

Curator retires after 17 years' stint

EMBRO — After 17 years as district curator of the North Oxford Womens Institute Historical section Mrs. Helen Hossack, Embro decided to step down at the 72nd annual meeting held here on Tuesday.

Mrs. Hossack is the only person to hold this position since it was created in 1960, when it was decided to have a curator to take charge of the Tweedsmuir Community History Books which at that time were gaining in popularity.

Among her major functions was to hold a workshop at least once a year when the branch historical committees would meet and discuss the achievements and problems of the branches' historical committees since the previous workshop.

When she accepted the position there were about ten branches with Tweedsmuir community history books. Today all 17 branches have at least one volume with several branches having four or more volumes.

Mrs. Hossack has been active in this type of work with the Women's Institute since 1947 when the Embro Womens Institute started their Tweedsmuir book committee at a meeting held in her home.

She recalls one of the committee relating interesting facts about life in Embro when she was a girl and the members of the committee were so interested in what she was saying they forgot to take notes.

They have come a long way since that time and now the district is sending the books of the branches to Toronto to be microfilmed by the Department

of Agriculture and Food, for convenience in handling, any additional volumes will be in smaller books and each book will be designated to a certain phase of local history such as schools, churches, etc.

Helen Hossack feels that the Tweedsmuir community history books are an important part of the community and contain valuable information.

The Embro Centennial Committee in 1958 used the Embro book as a basis for the centennial book they published and during the centennial celebration of 1967 a good part of the historical past of Canada on the local level came from the Women's Institute Tweedsmuir books.

During her recent term of office the North Oxford Women's Institute branches have moved forward another step in creating a more complete local history and are now promoting house logs which has been done in other areas but only recently has it been accepted locally.

Mrs. Hossack would like to see every Women's Institute member have a house log of her home.

"This is not an impossible goal," she says.

In recognition of her years of service District President Mrs. Archie Armour, Thamesford pinned a gold badge of appreciation on Mrs. Hossack during Tuesday's meeting prior to Mrs. Hossack giving her final report.

On July 20 at the Embro and West Zorra Community Centre the North Oxford Women's Institute will hold an open house when all the district branches

will display their Tweedsmuir Community history books, their scrapbooks and their house logs.

During her many years as member of the Women's Institute Mrs Hossack has held many district and provincial

offices including Area vice-president (1957) and provincial board director for Sub District 22 which includes North Oxford, South Perth and South and West Huron (1955-57).

She will be succeeded by Mrs. Fred (Norma) Howe, RR 5

Embro a member of the Braemar Women's Institute and a member of the District Historical Committee.

Mrs. Hossack can be seen daily at Fanshaw village where she greets the visitors at the general store.



District Curator retires

District President of the North Oxford Women's Institute Mrs. Archie Armour, Thamesford pins the badge of recognition on Mrs. James Hossack, retiring District Curator of the North Oxford Women's Institute at the district's 72nd annual meeting here on Tuesday. Mrs. Hossack is stepping down after serving as curator for 17 years.