cards, I'm not as active as I used to be. But none of these things make it any less friendly."

"It's being together that is still first with the group. That's why I will always be long to the WI."



GOVERNOR-GENERAL SIGNS GUEST BOOK AT CITY HALL
Watched By Acting Mayor Gordon Powell

(Yunze-Bateman Photos)