



The famous Goshen Women's Institute orchestra was formed in 1950 and these ladies entertained at many local functions and at area and national WI conventions. Shown are Mrs Ruby Miller with the washboard, violinist Mrs Wesley Miller, guitarists Mrs Lawrence Seeley and Mrs Lorna Harper and violinist Mrs Laura McLaren.

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 Flood (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



Goshen's country store and post office was a famous landmark in the community for many years and served as a gathering place for men and women in bygone days.

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, M McArthur, Mrs Hanni Mrs Phillips, Bertha Ross, Martha Jamieson, McDermid, Mary McGro Christina Burton Cardiff Ruby Miller.

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

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