

For Home and Country



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by Bernice Dawes

Christmas gatherings highlight W.I.

'Christmas at the Lee' Open House was well attended by more than 480 guests, local members and twelve bus loads of people from as far away as Sarnia and Lindsay. A bus load of girls from Briarwood Vocational School in

Hamilton, a fourth year Canadian Literature class, were much interested, especially as some of them had helped with the cedar garland decorations. Both the Home and the drive shed were tastefully decorated in the traditional Victorian

manner as in 1897 with cranberry and popcorn, and cedar garlands. There was a pyramid table centre of apples, cinnamon sticks, cedar branches and cones; a kissing ball of cedar and ribbon bows, and a pomander ball of cloves.

Mrs. Clarence Diamond, retiring President of F.W.I.O. and Mrs. Heipleh, incoming President received the guests, while Mrs. C. Guyatt, Hamilton Area President, attended to the registration book.

Several W.I. members displayed their crafts of corn husk dolls, hand painted china, spinning, weaving and quilting. Mulled cider and cookies, as well as a taste of freshly baked bread, served by W.I. members in period gowns, refreshed the visitors.

On December 4, a hot beef sandwich supper was enjoyed by a goodly number of members and families at Woodbryn W.I. Christmas Family Night. The evening was spent playing Euchre for which prizes were awarded.

At the Plant Demonstration, sponsored by the Maggie Johnson W.I. in Mount Hope Hall, Miss Martha Veldhuis, displayed many

beautiful tropical plants. With a touch of humour she gave pertinent information about the plants, and quoting from the Bible, reminded us that the Creator is still interested in the beauty of the world which we find in plants.

Binbrook W.I. gathered for a Christmas get together, commencing with a delicious buffet luncheon. President, Mrs. Joyce Elliot, welcomed the many members and eleven guests. It was agreed to send Christmas donations of \$25 to Binbrook Senior Citizens group and to Wayside House. Mrs. Phyllis Tipler and Mrs. Marion Nichols, in charge of the afternoon entertainment, gave interesting Christmas readings and poems and conducted quizzes and games. Everyone went home with a small home-made gift.

The Maggie Johnson W.I. held its December meeting at the home of the president, Mrs. Sharon Belanger, with a good number of members present. On the motto 'Without vision, people perish', Mrs. Joan Lowden quoted, "If one advances confidently in the direction of her dreams, and end-

eavors to live the life she has imagined, she will meet with a success unexpected in common hours". Mrs. Lowden also touched on the highlights of the area convention as this, too, was the theme of the convention. Our usual Christmas donation to a charity collected enough money to light up three lights on the 'Christmas Tree of Hope' above the Royal Connaught Hotel. Mrs. Mary Butikofer convenor, conducted several contests, read Christmas articles and led in singing well known carols. Fancy Christmas goodies and coffee added to the social hour.



A photostatic copy of the original minute book of the Women's Institute held the attention of many at the recent "Christmas at the Lee" Open House. From the left Mrs. Florence Diamond, of New Hamburg, Past President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Mrs. Hilda Beachin, Hostess of the Erland Lee Museum and Mrs. Janet Heipleh of Springfield the President of the Federated Women's Institute examine the book near the Constitution Table at which the Constitution was signed in 1897. The apple and cinnamon stick centerpiece was made by Mrs. Margaret Zoeller.



These three period-dressed ladies were attending the 28th annual Grey-Bruce Area Women's Institute convention, in Southampton, Monday, as representatives of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. The R.R. 1, Stoney Creek museum located in the home of the co-founder of the first Women's Institute in the world in 1897, Mr. Erland Lee. It is owned and maintained by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. The ladies are Mrs. Helen Anderson, Mrs. Betty Jeffers and Mrs. Irene Weber.