

1958

A Tweedsmuir History In Print

For some time back, Birr Women's Institute in Middlesex county had a Tweedsmuir history which was used so much as a reference book by teachers, local university students and others that it began to wear out. So the Institute decided to have the history extended to tell a very comprehensive story of the community and to have it published so that its information would be available to anyone interested.

The book entitled "Birr and Beyond" was compiled by Mrs. Jennie Raycraft Lewis, an Institute member and a writer of some experience. Mrs. Lewis unearthed and wrote a good deal of the history herself, several sons and daughters of the community made their contribution from research or from memory, and the well known historian of the London area, Mr. Wilfrid Jury, supplied the early Indian history of the locality.

The "Birr and Beyond" book carries many illustrations. Like most Tweedsmuir books it tells the stories of the families and farms and schools and churches, of cemeteries and toll-roads and the industries that have either persisted or disappeared through the years, and of course the story of the Birr Women's Institute. In paper covers the price is \$1.00; in hard covers \$2.00; obtainable from Mrs. Clarence Lewis, R.R. No. 2, Denfield, Ont.

Tweedsmuir Competitions 1964-67

From F.W.I.C. Office

REGULATIONS for the Tweedsmuir Competition of the 1964-67 term of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have now been released. This National Competition is composed of three sections, the first always the well known project, *Tweedsmuir (Village) Histories*. Sections two and three, Cultural and Handicrafts respectively, change from term to term and are determined at each Triennial Convention of F.W.I.C., with a new committee appointed for each successive Competition.

For the current term, the cultural project is a *Centennial Poem*, the theme to have some bearing on any phase of Canada's one hundred years as a nation. *Drawn Thread Work* was selected as the handwork. The Chairman of the Tweedsmuir Competition Committee, Mrs. Maryn Pardy, Mount Bridges, Ontario, states that this work is one of the oldest forms of embroidery, its origin dating back to Biblical times. It was introduced into England by the Royal Household in the 16th century but is becoming a lost art in Canada.

Other members of the Tweedsmuir Commit-

tee are Miss Anna Templeton, Organizing Secretary, Jubilee Guilds of Newfoundland, and Miss Eleanor Flint, Handicraft Supervisor, Home Economics Extension Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

"It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten," said Lady Tweedsmuir when she inaugurated the Competition that bears her name in 1945. "Women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes." Referring in particular to the Village Histories, she went on to say: "It is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us and your village histories are the basis of accurate facts that will be much valued by historians of the future."

Approximately 2,600 Tweedsmuir Histories have been compiled throughout Canada since the Competition started in 1945.

All of these National Competitions will close on April 1, 1967. Complete information will be sent to Institute branches in Ontario from the FWIO office early this summer.

WI competitions awards announced

Helena Feasby Women's Institute, North Waterloo, won first prize in the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario 1966 Tweedsmuir competition. Curator is Mrs. George Reist, Kitchener.

Second prize went to Burwick WI. Aylesworth WI, with Mrs. M. Fisher, Emo, curator, was awarded third prize.

Honorable mentions were given to Warsaw WI, Birr WI and Pittsburg WI.

Mrs. Fred Gardiner, Mrs. G. C. Clark, King City, and members of Temperanceville WI received the top award in the handcraft drawn thread competition. Second was Mrs. Ben Atkinson, Dorion, of Ouimet-Dorion WI, and third was Mrs. Kurt Kern, Stratford, from Elmhurst WI.

First prize in the citizenship competition, a story based on a Canadian historical fact, went to Mrs. J. L. Thomas, Schomberg, WI. Second prize went to Mrs. W. T. Phillips, Osgoode WI, and third went to Mrs. William Wallace, South Woodslee WI.

In the cultural project competition of a centennial poem, Mrs. James Fair, Guelph, from West End WI won first prize. Second and third awards went to Mrs. T. W. Morrow, Kakabeka Falls, and Mrs. R. J. Elliott, Boonechere Valley WI.

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