

Marjorie Larmon speaks to historical society

Oct. 24/79



Jim Bickell, of RR 1, Burgessville, displays the two trophies he brought home from the 52nd annual Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitter's convention held in Sault Ste. Marie last week. Mr. Bickell and his wife Betty operate a tourist camp in Northern Ontario.

Tourist camp operator wins two top awards

Dec. 5/79

Jim Bickell, RR 1, Burgessville, was the first person ever to win two of the major awards at the 52nd annual Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitter's convention held last week in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Bickell and his wife Betty operate Camp Louise a tourist camp with cottages, camping and a lodge at Emerald Lake in the River Valley tourist area north of Sturgeon Falls. The two awards presented to Mr. Bickell at the convention were the Molson Trophy for dedicated service by a

member of NOTO in the conservation of wildlife and natural resources, and the NOTO Member of the Year Award presented by the allied members for the promotion of tourism.

"It was a big surprise," said Mr. Bickell. "I didn't expect either of them."

There are about 850 members in NOTO and about 400 of those members as well as various ministry representatives were in attendance at the conference which ran from November 26 to November 30.

Mr. Bickell and his wife

have operated Camp Louise from the first of May to the end of October for the last 10 years. They have lived on their farm west of Holbrook for more than 30 years.

Mr. Bickell is the past-president of the River Valley association, a branch of NOTA, and a director of NOTA.

Also in attendance at the working convention were Gord and Bob Henderson of Norwich. Henderson Recreation Equipment Limited is also an allied member of NOTA.

JUST ONE REASON

It's not so much about the house that anyone can see,
It's not so much about the grounds that calls the bird and bee,

It's just the folks that live within, and flowers that bloom without

That call the bird and bee and friend, that is what we care about.

Our Wisdom Corner:

You can read people like a book, but you can't shut them up as easily.

Every year it takes less time to fly across the ocean and longer to drive to the office.

The book that really tells you can go on your vacation is your checkbook.

Some people who slap you on the back are trying to help you swallow what they have just told you.

Love cures people -- both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it.



Signing in

Clare Westmacott, of Norwich, uses an old-fashioned nib pen to sign his name in the guest book at the Oxford County Museum School in Burgessville. He was one of about 300 to attend the annual Christmas open house at the school on Sunday.

Mrs. Marjorie Larmon of Burgessville was guest speaker at the October meeting of the Norwich and District Historical Society meeting held Monday evening in the High School cafeteria.

In introducing Mrs. Larmon, program convenor Johan Hopkins stated she was a home grown local antique dealer, who had been interested in antiques all her life.

Mrs. Larmon spoke on "Canadian Woodenware," and stated in these inflationary times some economists feel it no longer pays to bank the dollar but is wiser to invest in something tangible that will rise in value.

The first woodenware in Canada was made by the Indians who later taught our colonists the uses of the various types of wood.

Woodenware is referred to as "trien" meaning the plural of tree and has come to mean small items of wood.

From the maple wood which is hard and smooth evolved many household items such as mashers, pounders, butter prints, spoons, bowls, ladles, rolling pins and other useful articles.

Birdseye maple, because of the "eyes" which appear on the wood, making it more decorative, was used for furniture, and today birdseye furniture brings good prices.

While pine is light in weight, and having no odor was used to make pantry boxes.

Oak is dark, heavy and flexible and was used for rims on boxes, bucket hoops and handles, sturdy butter churns and wide planks for eating tables. The man who created quantities of kitchen and farm articles was called a "cooper". His tools were quite simple, consisting of an edge similar to an axe head, made from iron, hammers, saws, knives, angles and a lathe.

Wooden plates were called "trenchers" and both sides of the plates were used for eating the top for the main course and the reverse for pie. During the time of the loyalists "trenchers" were often shared at meal time. It was considered an extravagance to have individual plates. In the mid-Victorian era they often had a border of flowers a sheaf of wheat or a motto along the edge.

Cup-style butter prints were turned on a lathe and hand cut with designs for decorating the butter.

When checking for age on any piece of woodenware, expect to find smoothness from wear, a lightness from drying and evidence of hand work. It should be finished with hand-made wooden pegs or hand-forged nails.

Indians found that the burl, knots, tumors and warts or diseased growth on trees were excellent for making bowls.

Coopers thrived everywhere making barrels,

tubs, churns, kegs and buckets. Boxes were used in pantries made of pine or maple with a pine cover and bottom. Through the years there have been boxes made for storage quite often decorated with carving, inlay and paintings. A clue to the former use often lies in the stains on them and the shape.

In the early homes, mortars were used for grinding corn, crushing blocks of sugar, salt, herbs and spices. They were often made of brass or iron. Many articles were made from a block of wood and a jackknife including a great variety of scoops, paddles and pot scrubbers.

Willow baskets and splint baskets were common in Canada, the Indians having taught the settlers how to cut and weave them. In the 19th century the Shakers were famous for their many types of baskets.

Wooden toys have been carved and whittled for centuries and gaily-painted and decorated, to amuse the children.

Mrs. Larmon also displayed many artifacts which were symbolic of our precious past of our forefathers. It behooves each of us to guard them zealously for they are irreplaceable jewels of our heritage. Mrs. Larmon was thanked by Mrs. Donald Strachan and presented with a gift.

President, Murray Rettie presided and welcomed all, especially the guests to the meeting.

Secretary Johan Hopkins read the minutes of the September meeting and executives.

At the executive meeting Lavern Irving and Norman McIntyre were appointed as a nominating committee to bring in a slate of officers for 1980 at the annual meeting December 6 in the High School cafeteria.

The resignation of Mrs. Winnifred Hilliker was accepted with regret. Mrs. Hilliker has been curator of the museum since it was started and will be greatly missed.

Eleanor Ryder has been appointed assistant archivist to assist Mrs. Hopkins.

The treasurer reported \$7,739 on hand and also \$2.85 from the sales of Mortar and Pine. (this is a book).

A thank you note was received from the Arthritis Society for flying the society's flag at the museum during the campaign.

Greta Simmons reported at the meeting Monday evening that 1980 membership cards are now available and the price will remain the same as last year.

Plans were made for the Christmas party November 26 at the High School at 7:30 p.m. Greta Simmons and Mrs. W. Butler volunteered to arrange tables.

Helen Stover reported on the Genealogy Fair held at the Eva Donly Brooke

Museum in Simcoe which Mrs. Stover and Mrs. Hopkins had attended.

Wes Horley reported the Norfolk Historical Society is planning a campaign to hold a Heritage Holiday on the third Monday of February each year and requested local support.

A social half hour was enjoyed at the close of the meeting

20 YEARS AGO
Oct. 3, 1959
The price of milk in Oxford County and Woodstock was raised to 24 cents a quart, home delivered. Harold Swanson, manager of Silverwoods Dairies, said the increase was due to the price of formula milk being raised to 19 cents per hundredweight.

born.
1908 - Henry Ford introduced his first Model T Ford.
1938 - The German partition of Czechoslovakia took effect.
1916 - The Canadian steel strike was settled after 80 days.
1919 - The Soviet Union recognized the new Chinese Communist government.
The Canadian

Our Wisdom Corner:
People with an axe to grind often fly off the handle.
He who talks like a big wheel may be only the spokesman.
The best about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.

Today in History
1492 - Christopher Columbus discovered the Bahamas Islands.
1860 - Elmer A. Sperry, inventor of gyroscopic flight instruments, was born.
1915 - British nurse Edith Cavell was executed by the Germans as a spy.
1941 - The first town in Czechoslovakia was liberated from Nazi rule.