



Left to Right Standing — Mrs. Vern Dennis, District Director; Mrs. Gordon Barker, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. Wilbur Morley, Secretary Treasurer; Mrs. Jack McCready, 1st Vice-President. Seated — Mrs. Chas. Kelly, District President; Mrs. Douglas Hoover, President.



FRONT ROW, L. TO R. — Carl Bertrand, Merton Penny, Walter Haight, Murray Rettie. BACK ROW — Mrs. C. A. Palmer, Mrs. H. Parkhill, Mrs. S. Banbury, Mrs. S. McSpadden, Mrs. R. Palmer.

BURGESSVILLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Burgessville Women's Institute was organized in 1903 in connection with the Farmer's Institute with Mrs. Justus Cohoe as President and Miss May Emigh (Mrs. Wesley West) Secretary. Mrs. Chas. Walker is the only charter member living.

Last year the Institute placed a desk in the Library honoring the continued interest manifested by the daughters of the late Mrs. Chas. Burgess, namely—Mrs. Frank Griffin, Mrs. V. McIlins and Miss Rossie Burgess. Another valued member was the late Miss Irene Wallace (Mrs. E. Moore), who served as Secretary-Treasurer for 15 years.

At the present time Mrs. Douglas Hoover is President, Mrs. Wilbur Morley, Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Chas. Kelly is District President.

North Norwich Agricultural Society

Was organized January 3, 1852. Original officers were: Truman Wilcox, Ely Harris, Nelson Shattuck, Hiram Shattuck, William Haley, Silvester Haley, John Crawford, Ebenezer Haley, Benjamin Haley, Mordecai Reynolds.

The above mentioned list of original officers formed the original society called The Township of Norwich Agricultural Society of the County of Oxford, agreeing to pay to the treasurer yearly, the sum of five shillings currency.

For some years the fair was held alternately at Otterville and Norwich. When North and South Norwich townships were formed in 1855 fairs were held at each of these places. There is a record of one outstanding fair in Norwich in 1861, when nearly 4,000 persons were present. The admission that year was 12 cents but at previous exhibitions no admission charge had been made. President in 1861 was Gilbert Moore and Hugh McKee was Secretary and Treasurer.

There is a record of an annual meeting being held Brady's Hall which was well attended by farmers and other Plans were made for an agricultural dinner at Stroud's Ho where addresses would be delivered by Hon. David Chris and Hon George Alexander.

Couple collects Avon containers

By DOREEN HOOVER

When Gordon and Joanne Fishback of Burgessville go to flea markets and yard sales they are hoping to find pieces to add to their collection. They collect Avon bottles and figurines.

The Fishbacks began collecting Avon containers eight years ago after one of their children brought home an Avon pheasant figurine from a white elephant sale at school. The figurine got them interested in Avon containers and they began their collection. They now have more than 800 pieces and are continually adding more.

There are Canadian and American pieces in their collection which fill many shelves and cabinets in their home.

Cabinets are filled with white glass and brown glass figurines, sets of trains, planes, cars, guns, bells, turtles, pipes, clocks and beer steins. Their American collection includes an eagle, Betsy Ross and Abe Lincoln figurines. They also collect Avon jewelry.

The Fishbacks enjoy their hobby because they are always finding out something new about Avon products and their collection. They may attend a sale and find another piece to a set they never knew existed. They also find errors made by the company during production. They have an owl figurine with blue eyes and one with white eyes. There were only 500 of the blue-eyed owls produced before the error was detected.

They are hoping a catalogue listing all the Canadian Avon products and their value will soon be published so they will know the true value of their collection.

The Avon containers increase in value with time like antiques. There are Avon auctions held in the United States and a few beginning to be held in Canada.

Although their hobby can be expensive, the Fishbacks find that many persons holding yard sales don't know the true value of Avon items, so they often find bargains. Mrs. Fishback bought a comode set for a small amount and later found a similar piece that was selling for

\$50 even though it was cracked. They have also seen pieces they have in their collection selling elsewhere for \$500.

They are always looking for pieces or sets they are trying to collect. It is less expensive to buy a piece at a time than to buy a whole set at once. Buying piece by piece the Fishbacks believe they will eventually complete the sets. They are now hoping to complete their Cape Cod set and chess set.

Along with their collection of containers, they have a collection of boxes. Buyers have told them that the boxes the Avon products came in are what makes them more valuable and sell well.

They would also like to find a piece from the original Avon company, the California Perfume Co. They have reproductions, but have not found an original piece.

Although they enjoy the Avon products, most of the items in their collection are still partly full of perfume, cream and after shave. Mrs. Fishback is afraid to use them for fear of breaking the containers.

Their collection takes a lot of time to clean and they also often have trouble remembering what pieces they have and which ones they still want to add to their collection, but they will continue to search for additions to their collection.

"We don't drink, smoke or go any place so we might as well get something out of life," Mrs. Fishback said.



Extensive Avon collection

Joanne Fishback of Burgessville stands by only a small section of her vast 800-piece collection of Avon figurines and containers. Mrs. Fishback and her husband, Gordon, began their collection with the glass pheasant that she is holding. (NG Photo)