

Too late for last issue

OASWT hears Mrs. Mary Sutcliffe

On Nov. 24 the Gananoque and area branch of the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers held their meeting in Portland at noon in the United Church hall.

Preceding the meeting our 45 ladies enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner at seasonal decorated tables.

Nina Churchill, president, welcomed the guests, followed by toast to the Queen and singing of The Queen. A moment of silence was observed for several deceased members in 1987.

Head table guests included the president, Nina Churchill; past president, Mary Townsend; guest speaker, Mary Sutcliffe; Doris Potter, Doreen Regan; Margaret Courneyea, secretary; Lucille Strong, treasurer.

Guests from the twin group, Kingston were welcomed as were new members.

During the dinner, president Churchill read a humorous reading relating terms used in a one-roomed school to those used in modern school e.g.

-visiting various homes for supper by teacher - 'public relations' -sweeping school floor and snowshovelling - 'physical education'

-sharing one geography book -'learning centre'

-walk in the woods -'a field trip' and the humorous list went on.

Kathryn Scott expressed thanks of group to the ladies of the church for excellent meal.

A highlight of the meeting was when Mary Townsend, assisted by Rita Hollister presented a life membership pin to Marion Young who had spent a total of 29 years teaching. Her career began in Long Point in 1918. Other centres where she taught were Westport, Chalk River, Lyndhurst and Brockville and later did supply work.

In accepting pin, she concluded with a witty remark, "The good die young and the wicked have time to repent."

Another elder member, Mabel Davidson, 95, of Philippsville was recognized specially at this meeting.

For the meeting proper, the group came from dining room to upstairs hall where a treat awaited them when they heard an interesting trip to Mexico described by Mrs. Mary Sutcliffe of the Portland area.

Mrs. Sutcliffe was introduced by Lucille Strong who said, "Mary was a native of Wales, a former nurse, she had served with armed services in India and was an active worker in many local North Leeds groups."

This trip was unique because it was under auspices of Elderhosteling group. This group started in U. S. in 1975, came to Canada in 1980. By 1985 all provinces were participating.

It is active in most countries in the world. Anyone can attend if one is 60 years of age, willing to travel and wish to learn and have new beginnings.

The speaker chose a homestay experience - that is living in with a family to learn their ways, etc. Her talk was interesting with humorous anecdotes of experiences in Mexico. She described the Mexicans as a proud people, warm, happy and

affectionate, two classes poor and rich, lovers of noise and bands. During elderhosteling one attends lectures, and one was able to find out many facets of their lifestyle. She was thanked by Hilda Cardiff who presented her with a gift. A period of carol singing was enjoyed with Kathryn Scott at piano.

Cards to sick members were signed and gifts had been brought for the Salvation Army in Gananoque to use at Christmas time.

A pleasant afternoon concluded with Christmas greetings and the old benediction from registers used in schools a few years ago. This brought back many memories!



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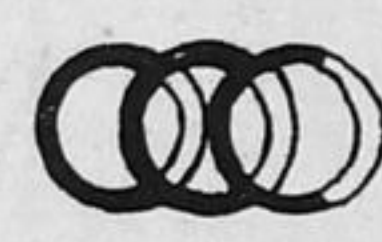
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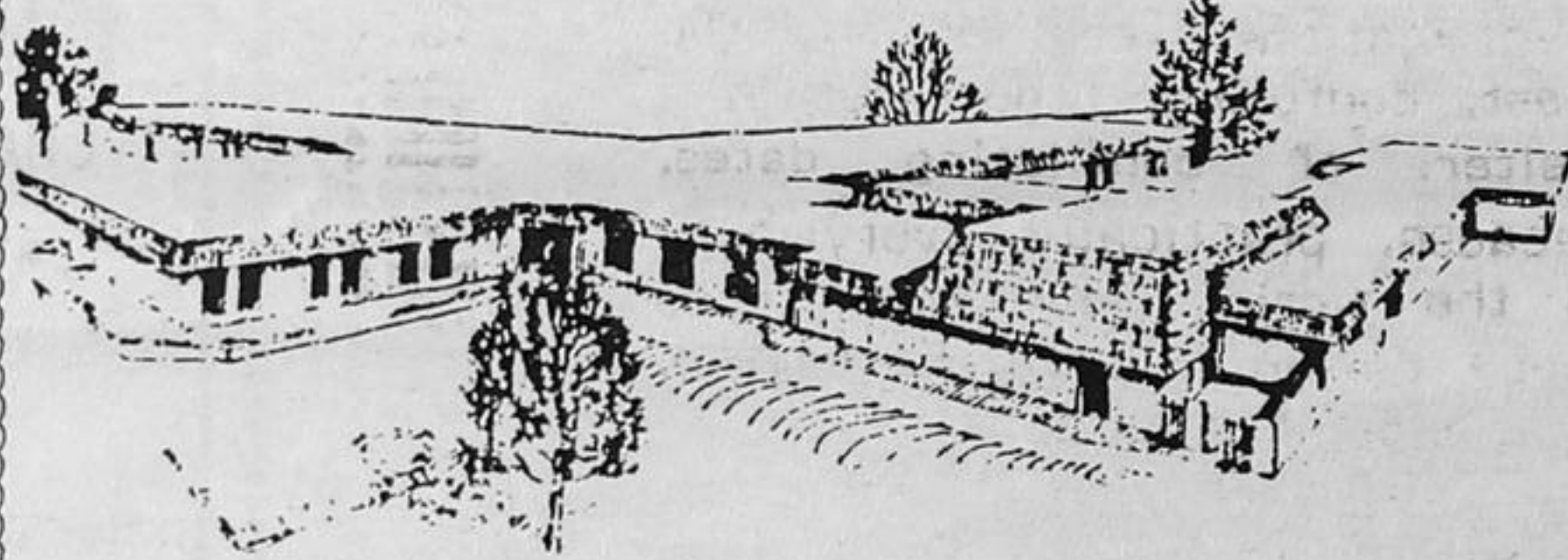
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