

County WI meeting features ethnic cultural diversity

Roll call for the 76th district annual of Women's Institutes from across the county was based on "Our Cultural Heritage", a display on Canadian ethnic diversity mounted by each institute in the district. Conveners from each institute gave a brief report on their branch's display.

Mrs. Mary Lou Norton spoke on the Bloomfield branch's display on Germany. The first German to immigrate to Canada was Hans Berhard who came to Quebec. German names familiar in the county include Wannamaker, Snider and Fox. German settlers came first to Bruce, Grey and Perth Counties, bringing with them their music, Christmas pageants (as well as the advent wreath and the Christmas tree) and Octoberfests.

Mrs. Jack Beaumont told interesting stories of her Loyalist forefathers.

A lively Irish tune introduced the Consecon exhibit. According to Mrs. K. Walt, the Irish are a tough, stubborn race. In 1831, more than 30,000 landed at Montreal with no money or jobs and many perished because they were not welcome. The pointing of the masonry of many old homes was done by the Irish or Scottish.

Mrs. Peggy Allison of Demorestville talked of the Italians. There is an Italian-Canadian Festival held in Belleville in August, she said.

Elmbrook told of the Mennonites, who migrated to the Kitchener-Waterloo area in 1786. They came in covered wagons with wide wheels. Most are farmers and don't believe in accepting grants.

Gilbert's Mills told about the Scottish, who came first to Bruce County because the terrain seemed

more like home. Breeding of Durham bulls in this area was started by the Scottish.

Mrs. Rena Foster of Greenbush told about the Ukrainians. About 20,000 came between 1891-1914. The earliest settlements were very primitive. Most settled in the west, bringing their own seeds and even potatoes with them. Today, they are frequently bi-lingual, learning Ukrainian at home.

Mrs. Jean Alexander of Hillier told of the Polish, who came from the USA, crossing at Fort Erie. The Polonia Club located on the Rednersville Road. They have many specialized trades and skills and are industrious and deeply religious.

Mrs. Nora Barber of Mountain View told of the French who came to the Kente Mission where Consecon now stands and Frontenac, later renamed Kingston. Their cuisine

and French provincial furniture are well known.

Mrs. Nancy McNaughton of Rednersville talked about the Greeks, who are the latest immigrants to this area. They first came in 1897 to Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Though used to rural life, most worked in urban areas.

In 1912, 14 families came to Belleville. The 250 families found around here now centre their lives on the Greek Orthodox Church. They are an active cultural group, with a ladies auxiliary and a dance group. They are active in the Belleville ethnic festival. Four Greek ladies were also guests for the district annual.

Flossie Tripp of Wellington reported on the Dutch, who settled first in the Peace River district. Most work in agriculture and Holland has made donations of tulip bulbs for public gardens in Ottawa.



Dickens photo

Cultural heritage

Rena Foster, president of the Prince Edward District Women's Institute, is dressed in an embroidered shirt from the Ukraine. Display items such as the ones on this table were brought from the Ukraine by Nettie and Steve Pocilujko of Fawcettville for the district annual meeting held recently at Mountain View. The topic of roll call was "our cultural heritage."

County branches donated \$3,581 to local projects

The 11 local branches of the WI have donated a total of \$2,844.90 for WI projects and education and a total of \$3,581.95 for community projects, reported Mrs. Marion Townsend, public relations officer for the district.

Scholarships were given to graduating Grade 8 students, as well as corsages for graduation. Two branches

donated money to the hospital auxiliary for new bed units and a bench was donated to a post office.

Demonstrations of quilting and the making of sauerkraut were performed at museums in the county. Four WI branches celebrated their 75th anniversaries, holding parties for all the county branches. There was also

one 70th anniversary party.

The district bicentennial project is an arts and crafts fair scheduled for Wellington in August, he said. The WI branches also contributed to a bicentennial quilt that featured the county bicentennial logo and will be used as a draw prize at the arts and crafts show.

The activity and hum of voices issuing from the public gallery lobby of the Ontario Legislature attracted everyone's attention on the afternoon of June 11. The gathering crowd was awaiting the unveiling of a bicentennial gift for the Province of Ontario.

Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, president of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, formally presented the organization's gift: a quilted wall hanging and created.

After unveiling the wall hanging, Robert Welch, deputy premier, commented on the contribu-

WI quilt unveiled at Queen's Park

tion of the many people who created this masterpiece that put the province together.

The centre of the embroidered wall hanging features an illustrated map of Ontario, depicting early pioneer life in the province and a small Ontario community with a focal point of church and school that was typical 200 years ago. In the upper left hand corner is the bicentennial logo. In the lower right hand corner is the official crest of the Women's Insti-

tute with its motto: "For home and country".

Forty-eight other blocks, depicting highlights from the counties, districts and regional municipalities of Ontario, were designed and embroidered by Women's Institute members from across the province who supported this project and gave so generously of their time and talents. A special group of ladies from Bruce Centre District assembled the blocks and quilted and finished the wall hanging.

Dennis Timbrell, minister of agriculture and food, thought the location of the wall hanging - across the gallery from the painting of the Fathers of Confederation - was very appropriate because they had organized the country and the Women's Institute had built upon it.

When you next visit the Main Legislative Building, be sure to take a few minutes to view this wall hanging on the third floor - it will be time well spent.

July 1984