

Add to volumes of books

July 14, 1976

# Oxford WIs study history

EMBRO — Oxford County was left in the dark for over an hour on Thursday as a power failure left the historians from 17 North Oxford Women's Institutes without hydro.

Members from the historical committees of the North Oxford Women's Institutes were conducting their annual Community Tweedsmuir History workshop at the Embro townhall when the power failure occurred.

The historical committees hold these annual workshops to observe the work of their counterparts in the other North Oxford W.I. and to report on old projects and to introduce new ones. It also allows new committee members to see what others have done and acquaint

them with the procedure to follow.

Chairman Mrs. James Hossack, Embro, reported that an old project has been given a new name. The family farm has now become the "House Log". This now involves the homes of members living in villages, etc.

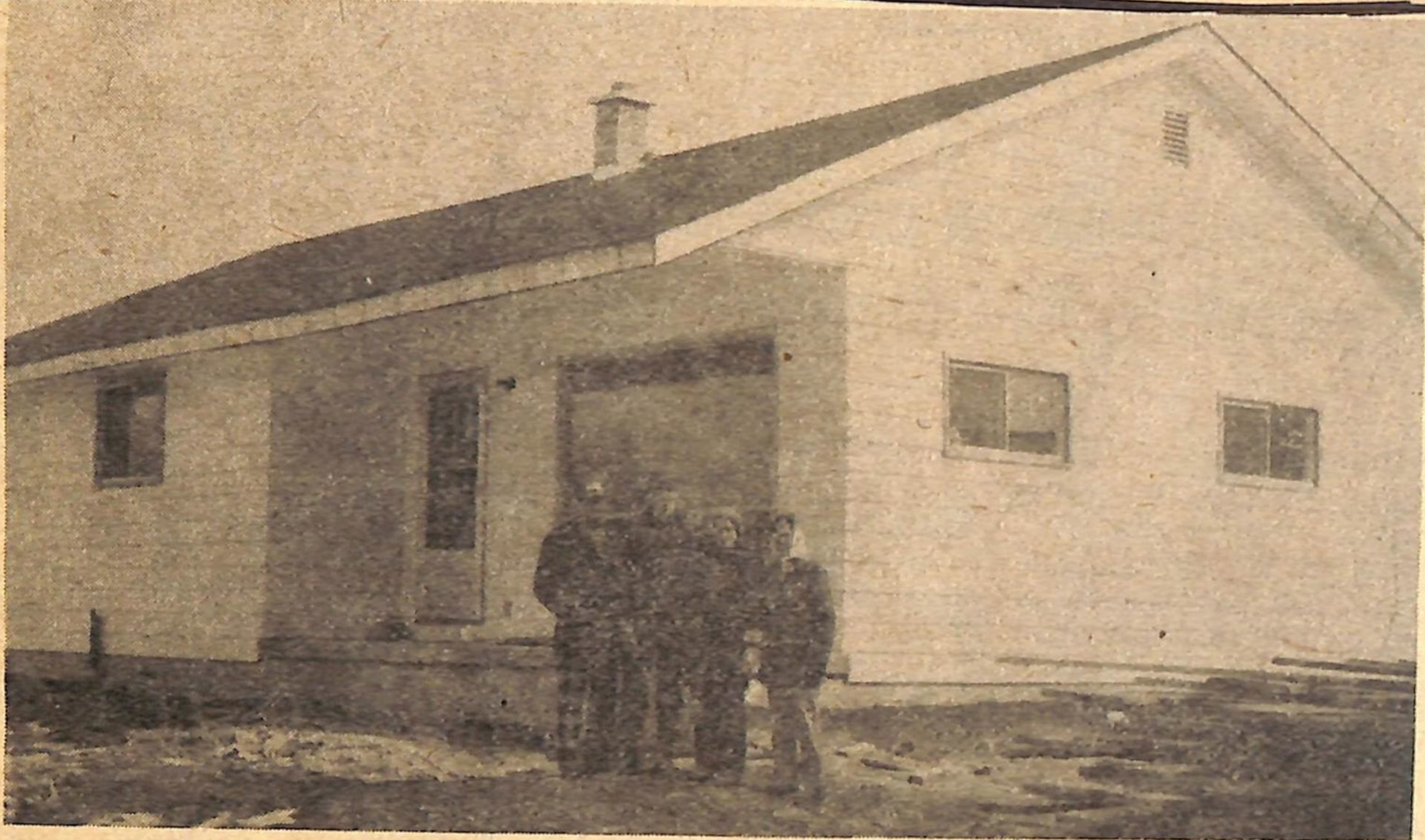
It becomes the personal project of a member who will prepare an account of their home dating back to its beginning, its occupants and changes up to the present.

It is similar to a family tree only this involves more than one family in many cases,

especially in the older homes in the villages.

Mrs. Hossack remarked that much of the rural history of the area has come to light since the books were first started about 1949 and now many of the Institutes refer to their books by volume. Some have 5-6 volumes.

Unfortunately, due to the volume of material gathered, it was recently found necessary to abandon the provincial and federal competitions that were held each year and the books judged and awards given.



## Thanks To Dad's Hemlock And Some Good Neighbors

Bev West has pretty well completed the new home in this picture, along the Lakeside road midway between that village and Medina. A prime ingredient in the construction of the new three bedroom home is the fact that all the structural members came from hemlock cut from back on the Chester West farm (Bev's father) and hauled out by Chester and Mrs. West. The sawing and planing was the work of the Abe Hotstettler saw-mill on the 7th of Nissouri. The spruce used in the home came originally from trees which died alongside the

United Church manse in Kintore. Thanks to these donations, Bev says, the new home now "stands him" only about \$12,000. Friends, neighbours and relatives all pitched in to help with the result that Mr. and Mrs. Bev West, by living in the basement first and gradually working their way up will eventually have a fine home at low cost. Even the planning was carried out by Bev. In this picture are Chester West (left), Bev West, Mrs. Bev West and Mrs. West's mother, Mrs. Ida Strunk from Gladwyn, Michigan.

Bev noted that, as above, "help came all the way from the States". He admitted the hemlock was a bit tough to work but, in its favour, it was cut at the prime time and hence the wood is dry and soundly in place just a year from the time it stood in the West bushlot. Rather strange to see full 2" by 6" timber in this day and age, but it is very evident in this new Bev West home. The truss frame for the house was sawn and assembled right in the front yard, all of hemlock. As a neighbour told the J.A. cameraman "It would take dynamite to move that hemlock now!"

March, 1976