

Page - 7 - Kettleby Women's Institute

Now this completes the history of our W. I.; and although we now have 50 names on the Roll Call we know that we must keep an ever-watchful eye on the words of that wonderful Women's Institute Creed that is repeated at each meeting, and practice what we say. When we celebrate our seventy-fifth birthday and then the hundredth, who knows maybe a number of those present to-day will be privileged to attend then."

January 21st, 1961.

Paper given by Audrey Tatton Schmidt (Mrs. Fred Schmidt)
at Institute picnic at Pioneer Village July 28th, 1961.

When I thought of Historical Events I didn't think I would need to go back too many years for my own family to think it historic.

I am going to start with my own family as that is what I know the most about. Our family is the fifth generation on our farm and the fourth house to be built on the farm is the one in which we live. The house previous to the present one was burned in 1931. The others were a log house at the north-west corner of the barn, and one in the south-west corner of the farm near the road by Cook's farm.

My Grandmother used to get up in the morning, do up her work, take a basket of butter and eggs and walk across the fields to Kettleby and be back home to get dinner, but in those days they got up at four or five o'clock.

I moved to this farm in 1929, and if we saw a car or horse and buggy coming north of Cook's gate we knew it was coming to our place as the green grass was growing up in the centre of the road past our farm and there was no road across to Schomberg. The only house on the marsh was a couple of shacks known as Rolls in the centre of the marsh. In order to have the telephone installed my Father had to dig the post holes and supply posts from Cook's gate to our house.

Of great interest to me was the ice cream parlor in Kettleby which my Grandmother, Mrs. Major Stephenson, had in the old house between the store and the blacksmith shop. It was always quite an event to see them cut the ice in the mill pond, haul it up and store it in saw dust in an ice house between the store and house.



Fashion Show by Historical Research Committee plus a few other members at the annual Convention held at the Royal York Hotel, November 1963, with members using the apparel of the past representing a housewife, church, afternoon calling, sports, wedding and formal, with the younger generation in the modern attire.



Sharyn Beatty, Ruth Maginn, Lillian West, Audrey Schmidt, Maureen Cherry, Kathleen Greensides, Betty Gillham.



Nancy Greensides, Eliza Hodgson, Doris Cook, Frances Hunt, Vicki Beatty, Bonnie Warlow, Violet Farren, Sandra Maginn, Roberta Hunt, Gertrude Hunt, Betty Gillham.

HISTORICAL RE-
SEARCH FASHION
SHOW

At the Royal York
Hotel - Convention
November 1963.



Frances Walton Hunt



Roberta Hunt



Gertrude Hunt

HISTORICAL RE-
SEARCH FASHION
SHOW

At the Royal
York Hotel -
Convention of
1963.



Eliza Hodgson



Audrey Tatton Schmidt



Doris Geer Cook

ACTIVITIES DURING 1964 TO 1977 OF
KETTLEBY BRANCH OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The activities of our Institute, whose membership has decreased over the years, has been varied and interesting. Our Diamond anniversary was celebrated at York Pines United Church on January 23, 1971, sixty years to the date of the inaugural meeting, with one of the two surviving charter members present, and the special address was given by the late Mrs. E. Armstrong.

Many interesting speakers brought information during the above thirteen years on the work amongst the Indians, on pollution, estate taxes, growing and use of herbs, women and the law, politics at the municipal level, on mining, telecare, trip to the A.C.W.W. in Australia and Norway, educational problems, a librarian, consumer consultant, designer and maker of dolls.

Special meetings which might be mentioned are that of Dr. Norman Alcock, founder of Canada Peace Research Institute; Mrs. A. Gillham, author of "Early Settlements in King Township"; speaking on "Carrying Place" in the township of King. Also, the celebration of the United Nations 24th anniversary with a cake surrounded by the 126 flags of the nations and 24 candles, with the guest speaker, a delegate to the United Nations and a resident of our community; Mr. Price Erichson-Brown; a meeting at the home of Mrs. Franc Joubin, wife of the discoverer of uranium, who is a talented hobbyest with a "hobby building" on their farm. Robert Burns' birthday celebrated at the Scottish home of Mr. Lloyd MacPherson with Scottish dances and ceremonial haggis; as well as a meeting on the metric system.

