

## Kairshea, Gaelic For 4th and 6th, Had Beginning As Farm Women's Club

The following history of an organization that has filled a worthwhile role in Kinloss Township for close to forty years, was outlined at a recent meeting of the Kairshea Women's Institute, and pertains to the formation of the parent body, and the subsequent organization of this branch of the Institute.

On April 23rd, 1924, seventeen women met at the home of Mrs. John S. MacKenzie on the 4th Con. of Kinloss to organize a branch of the United Farm Women of Ontario — known as U.F.W.O. This was affiliated with the United Farmers of Ontario. The Club was organized by Mrs. Geo. Lane, Ashfield.

At the first meeting it was decided to meet the 3rd Thursday of the month, and we still do. We opened our U.F.W.O. meetings with the Maple Leaf for Ever and the Lord's Prayer, closing with O, Canada. In 1931 we received the U.F.W.O. Creed & Opening Ode.

Officers elected by ballot were: President, Mrs. J. S. MacKenzie, 1st Vice Pres., Mrs. Allister Hughes; Secretary, Miss Jean MacKenzie; Treasurer, Mrs. Alex Sutherland; Directors, Mrs. Sam Carnochan, Mrs. Geo. Lockhart, Mrs. Angus Graham, Mrs. Alex MacKenzie, Miss Ella Sutherland who was also press secretary. Directors for Egg Pool, Mrs. Alex Sutherland, Miss Jean MacKenzie. Fees were \$1.00 a year with a 2nd member of a family paying 25c.

The 2nd meeting was at the home of Walter MacKenzie with Miss Jean MacKenzie, his sister, as hostess. At this meeting it was decided to adopt the name "Kairshea," the Gaelic for 4th and 6th Concessions. The name was borrowed from the men's U.F.O. which had been organized some time previous. It is reported this name was thought up by two local young men, Russel MacDougal and Clarence MacMillan.

We met each month at some members home, had discussions, topics, and demonstrations. All through the years we did considerable Red Cross and Charitable work. Many bales went up the North country. (One year we were complimented by Mrs. Smith, Social Service worker in Ingleheart district, for our splendid bale and maternity bundles). The sick were remembered with flowers and cards and letters of condolence sent to the bereaved. Boxes were sent to the boys overseas in wartime.

Topics and demonstrations were many and varied; Benefits of Horticulture Society; Care of sick, which was most helpful; ways to make our Club a success; art of being a guest; gardening; beauties of friendship; Women's part in Canada's program; Spirit of Christmas; Talks on Poultry; marketing; re-finishing furniture; making the most of myself; life in a garden—what are we planting? Join the club so you can help others. The handicap child, given by a mother whose daughter was in the School for Blind at Brantford, telling how a child can overcome a handicap.

Each year we had an At Home and frequently joined with Paramount U.F.W.O. occasionally with the Ripley group. In 1928 we raised money by an Irish Masquerade, clearing \$185.00. Started St. Andrew's Ball in 1932, and it is still a feature of Kairshea. In 1929, \$10.00 was given to Arena Fund. Bales of new and used clothing sent to the north over many years. In 1935, \$21.00 given for drinking fountain in Lucknow. 1939, \$10.00 to Arena rest room. In 1939 we started to run our own lunch counter at our dance, each one donating a pie. 1939, \$40.00 was used to buy yarn for knitting socks for the soldiers and in October of that year decided to work through the Lucknow Red Cross. Numerous quilts were made for Red Cross and needy Community. Many donations

were made to Children's War Memorial, London.

In 1936 Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Bain reached their 60th Wedding Anniversary, flowers were sent.

For a number of years after the disbanding of the U.F.W.O. we continued to have the same meetings and to do good work in Home and Community. In 1946 about the month of November, a vote was taken by ballot whether or not we would become a Women's Institute.

In memoriam: for the 25th Anniversary of Kairshea 1924-1949. Mrs. Roderick Bain, Miss Maggie McGillivray, Mrs. Ben Chesnut, Mrs. Dan T. MacKinnon, Mrs. Dan MacIntyre, Miss Maggie Ross, Mrs. Alex MacKenzie, Mrs. Sam Carnochan, Mrs. Angus MacDonald, Miss Jean MacKenzie, (1st Sec.) Miss Ruth MacLeod, Miss Mary Jane Irwin, Mrs. Albert Little.

