

North Oxford W.I.'s Meet At Circle K

May 31/79

Representatives from 17 branches of N. Oxford District met with other district and area representatives, the district Home Economist and their board director at the Circle K, on May 24 for their annual meeting.

A presentation "The Rights of the Child," and colorful displays and posters helped to portray the theme of the meeting - "The Child of today will be the architect of our Country's Destiny Tomorrow."

A musical program by the Senior Citizens from St. Marys Friendship Centre, added a touch of humor to the afternoon program.

The business session included many reports and announcements.

The Erland Lee Fund goal has not yet been reached, and donations are being accepted by sending to Erland Lee Fund in care of Margaret Zoeller, FWIO, Toronto.

W.I. Week is June 4-8, and the W.I. Hall, Milton will be open weekends from Aug. 18 to Sept. 23.

Agricultural Museum, Milton is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Scholarships are

available to students in consumerism. The Helen McKercher award for post graduate work in Home Economics is also available.

Hon. Pauline McGibbon will be guest speaker at the special County Anniversary Conference, Nov. 6.

A quilt competition open to anyone will be held in conjunction with the Oxford County Plowing Match Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 1980. For information contact Mrs. R.C. Matheson, RR 3, Embro.

District Histories and Cookbooks are being compiled for the District 75th anniversary in 1980. The Cookbooks are now available for \$4.00.

Gas Alert Program has been initiated, with the hiring of four students - organizations are asked to help make up for the extra \$4,000. needed that is not covered by the grant.

Everyone is welcome to free course on "Food Preservation" sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, to be held in Tavistock - June 25 - 7:30 p.m. or at Fairview Centre, Woodstock Fairgrounds, June 28 at 1 p.m. or at 7:30 p.m.

OPTIMIST RODEO

Saturday morning at A. J. Baker School, the Kintore Optimists ran their second annual Bicycle Rodeo and had a great group of 28 youngsters participate in the activities.

The following is a list of the winners from first to third place in each group: Ages 6 & 7, Jennifer Torbet, Karen Rodenburg, John Squire; Ages 8 to 10, Steven Arthur, Alisa Rodenburg, Peter Tucker; Ages 11 to 14, Carol Knight, Keith Quinn and Ken Ball. Simon Tucker was the only winner in the under age 6 group.

Congratulations to these young people who participated and showed interest in Bike Safety and to the Optimist Club for making this event available to the children in the area. June 13/79

Browns

Mrs. Marion Munro of Medina attended the graduation June 8th at Western University of her granddaughter Nancy Gates with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupation Therapy. June 20/79

Browns

Brown's Women's Institute held its June meeting last Tues. night with the President, Mrs. Helen Conway presiding reading a poem, "Mid-Summer".

A letter was read from the St. Marys Agriculture Society requesting entrants for the "Fair Princess Contest Annual" and mentioned the Curators' Meeting to be at the Friendship Centre on August 14, and the London Area Convention at the St. Marys Arena in November.

The "Course on Canning and Freezing" will be at Tavistock on June 25. A Retirement Dance will be held at Woodstock on June 26 in honour of retiring Ag. Rep. Donald Taylor. Mrs. Martin also announced that she had attended a meeting at the home of Mrs. Jack Richardson, in regard to serving meals at the 1980 Ploughing Match.

Mrs. Audry Durst, of Stratford, gave an informative talk on "Life Insurance, in many different life situations" and compared it with a sense of humor in value, and also stressed the value of wills.

June 27/79

It Happened Right Here

BY TED ROWCLIFFE



The following account was written sometime in the 1930's by Thomas Leadman, father of Mrs. Ed Carr of St. Marys. Mr. Leadman passed away in 1969.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Away back in the dim past, about the year 1840, we trace over the blazed trail, and through the thickly wooded virgin forest, to find the origin of S.S. No. 3, East Nissouri, now commonly known as Brown's School. About that time a sturdy rustic structure came into being on the rear portion of Lot 26, Con., 8, East Nissouri. It was of pioneer construction, crudely built of heavy logs, about sixteen feet by twenty feet in size, with one door in the west end, and one lone window sixteen inches square.

