

# Quilts Highlight As Dublin W.I. Looks Back On Past 30 Years

On December 12, 1925, an organization meeting conducted by Miss Appleby of Georgetown, assisted by Mrs. J. E. Gamble of Acton Institute, was held in Dublin School and Dublin Women's Institute was formed. The group observed its 30th birthday last week. Charter member Miss Minnie Somerville here recalls some of their highlights of the past years.

The first slate of officers was: president, Mrs. William Bracken; first vice-president, Mrs. John Robertson; second vice-president, Mrs. John Riddick; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. D. McDougall; directors, Mrs. John Stewart, Mrs. Duncan Waldie, Mrs. H. S. Webster; district director, Mrs. William Bracken; program convener, Miss Alice Elliott.

In January, 1926, the first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Jack Robertson, now of Hamilton, who then lived on the second line below Acton. Mrs. George Agnew of Acton Institute conducted the meeting. According to this record, there were 14 charter members. Three more were added the first year and soon the numbers were doubled.

The Dublin Institute has always tried to be responsive to calls for help. During World War II, the women worked steadily to provide comforts for soldiers and civilians.

First Aid kits were placed in schools and re-filled when needed. Baby blankets and later bank books were given to new babies of members. They helped buy a piano for Dublin School and gave a donation to Acton Institute to help with building the cemetery gates.

Girls' projects were sponsored. Though the barns are smaller and have no basement. The house had all the modern conveniences and was quite home-like.

On Sunday morning the air was crisp and the sun shone brightly, and a number of us English speaking people and three from Holland attended the morning service, conducted in English in St. Andrew's Anglican church in Gothenburg.

In the evening, a farewell party was held in an exclusive restaurant situated on a cliff overlooking the harbor. For miles up and down the river we could see ships anchored, tied up to the docks and many in dry dock for repairs.

At a meeting of the WFO Governing Board, the European directors contended that if they were ever to have a chance of winning the contest, the plows used by Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Canada would have to be debarred and the score card changed to favor the work done by the European plows. We contended that no plow should be debarred and that the score card referred to the plowing and not to the plows. Although they were in the majority, they saw the point and agreed to leave the rules largely as they were.

At this meeting a letter was read from the Plowmen's Association in New Zealand asking permission to send a plowman to the fourth World Match in England next year. Next week: A closer look at Britain.

Miss Edith Nelles (now Mrs. Robert Watson) won a trip through the Niagara district. Misses Verna Webster (now Mrs. Murchison), Molly Cutts (now Mrs. Elwood Johnston) and Dorothy Steele (now Mrs. John Hare) each won a trip to the Canadian National Exhibition.

They catered to banquets. Halton Musical Festival was always supported. Miss Somerville recalls Mrs. George Robertson was the first musical director in Dublin school.

Many projects have been enjoyed under different leaderships, including Mrs. Alex Near, Mrs. C. J. Van Goozen, the late Mrs. Barber, the late Mrs. Webster, Mrs. D. Kennedy, Mrs. C. J. Van Goozen, Mrs. Mansell-Nellis and Mrs. Duncan Moffat.

Quilts Highlight However, quilts and quilting seems to have proved especially useful, interesting and profitable.

In 1929-30 they made an autograph quilt which brought both pleasure and \$30 from autographed names. It was sold by auction at Dublin School Room on May 24, 1930, to the late Duncan McDougall. It was bought to send to his brother in Winnipeg who would enjoy the Dublin names.

The windmill quilt, cut by Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Bracken, and quilted by different members, won several prizes at fall fairs. It was won by Mrs. Bracken.

A two-color yellow and mauve quilt was worked on at the C.N.E. among about 20 others, about 17 years ago. TV was a novelty at the time and this quilt and contest were talked about by the TV interviewer, Miss Somerville remembers. Ten of the ladies quilted as they sat with others on the grounds. It was won by John Black.

More Prizes In 1950, what is known as "The Little House Quilt" was made. It won a \$10 first prize in the district and \$15 second prize in the area. It was later sold to Lindsay Ferguson for \$50.

In 1951, what is known as the "Crown Quilt" was quilted on by 14 members, 11 of whom quilted on it at the Hobby and Craft Show in Toronto and won \$100 first prize.

The next year, with Mrs. Near and Mrs. Frank as leaders, a rug was designed and hooked. This won \$10 first prize in the district and \$15 second prize in the area. Later, tickets were sold.

It was the "Utilization of Wool" project, with Mrs. Webster as leader, which led to thinking of prize-winning quilts. It was after this project that Dublin started using

short needles and made an attempt at uniform stitches, etc. A practice quilt was set up under the trees at the Nassagaweya Somerville home before the attempt at quilting at the C.N.E. in 1938 was made.

Quilts seemed to be this Institute's specialty. They gave them to fire victims or needy families. They sold them to raise money. They gave them to the Red Cross, Neighborhood Workers, hospitals and sent them overseas. They always tried to keep at least one on hand in case of an emergency call.

