



The interior of the Erland Lee Homestead showing the famous walnut table on which the first Constitution of the Women's Institute was written.

#### HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF THE ER- LAND LEE PROPERTY

This property is known as Edgemont, crown grant 1801 to John and Mary Lee on their marriage. The first dwelling was a log cabin built by John Lee for his bride. The young couple surrounded it with cuttings of Sweet Mary, Myrtle, Yellow Roses and a Snow Ball Bush.

The cabin has long since vanished but the plants are still flourishing. A frame house was later built and in time the back part of it was removed by Abram, son of John, and in the 1860s the present house was planned. It was built in front of the older part. The wood was virgin pine cut on the property and a fourteen-year-old boy spent the whole summer hand cutting all the ornamentation on the outside of the house.

All the hardware is original and the old iron latches and hinges are still there in the older part of the house. Much of the furniture has been handed down through the generations. Of interest is the walnut dining table which Janet Chisholm brought with her when she came as a bride of Erland Lee. The table was her grandfather's and on it she and Erland worked on and wrote the Constitution of the first Women's Institute in the World.

It is important to Women's Institutes that this house be preserved for its historical value but more important that eventually it might be used as a centre for Women's Institute activities.