There was the foundation of an institution of learning that was destined to found a heritage of which any community could well be proud. A school that through its product has written history throughout the entire Dominion of Canada, as well as in many States in the Union to the south of us.

Among those nation builders whose influence, and effort moulded the characters and future destinies of all these great scholars, I might mention the first teacher, John Bowman, followed by Margaret Baily, Sarah Jane Thackberry, Tryphenia Vining, Elizabeth Brown, and James B. Brown.

About the year 1850, the school section was formed and land cleared on the front portion of the lot forming the site of the present school. The Eighth

Concession had been surveyed, and a plot was leased from the late John Uren for nine years. A new building was erected, of little larger construction and more in keeping with the advance of the times, but the long wooden bench seats were still in vogue for a time. Some time later the late Jonathan Wells built seats, and installed desks for the pupils. Numbered among the teachers of that era, of which we have record are Andrew Near, Thomas, Kelly, Ichabod Horseman, Emily Brown, Charlotte Johnson, Mary Allen, J. D. Nutting, Elizabeth Rose, Montgomery Waldon, James Evans, C. W. Haycock, and Sarah Leadman.

This was the second cycle of our schools history, and it too fades into the past. In 1868 the old building was wrecked and auctioned and a brick building put up by contractor Wm. MacDonald. No further change was made until the year 1928, when a basement, modern heating, and other equipment was installed.

Among the teachers of later dates we recall quite a list, including E. Pike, Geo. Patterson, Elizabeth Commander, A. B. Walker Agnes, Exelby, Ethel Robinson, Frances McMurray, V. E. Stevens, D. L. McCellan, J. Fitzgerald, Mable Winter, S. M. Aines, G. Wilson, Belle Johnstone, Nina Jacobi, Margaret Campbell, Grace Fuller, Dora Gleason, Dorothy Wood, Helen Conveney, and the present teacher Jean Coates.

There you have the history of the institution and now for a list of its product, and it is so long and famous, that I ask your indulgence least I over look some.

I will begin by naming Hon. E. J. McMurray, K. C. famous labour lawyer, and former Solicitor General in the King Government, and eldest son of Sara Leadman, a former teacher in the school. Rev. Homer Brown well known missionary, who is at present rendering his services in war stricken China. John E. Brown M.D. I believe former Comptroller in the Yukon, and former Supt. in the General Hospital Toronto, and Ford Hospital, Detroit. The late Frank Uren M.D. famous surgeon at the Toronto General Hospital, the late Wilber Brown, M.D. beloved practising physician, for many years in St. Marys. The late Dr. James Brown of Oklahoma, Dr. Fred Brown M.D. of Chicago, Frank B. Brown, insurance executive of Toronto, Dr. John Purdy, Alpena, Michigan, Dr. J. Purdy, Philadelphia, John Roberts, noted railroad contractor and manufacturer of Chicago, Edward, George and James Roberts, manufacturers of Chicago, Cecil Brown, General Secretary of Hamilton, Y.M.C.A. and a noted speaker at youth functions throughout the province, H.L. Leadman, Engineer, Ottawa, in charge of one of the Governments Hydrographical survey ships for work from coast to coast, Carol Showers, Engineer, connected with C.I.L. people at Windsor, Miss Frances, and Miss Jane McMurray teachers of long standing in Winnipeg's graded schools. Other teachers included Ida Brown, the late Joseph Brown, Lottie Brown, Mrs. Joseph Showers, Miss M. Hawkesworth, L. Brown, Charlotte Showers, Jean Brown, Alice McMurray, Susie Muir, Sadie Uren, and Antionette Uren, John Hawkesworth B.A. and Joyce Hawkesworth were also among students of later years.

To the nursing profession our school contributed Miss Maud Brown, Miss Hattie Purdy, Grace Purdy, the late Allie Uren, L. Gallinger, and Clara Leadman, Public Health Dept. Jackson, Mich. and now Los Angeles, California.

So ends our story and still more power for our school in the future.