



PRIZE-WINNING QUILT, SURROUNDED BY ITS CREATORS — At a special meeting to mark the 35th birthday of Thamesford's Grace Patterson Women's Institute, held at Westminster United Church Monday night, the quilt that took first prize at last week's Plowing Match was on display on the stage in Westminster Hall. Surrounding the quilt in the picture, are the ladies who were responsible for its creation. Clockwise from upper right: Mrs. Albert Larder, Mrs. Jack Hutchison, Mrs. Colbert Day, Mrs. R. Spicer, Mrs. A. Hutchison, Mrs. David Woods, who purchased the quilt, Mrs. Roy Ross, Mrs. Angus Matheson, Mrs. D.S. McKay, Mrs. Stan Weir. Missing: Mrs. Howard Patience. (photo by Mark)

In Quilt Contest

TOWN CRIER 9-10-80

Institute Brings Home Top Prize

Back in January, The Grace Patterson Women's Institute (Thamesford) received a letter from the organizers of women's events for the International Plowing Match, inviting them to enter a quilt competition. Eight months later, the ladies proudly headed home with the first prize ribbon.

Entry requirements stipulated that the design on the quilt was to depict a character and/or industries of Oxford County, and at the same time, promote the International Plowing Match held this year in Woodstock.

Women from the Grace Patterson Institute formed a committee in January, to begin the sizeable task of creating an original quilt to enter in the competition, held last week at the Plowing Match. The committee held meetings at the home of Kay Patience, where they eventually came to an agreement on the design of the quilt.

Thereafter, the ladies took turns taking the quilt to their homes to work on it in their spare time. When it came time for the actual quilting to be done, the project was taken to Westminster United Church, where those adept at quilting could go to work on the masterpiece.

The delicate yet dramatic green-on-green contest entry, was finally hemmed (the final step in its creation) just two days before the Plowing Match. Though the ladies worked on the quilt since January, quilt committee member Kay Ross says most of the work was done in about "three months of hard slogging".

As specified in the contest rules, the finished quilt measured 72 x 90 inches. When the judging was completed, the Thamesford ladies were the proud recipients of the \$100.00 first prize. As many different needlework stitches as possible were used in making the quilt, says Kay Ross,

both to test the skill of the ladies and to impress the contest judge. The quilt's design is a map of Oxford County, containing tiny pictures of crops, buildings and farm animals. Mrs. Ross's considerable drawing talent provided the outline for many of the quilt's intricate figures.

The pride and joy of The Grace Patterson Institute earned a score of 98 out of 100, and was in a field of ten other quilts. The judge's comment on the winning entry was succinct and to the point: "truly a work of art".

What's to become of the quilt now? "We could have sold raffle tickets for it", said Mrs. Ross at the 35th anniversary meeting of the Institute held on Monday night, "but then somebody who had paid 25¢ for a ticket, but didn't really appreciate the prize, would wind up with it".

So instead, the quilt was put up for sale, and was

purchased by Mrs. David Woods - "a native of Oxford County", says Kay Ross, who really appreciates the significance of it and the work that went into it."

Happy Gang Meets

The third meeting of Grace Happy Gang 3 (4-H) was held October 6th at the home of Elaine Coward. There were 15 members present.

The group discussed "walls, windows, and what-not" and learned how a room can reflect a person's personality.

The members worked on their "free choice" macrame projects. The next meeting will be held October 18.

SMILE

Is it because girls tend to marry men like their fathers that mothers cry at weddings?