

Sept. 23 1987

Hospital Auxiliary feed hungry cattlemen

by Tim Gardner

The Bruce Peninsula Hospital Auxiliary has been operating a food booth at the Grey-Bruce Co-operative Ltd. cattleyards for 39 years.

Helen Steip, the convener of the Auxiliary's ways and means committee, has been organizing the ladies and doing all the shopping for the booth since the service first began. The booth is located just west of the Co-operative's cattle barn on Highway 6 at the southern entrance of Wiarton.

"When we first started out (1948) we just had a tent," Steip said. "I remember one night the tent blew down and I wondered what would be left when I came in the next morning. A lot of pop bottles were broken but the store at Mar took part of the loss."

Steip also recalls bringing hot water from the dairy in Wiarton to the site because the booth didn't have very good facilities to boil water.

"When the dairy gave us the hot water they used to bring it in cream cans," Steip said. "We used to sit on the cream cans to

be warm."

The Auxillary only had to put up with the tent for one year. The booth was built in 1949. But improvements are still being added. Last year the Auxiliary bought a microwave oven to replace two old bun warmers.

"The men who run the cattle sale approached us to run a food service," Steip said, explaining why the booth was built in the first place. "They needed somebody here to feed the men. The cattle sales started in 1948 and the new hospital (built in 1947) needed so many things. The first year we didn't make too much but we needed too many things for the service itself."

The Livestock Co-operative now holds two sales in September, two in October and one in May. Besides feeding people at these sales, volunteers from the Auxiliary and various Women's Institutes in the area feed the 20 or so men who work to get the cattle yard ready for the sale for the three days before the auction begins.

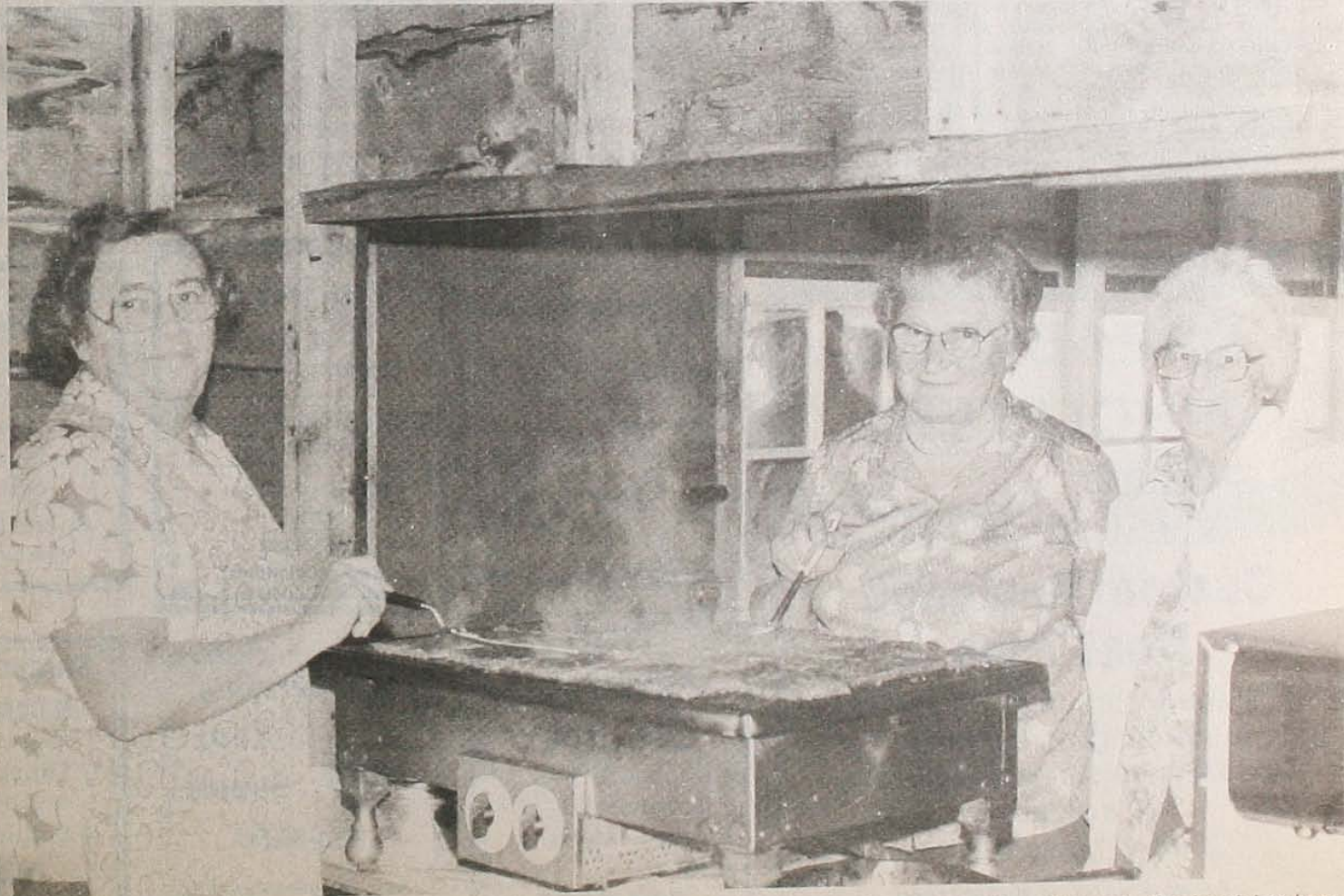
Steip arrives at 7:30 a.m. the day of the

sale and starts the coffee. By 8:30 a.m. the 10-12 other women volunteers arrive at the booth. For the Sept. 17 cattle auction, the volunteers prepared 300 hamburgers, and used 12 cans of salmon, two dozen eggs and 35 lbs. of ham to make sandwiches.

From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. the women serve free coffee and donuts, although they are reimbursed for the cost of these items later. But Steip says that the home-made pies are what really bring in the money. The pies are donated by the ladies.

Steip said that the Auxiliary's booth usually clears \$3,000 for the four cattle sales at the Co-operative in the fall. But she said the Auxiliary was still undecided what it was going to do with the money it will raise at the booth this year.

"We just made a large donation to the building fund but I don't think the drive to build a new hospital in Wiarton will really begin until the spring," she said. The Auxiliary wasn't organized when the first hospital was built. Maybe we'll furnish a room in the new hospital once it's built."



Jean Crow, left, of Adamsville, Gladys Arnold, centre of Oliphant and Laura Barfoot of Clavering cook up hamburgers Thursday for the Bruce Peninsula Hospital Auxiliary's booth at

the Grey-Bruce Co-operative Ltd. cattle sale. The booth has been feeding cattlemen for the last 39 years. In all, the Auxiliary made up 300 hamburgers Thursday.

Vol 19 Pg. 11