

Halton W.I. pays tribute to Dr. Ethel Chapman

Close to 200 ladies from the four corners of Halton County gathered at St. David's Presbyterian Church in Campbellville Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 28, to pay tribute to Dr. Ethel Chapman, home economist, author, journalist and native of the Campbellville area.

The ladies were mostly from county Women's Institutes and it was their county executive which organized the tribute.

Mrs. John Bird of the Ashgrove W.I., the District W.I. president, who originally came up with the idea, was the master of ceremonies for the afternoon.

One of the first people to speak to the ladies was Ed Mahon from Campbellville who had been a schoolmate of Miss Chapman. He remembered she was almost always at the top of her class. "It seems the boys always had more to do than study but the girls worked hard at the books in those days," he said. "I don't even think they ever fought," he joked.

Miss Jean Scott of the Home Economics branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture gave the ladies the background of Miss Chapman's career. She told them she had taught school in the Campbellville area for a time but had become interested in home economics after seeing a demonstration by a home economist. She enrolled at Macdonald Institute in the homemaking course and when she graduated, worked on the staff of the Farmer's Advocate.

After a time with the magazine, said Miss Scott, she came to the Women's Institute where, among other things, she started the homemaking clubs. Having spent a few years with the W.I., Miss Chapman returned to journalism and she was employed as editor of the Farmer's Magazine where she stayed for 25 years.

In 1952, Miss Chapman headed back to the W.I. offices in Toronto and worked in the home economics service as

editor of the W.I. quarterly magazine Home and Country. Miss Scott remarked that Miss Chapman's column in the magazine was a high point for most of its readers.

Besides her regular work, Miss Chapman travelled around the province giving lectures and demonstrations in home economics, both to farm ladies and their daughters. Miss Scott said, "Miss Chapman had that certain talent for breaking through the generation gap and

easily reached young people as well as the older generation." She also authored four books, including "The Homesteaders", "God's Green Country", "With Flame of Freedom" and "Humanities in Homespun."

In 1966, Miss Chapman was presented an honorary doctorate by the University of Guelph and in 1967 was chosen one of Ontario's top five agriculturists as part of Centennial year celebrations.

Presentations were also made

to Miss Chapman at the afternoon tribute by the Campbellville W.I. and Mrs. Norman Langton of Lowville. The Campbellville ladies gave her a china plate, commemorating St. David's centennial year.

Mrs. Langton's presentation of an oil painting she had done on behalf of the Halton W.I. was of special interest to Miss Chapman because it was of a creek in which Miss Chapman said she used to paddle when she was a young girl.

Overwhelmed by the afternoon, Dr. Chapman said, "There really aren't the proper words to express the thanks I have for you ladies for this wonderful afternoon. I have always been close to Halton County and people have often told me my novels seem to be so much like the setting of Halton County. Once again, I can only say I do not have the adequate words to express my feelings."

Musical entertainment was provided by the W.I. provincial

board director for the Halton-Wellington area, Mrs. R. C. Moffat, as well as a singing quartette from Campbellville. Mrs. Moffat played a rather unusual instrument—a set of bells—and seemed to get as much enjoyment from playing as the ladies got from listening as she rang her way through many old tunes.

It was also announced that afternoon that an Ethel

Chapman Memorial Scholarship Fund was being set up to help Halton girls to further their education. The scholarship was in tribute of her "many good works and fine literary contributions."

Members of the W.I. present were called on to introduce their branches and it was learned the oldest member there was 97-year-old Mrs. Frank Wheelihan of Campbellville.

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CNIB man reports 96 blind in county

The Halton County Advisory Board of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind held its annual meeting at the Caravan Restaurant in Milton Tuesday evening and heard from the supervisor of field services for the CNIB.

Wesley Stanley, who is blind himself, told members of the board that he hopes to see advisory boards such as Halton's amalgamate with other boards in the area, once regional government comes into the area. He thanked the service clubs in the Milton area, especially the Lions Club for their work in the CNIB canvassing.

An interesting report was tabled at the meeting by W. K. Lawson, district field secretary for Wentworth, Halton and Peel Counties. He said there were a total of 96 blind people in Halton County and out of this total, 21 were between the ages of one to 16. Milton has 12 registered blind people, Acton seven, Burlington 43, Georgetown 12 and Oakville 22. He went on to say many are also in the low vision category.

These people are not completely blind and yet they have only enough vision to be able to read or see with specially ground lenses. There is a special clinic for people with low vision in Toronto, he said, and he gave several examples of how blind people or people with low vision are able to lead normal lives.

In one example, he told of a student nurse who was in her final months of training when she went blind. After a summer of special training at a

CNIB-sponsored school, she returned to her nursing and graduated as a registered nurse.

The election of officers was also held at the meeting and H. G. McKillop of Oakville was re-instated as chairman of the board. Mrs. A. R. Coulter of R.R. 3 Campbellville was newly elected first vice-chairman and Reg De Cola of Milton was re-elected treasurer. Special guests at the meeting included Halton County Warden George Currie and his wife and Lewin Sales, president of the Milton Lions Club.

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