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GRACE PATTERSON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE SCRAPBOOK

The Grace Patterson Women's Institute Scrapbook, also to be known as the Community Record Book, was established in mid-1983 by the Curator of Grace Patterson Women's Institute.

Clippings taken from the Town Crier, the Ingersoll Times, the London Free Press as well as other local newspapers and magazines gradually swelled the brown paper envelopes in which they were stored for protection against light. All items were community related.

In July, 1986 the Curator put all collected clippings through a solution of milk of magnesia and club soda to neutralize the acidic residue in the newspaper clippings. This simple method, perhaps, will prevent yellowing and disintegration of the newsprint.

Method

Requirements: 1 quart of club soda, milk of magnesia, a plastic juice container with lid, a 13x10 pyrex pan, old flannelette sheeting, non-acid paper for pressing and weights.

Preparation: Add two tablespoons of milk of magnesia to a quart of club soda in the plastic container. Cover, shake well and carefully allowing the gases to escape. Place in the refrigerator. Shake three or four times during the next half hour, always placing back in the refrigerator between shakings.

Method: Place liquid in the pyrex pan. Immerse about three layers of clippings in the solution, and let soak for thirty minutes. Carefully lift out the wet clippings, one at a time, to drain on flannelette sheeting and to dry. Follow the same procedure to immerse the second lot of clippings in the same solution. The solution can be used three or four times altogether.

After the clippings have dried, press them between non-acid scrapbook pages under weights for several days.

In early August, 1986 three paste days were arranged to have Women's Institute members present to paste the clippings onto non-acid scrapbook paper. The Curator was most grateful for the assistance of Ellen Patience, Annabelle Weir, Mary Larder, Phyliss MacArthur, Jessie Matheson, Marjory McKay, Thelma Henderson and Nola Gill. One hundred eighty-eight pages were done.

Paste

Requirements: 76 grams (one-half cup) rice flour  
600 milliliters water

Preparations: Cook in double boiler, stirring, until very thick.

Mrs. Harold Kerr  
Curator, 1981-1987