Presidents up to the organization of the Institute: Mrs. J. S. MacKenzie, 1924; Mrs. Allister Hughes, 1924-27; Mrs. Sam Carnochan, 1927-28; Mrs. Alex Sutherland, 1928-29; Miss Mary B. McLeod, 1930; Mrs. Richard Martin, 1931-32; Mrs. John Carruthers, 1933-34; Mrs. Dan L. MacKinnon, (4th) 1935-36; Mrs. Russ Middleton, 1937-38; Mrs. Archie MacKinnon, 1939-40; Mrs. Harry Lavis, 1941-42; Four Pres. 1943-44, Mrs. Alex Sutherland, Mrs. Archie MacIntyre, Mrs. W. F. MacDonald, Miss Dean McLeod. Four Pres. 1945-46: Mrs. David H. Carruthers, Mrs. Dan L. MacKinnon, Mrs. Lloyd MacDougal, Mrs. Archie MacIntyre.

The organization meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Harvey Houston. Mrs. J. R. White, Ripley, a past district president assisted with the details, Jan. 1947. First President, Mrs. Archie MacIntyre, first sec.-treas., Mrs. Fraser MacKinnon. Our first bus trip was to the 50th Anniversary of F.W.I.O. at O.A.C., Guelph, June, 1947. Down through the years we have enjoyed many bus trips. We still continue to do good work for Home and Community.

In 1949 \$400.00 was donated to the Wingham hospital for furnishings for a room, which bears our name on a bronze plaque on the door. At a later date smaller donations have been made for blankets, mirror, etc. In 1954 a donation of \$25.00 was made to the Wingham hospital for a W.I. Ward, to which Women's Institutes in the surrounding district donated.

By 1951 our branch was sponsoring 4-H clubs, and in later years the Sr. Leader's Training school have been popular. Our two money making projects are the St. Andrew's Ball, in November and the Calico Ball started again in 1949, in the spring. The Kairshea branch own their own cups, silverware, etc. for the use at the lunch counter at these dances. Folding chairs were purchased a number of years ago, for use at the meetings in members homes. A donation of \$50.00 was made to the Holyrood W.I. for purchase of an electric stove for the township hall. A \$50.00 donation was made to the Lucknow Recreational Centre, now the Lucknow Legion Hall.

It was Mrs. Walter G. MacKenzie, one of our members who sparked the idea to have a Bruce County Museum. Miss Dean McLeod composed the poem "The Old Log House" after spending a day at the Log Cabin, when our branch acted as hostess for a day.

In 1958 Kairshea sponsored the first Dafodil Tea for the Cancer Society in South Bruce District. Our W.I. were interested in this project after making cancer dressings. This has been followed up each year since by different branches. Since 1958 a \$50.00 Scholarship has been given to the girl with the highest standing in Home Economics in Lucknow & District High School. We also contributed our share in Bruce County F.W.I.O. scholarship. Over the years we have always

made a donation to the Lucknow Agriculture Society and put up group exhibits.

In 1960, one member, Mrs. Allister Hughes, competed in the Tweedmuir History project, 6 Hooked Chair seats, which won first place at District Grey-Bruce Area, and 4th place at F.W.I.O. level. In 1960 our branch purchased an unused school property, S.S. No. 5, Kinloss, on the 6th Con. for \$1.00, to be used for meetings, 4-H Club work & quiltings. The current executive act as trustees of the property. A second-hand electric stove was purchased in the spring of 1960, also more stacking chairs.

The officers have been: Presidents, Mrs. Archie MacIntyre, Mrs. Fred Gilchrist, Mrs. Harvey Houston, Mrs. D. H. Carruthers, Mrs. D. L. MacKinnon, Mrs. Cliff Roulston; Sec. Treas., Mrs. Fraser MacKinnon, Mrs. Orville Elliott, Mrs. Farish Moffat, Mrs. Donald MacKinnon, Mrs. Currie Colwell, Mrs. Ira Dickie.

### PASSED AWAY MONDAY

The death of William Andrew Downey of Kinloss Township occurred in Wingham Hospital on Monday, June 5th at the age of 75. The funeral service will be held at the MacKenzie Memorial Chapel on Thursday at 2:30, conducted by Rev. Rod MacLeod, with interment in South Kinloss Cemetery.