In 1955, the Tenth Anniversary was celebrated at the home of Mrs. Van Goozen. The 50th Anniversary of Women's Institutes in Ontario was celebrated at the home of the late Mrs. Dalton Barber in February, 1947.

Dublin Institute celebrated its 25th Anniversary at the home of Mrs. Wilmer Watkins.

Miss Somerville adds, "As time passed and we have enjoyed our social times and work together, both glad times and sad times, we hope we have not missed giving jobs to others and have done something by way of making our community and world a better place in which to live."



AN ACTON SKATER with poise as well as talent, Mary Jane Force is shown here with former Shipstad and Johnson Folies star Jim Hutchinson as the pair practice for Rhapsody on Ice, a colorful skating spectacle in Guelph next week.



**CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD**  
by WILL C. BARRIE, Manager  
1955  
CANADIAN PLOWING TEAM

W. C. Barrie of Galt, Ont., a past president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and manager of the Canadian Plowing team at the third annual World Plowing Match in Sweden, has sent home on-the-spot reports of his trip with team members Joe Tran of Clarendon, Ont. and Ivan McLaughlin of Stefferville, Ont. Here is the fifth of his reports.

UPPSALA, SWEDEN — Even though the world plowing championship was over, we still had a great deal to look forward to, for now we were to tour Sweden — a country in which there is something fascinating to see almost everywhere you go.

On the Sunday afternoon following the Saturday night plowing banquet, our party joined the other visitors on a bus trip to some of the historic places in old Uppsala. "By our party" I mean Ivan McLaughlin, who came second in the world match; Joe Tran, who placed fourth; plus Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Barrie and myself. Near an old church we saw three mounds which are said to have been built by the Vikings, kings of the fifth and sixth centuries.

Sacrifices In those days, the people made great sacrifices to the gods. When a king died, his ship would be drawn up to the site of these mounds by his slaves, his body would be placed in the ship, his slaves would be slaughtered and the ship would be burned over the ashes, this great mound was built.

Our next stop was at the University in Uppsala, which has a library with some very rare documents on exhibit, including a letter written by Eric XIV of Sweden proposing marriage to Elizabeth I of England. When she refused him, he flew into a terrible rage and slaughtered 40 prisoners with his own sword.

On Monday morning, our tour of Sweden, sponsored by Esso of Sweden, left Uppsala for a two-day visit to Stockholm. On the way we called to see a modern grain dryer owned and operated by the Swedish Farmers' Co-operative. Six huge silos were 100 feet high, were used for storage. In one hour the moisture content would be reduced to 15 per cent, dry enough for winter storage.

Next morning we boarded a bus for Orebro. We visited a pig-breeding yard in Sweden. Here pure-bred Yorkshire are raised for sale to the farmers. This was a farm of 500 acres and 100 acres were used for grazing. This farm is also used for cereal plant breeding and the production of registered seed. There are 200 stations in the country for the production of such seed and the standard is very high.

Drawbridge, Meat The next day we visited a Swedish military riding school where horses for the cavalry are trained. The school includes a huge cattle which took 200 years to build. It was surrounded by a moat with deep, fast-running water, spanned by a drawbridge.

We also saw Sweden's largest and most modern dairy, which is owned by 5,000 farmers. Milk from 5,000 farms was handled here, and went on the market as butter, cheese and bottled milk. Every operation was done automatically.

and the place was spotlessly clean. Several laboratories for testing were staffed with people in white uniforms. Ninety people are employed there and each one has a medical inspection regularly. Their clothes are disinfected daily and no employee works in clothes worn outside.

In the afternoon we had the pleasure of going through the factory of Thermotekniska in Hallstuguburg, where many kinds of farm implements are manufactured. The skilled workmen in the big plant gave us an insight into the amount of labor and material that is entailed in the production of farm machinery.

Modern Farms We visited two large adjoining farms of 500 acres each. The farm of Carl Nilsson is equipped to feed a large herd of cattle. The other one is owned by Gustav Willemson. The only animal on his farm is a dog. His farm produces a large amount of grain, which is sold for seed. His storage bins, grain dryers and seed-cleaning plant cost him \$50,000. Both farms were well equipped with machinery. Each had a swimming pool and lovely garden.

The next day Nels Anderson, chairman of the forestry board, led us into a large spruce and pine forest estate of his own, where several men were busy trimming the lower branches from the trees, cutting down and hauling trees with tractors, and taking them away on trucks.

One thing we noticed that would probably account for Sweden's few forest fires as compared to Canada's is that the ground was covered with a thick moss which was green and damp, despite the dry weather.

Conserve Forests Later that day we had the opportunity of seeing a large, modern pulp and paper plant where 65,000 tons of paper are manufactured yearly. The company owns one-half-million acres of forestland and is practicing the latest methods of forest conservation.

On the way to Gothenburg, we visited an average Swedish farm, which compared favorably with the average Canadian home all-

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