

PANORAMA — with Alice Linden

WI 80 years old

"Happy Birthday" to members of the Women's Institutes, whose organization celebrates its 80th anniversary this year.

A cairn near the Brant County birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless records that it was on February 19, 1897 — 80 years ago last Saturday — that this remarkable woman established the first unit of the WI, at Stoney Creek, between Hamilton and St. Catharines.

Today, the Canadian organization has close connections throughout the world, through its affiliation with the Associated Country Women of the World. The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, alone, has a membership estimated at about 30,000.

Mrs. Herb Maluske of Chesley, heads the Ontario group, and Mrs. Earl Morden of Rodney, is secretary-treasurer. Members identify themselves by the wearing of a gold and blue pin including in its design the WI motto: "Home and Country."

Members of the FWIO are planning an observance befitting the occasion, to take place during the summer.



Reference to the anniversary is made in the latest edition of Home and Country, now going out to members throughout the province. Through pictures and messages the publication heaps praise on a longtime friend and worker for Women's Institutes, Helen May McKercher, honorary president of the FWIO who has retired after 20 years as director of the home economics branch of the Ontario ministry of agriculture and food.

Born on a farm near Seaford, Miss McKercher has spent most of her adult life — aside from a stint in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, during which she was one of four dietitians advising on food preparation for all Canadian naval ships and establishments — working on behalf of some aspect of rural living.

Home and Country editor Margaret Zoeller writes, in her tribute to "A friend":

"Miss McKercher's goals were always superior and she encouraged all to give of their best. She was an image-maker and expected all to uphold the high standards of lifestyles that were worthy of the Ontario Women's Institutes. She fostered co-operation and a sense of responsibility at all levels."

WI members are now wishing Miss McKercher a happy retirement at her home in Stratford, across the river from the Festival Theatre.

Programs that fall upon difficult days all too often have a habit of disappearing completely despite the proven value of the contribution they have been making. News from two London organizations that are back in operation after surviving their own particular crises is therefore especially welcome, and should give encouragement to others.

First, from Louise Davison, president of the board of Whitehills Pre-School Association, comes word that the Whitehills

Day Care Centre will re-open next Monday.

In what is believed to be a "first" in London, the centre will operate in a shopping centre, Sherwood Forest Mall, on Hutton Road, in the northwest end of the city. The association has signed a five-year lease with mall operators, Group R, of Toronto, according to Mrs. Davison. Preparation of the new centre has put the association deeply in debt, according to the president, while Group R has thrown itself wholeheartedly into the project, and shown itself "really super" about providing the kind of highly-specialized quarters needed for a day care centre. A temporary licence will allow the centre to operate while an area of the parking lot, directly behind the centre, is converted into a fenced-in, well-protected play area Mrs. Davison says.

The centre, which has weathered a variety of storms since its inception a few years ago, faced its most severe challenge last fall when it was forced to close because its temporary quarters, in a semi-detached house, did not meet various fire and zoning requirements.

The 20-plus children attending the centre were transferred to other centres, while association officers tried to make other arrangements. Sherwood Forest Mall provided the solution. In recent weeks children having been trooping into the centre with their parents, to check on progress in the preparation of "their" school.

Most of the children enrolled early last fall, plus a number of newcomers, will be on hand Monday, when centre director Heather Nichol rings the bell, to re-open Whitehills Day Care Centre.

Time Out, another project which has had its share of difficulties, is back in operation in its homey setting at Medaille House, on Windermere Road. The retreat house is made available to this very worthwhile project by the Order of St. Joseph, which also assists with staffing.

For the past couple of years, Time Out has provided much needed mini-holidays to mothers badly needing respite from difficult home situations. Last year it looked as if the program might have to be abandoned, for lack of funds and volunteers to help the professionals who organized Time Out and made large personal contributions to its success.

Publicity about Time Out's problems struck such a responsive chord, however, that contributors appeared throughout London and Southwestern Ontario, with offers of help and money.

Thus bolstered, the first in a new series of Time Out holidays took place early this month and went very well, according to Sister Renee Stevens, director of Medaille House, Barbara Grindlay, new volunteer program co-ordinator, and other volunteer assistants participated in the 48-hour program.

April's Time Out has been reserved for a group of young mothers, but program organizers would like to hear from women interested in attending in May. Applications may be obtained by telephoning Medaille House, 432-9379.



New president

Janet Hiepleh of Springfield was elected to a three-year term as president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario at its annual meeting in Toronto Tuesday. Hiepleh, recently retired as president of the institute in London, succeeds Mrs. Clarence Diamond of New Hamburg.

CRINKLAW

At Victoria Hospital, South Street Campus, on Monday, November 24, 1980, Hazel Elizabeth (Taylor) Crinklaw of 520 Wellington Street. Beloved wife of J. Lorne Crinklaw. Dear mother of John Jay Crinklaw and Lorel (Mrs. Stephen Cline) both of London. Sister of Mrs. Nellie Henderson of Mission Viejo, California. Also survived by three grandchildren. Friends will be received at the Evans Funeral Home, 648 Hamilton Rd. Funeral service will be conducted at Metropolitan United Church on Wednesday at 1:30 PM with Reverend Maurice Boyd officiating. Interment Pond Mills Cemetery. Friends who wish may make memorial donations to the Ontario Heart Foundation.

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ANDERSON

Suddenly at her residence on Monday, November 8, 1982, Martha (Elliot) Anderson of 940 Commissioners Road East in her 80th year. Beloved wife of the late Henry Bailey Anderson. Dear mother of Robert Henry Anderson of Mississauga and Andrew Gordon Anderson of London. Dear sister of Bessie (Mrs. Wilson Dean) of Toronto, Andrew Elliot and Thomas Elliot both of London. Predeceased by Elliot and sisters Mrs. Nellie Jenkin, John Elliot and Charles Elliot all of London, Annie Dodds of Clute, Ontario and Frances Kirk of Listowel. Also survived by three grandchildren Nancy, Holly and Robert all of London. Friends may call at her former home, 1157 Pondview Road, on Tuesday 7-9 PM and Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 PM. Funeral service will be held at First Westminster United Church, 1170 Wilton Grove on Thursday at 1 PM with Rev. Barry Robinson officiating. Interment Christ Church Cemetery, Glanworth.

LIDLAW

Suddenly at Victoria Hospital on Wednesday, May 9, 1984, Miss Helen Jeanette Laidlaw of RR 7, London, in her 73rd year. Beloved sister of Mrs. Ruth Wilde of Ansonia, Connecticut, William and Wallace, both of London. Loving aunt of 13 nieces and nephews and their families. Predeceased by a sister Alice and a brother Jack. Friends will be received at the McFarlane & Roberts Funeral Home, Lambeth, Thursday and Friday 2-4 and 7-9 PM where the funeral service will be conducted by Rev. W. Kammerer, assisted by Rev. Ralph Barker on Saturday, May 12th at 11 AM. Interment in Pond Mills Cemetery. Memorial donations to The Ontario Heart Foundation gratefully acknowledged.