Old Blacksmith Shop On Public View at Halton County Museum

After collecting dust for more than 30 years, a family blacksmith shop built about 1860 and in use until around 1940, has been restored on the Halton County Museum property.

The doors to the combination blacksmith shop and carpenter's workshop were opened to the public for the first time on Saturday afternoon after months of restoration work.

The shop was built about 1860 by Adam Alexander for his own personal use, and he continued to use it until around 1940. The bellows and forge on display in the 26 by 14 foot enclosure are the originals and in addition there is an anvil and more than 250 other pieces of blacksmith's tools.

Halton County Museum curator Major H.J. Newman reports it took a great deal of the winter to fix the large bellows, and he recalls it took nearly all of last summer to clean out the building.

The opening of the blacksmith's shop is regarded as a major addition to the museum and will be considered gallery three in the museum's overall plans.

Major Newman described the forge as "one of the nicest I've ever seen" and said the huge slabs of stone used in the construction of the forge were taken from the nearby hillside. The forge, he said, weighs well over two tons.

ASHGROVE

Bird Watching Fascinating Hobby Tells Ashgrove W.I.

On Tuesday evening, May 17th, the ornithology meeting of Ashgrove Women's Institute was held. Mrs. James Carney presided as president and a minute's silence was observed for a member, Mrs. Percy Leslie, whose death occurred recently.

Robins and bluebirds proved the most popular for roll call: "Name and describe your favourite bird" and orioles and humming birds were the next choice. Four delegates were appointed to attend the District Annual at Ballinafad on May 25th, Mrs. James Carney, Mrs. Bob Alexander, Mrs. John Roddell and Mrs. John M. Bird with Mrs. Charles Austin as alternate. The 4-H Achievement Day was announced for Saturday, May 28th, at Milton.

The program was in charge of Mrs. John M. Bird who called on Mrs. Francis Thompson for the motto: "Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no bird except the best sang." Guitar selections were played by David Austin.

Mrs. William Carrick from the waterfall research station at Guelph gave a fine talk on bird watching and said how people from all walks of life are doing it and providing feeders and houses for birds.

Very little equipment is needed for bird watching, she said, a good pair of binoculars, a guide book to identify different birds and a small notebook and pencil.

She showed two colour films. One was of the waterfowl station she and her husband operate, showing geese, ducks and swans, and how they nest and care for their young. The second was pictures of Point Pelee National Park showing birds of all kinds and colours in their natural habitat among the trees, feeding their young and just being themselves, singing and happy.

Mrs. Joe Wickson thanked Mrs. Carrick for sharing her knowledge, and said everyone would want to be a bird watcher. A singsong followed with Mrs. Hector Bird conducting and Mrs. Lloyd Davison at the piano, with such songs as "Let's All Sing Like the Birdies Sing" and "Springtime in the Rockies."

Current events were given by Mrs. James McPhail. Mrs. Frank Ruddell had a bird contest of scrambled names which was won by Mrs. C. B. Dick, David Austin and Mrs. John Ruddell. Mrs. Percy Cox gave the courtesies and the meeting closed with a social hour.

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Congratulations to Adrienne Nurse who was a graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Toronto last week.

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Deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Gordon Wingfield and Mrs. Bruce McClure, who both lost their fathers this month quite suddenly.

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Big Bonus 5000

LUCKY GREEN STAMPS

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