

The family of Andrew and Jean Stewart lived in the "post office home" until 1920 and then moved to Kinburn. John E and Ruby Miller spent many years looking after "store and station" until both became redundant. In 1974 the Millers sold their home to John's sister and her husband, Margaret and Arthur Byberg.

The couple completely renovated this log home but in 1980 this very historic dwelling caught fire and burned to the ground. Thus ended Goshen's historic "store home", but its romantic and exciting years of service will long be remembered in the history of the community.

Dewar explained Goshen's Railway Station served many travellers and a resident, Morris Miller, remembers the trains and its passengers as they boarded for Arnprior and Ottawa going east of Renfrew and beyond to the west.

"Down through many years of changes, the Goshen Hall became sadly delapidated and was abandoned as a lonely vigil of days gone by and its silent memories," Dewar stated.

However, in 1981 the Goshen Women's Institute sold the logs from the Goshen Hall to a man from Killaloe for \$1,000. It was with this money the ladies were able to erect the plaque on the cairn for the Fifth Line Corner to leave as a lasting landmark and tribute to the early residents who called this little area and its four dwellings home.

#### **Goshen WI**

The Goshen Women's Institute was organized on September 14, 1914.

Among the founding members were South Renfrew District President Mrs Stringer of Burnstown and District Secretary-Treasurer Miss McLachlan of White Lake.

The first slate of officers

---

included president Mrs Malcolm D McLaren, first vice president Miss Annie Scharf, secretary-treasurer Miss Lizzie Harding (later Mrs Wesley Miller), district director Mrs James Miller, branch directors Mrs William Durbrow, Mrs Andrew Stewart and Miss Mabel Frood (later Mrs James Simpson).

Other charter members in 1914 were Miss Minnie Carswell, Mrs WH

McGregor, Mrs Peter McGregor, Mrs James Kerr, Mrs Duncan McGregor, Mrs John Miller, Miss Maggie Simpson, Mrs Thomas Harding, Mrs McMillan, Mrs George McNab, Mrs McNulty, Mrs Bob Stewart, Mrs Bob Dickson, Cassie Durbrow, Mrs Charles Burwell and Mrs Minnie Peever.

"Our Goshen Women's Institute has journeyed some 70 long and hectic years through most of this

bewildering 20th century," Dewar said.

Outlining some of the projects of the institute over the years, Dewar stated most of these early activities and meetings were held in the log Goshen Hall.

In the days before hydro, institute members would walk to meetings with a stick of wood over their shoulder to build a fire for that necessary cup of tea. A piano was purchased and added a

festive mood to the meetings.

As the years climbed along in the 20th century, the farming demands noticeably changed and many residents left to seek employment in surrounding towns. Membership in the institute decreased.

Still, the institute thrived and these special ladies celebrated many anniversaries together. In 1950 the Goshen WI formed an orchestra and their musical talents became well known and sought after at many

local functions, area and national institute conventions.

Members of this famous band were Ruby Miller with her washboard, castanets and piano, Mrs Wesley Miller on the violin, Mrs Lawrence Seeley on Spanish guitar, Mrs Lorna Harper on Hawaiian guitar and Mrs Laura McLaren who played both the piano and violin.

A few of the many special ladies who shared their talents with the institute were Faith McCallum, Effie Barr,

Lila McCallum, Mable McArthur, Mrs Hanniman, Mrs Phillips, Bertha Robertson, Martha Jamieson, Lulu McDermid, Mary McGregor, Christina Burton Cardiff and Ruby Miller.

Each and every member had a special talent and this was shown in exhibits at the Renfrew Fair, projects and activities in the community.

Dewar noted the institute is now low in membership and the plaque may be its last major project.