Movies of various trips of the members; of Indian and Eskimo people of the North West Territories, as well as the conventions in Norway and Australia.

Tours were taken to McMichael's Gallery with afternoon tea at the Doctor's House; Sterling Drug Company, Pinecrest Foods, the log house of a dealer in antiques where we had our meeting and a lunch as it would have been fifty years ago.

Trips were taken to Niagara Falls, to Holy Trinity Church, Toronto, to see the Christmas story; McLaughlin Planetarium; Atwood Interiors at Thornhill. We also saw the Sound of Music at Eglinton Theatre and attended plays at St. Andrew's College and the Factory Theatre.

Our special doings were Penny Sales, a Fun Fair, picnics at members' cottages, dinners and luncheons at various eating places; attending Bradford's salad supper.

Christmas meetings took the form of special programs at members' homes, a smorgasbord in Aurora, a progressive dinner; visiting a nursing home with Christmas goodies. We also sent Christmas gifts to the sick and shut-ins and remembered those over the age of eighty.

Book reviews were given from Dr. Ethel Chapman's writings. Also, on "Rural Roots" which contains much about King Township and Kettleby, some of which was taken from our Tweedsmuir History. This was given by Mrs. Harry Burns.

A 4-H Club was formed as well as a Welcoming Committee for the community.

Centennial year was celebrated by a tea, and our project was a fence surrounding what was formerly Kettleby pond. We also had erected "Welcome" signs to the village of Kettleby. A pageant was written by one of our members, Mrs. Dora Conover, and given by 60 pupils of Kettleby Public School, representing every nation now residing in the Dominion.

Ruth Maginn, Curator,
Prepared for the
District level of the
Women's Institute.



Meeting under convenorship of Mrs. Gordon Cook, Citizenship and Education, held in York Pines Auditorium October 1967, with the children of Kettleby Public School putting on the pageant "Canada - our Home" written by Mrs. J. D. Conover at the request of the Centennial Committee of the Ontario Provincial Government.



Adelaide Hoodless and the Women's Institute 1897 - a dialogue by two members of Woodbridge W. I. at meeting held in York Pines Auditorium under convenorship of Mrs. Gordon Cook, Citizenship and Education, October 1967.



"Centennial Village" a play written by Mrs. J.D. Connver and given at the above meeting. Players - Mrs. C. George, Mrs. Murray Cook and Mrs. D. Brookes.

KETTLEBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CELEBRATES DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Sixty years to the date the Kettleby Women's Institute celebrated its Diamond Anniversary Saturday afternoon, January 23, 1971. About 150 people gathered at York Pines Church auditorium in Kettleby in honor of the occasion.

On January 23, 1911, the inaugural meeting of ladies in Kettleby's Institute was held in the Temperance Hall of Kettleby which then stood in the village. This building is now one of the buildings restored at Pioneer Village. Since the first meeting the ladies have met monthly over the years and have established a substantial record of achievement in Institute work.

A prayer was offered by Rev. Don Sterling of York Pines Church to open the more formal celebrations of the afternoon. This was followed by a presentation of a corsage to Mrs. J. A. Marshall of Barrie, who is one of the two surviving charter members of the Kettleby Institute. The presentation was made by Mrs. Robert Ogden, the Vice-President. Another charter member, Mrs. William Robertson of Long Branch, the former Mary Lemon, was unable to be present.

A poignant address to the group was then given by Mrs. Elton Armstrong, now of Newmarket, who is well known in the Institute for her work and her capable handling of almost every office. Mrs. Armstrong opened her talk with a short discussion of the contemporary drug problem, and urged the Institute to be aware of it and attempt to help to solve and not ignore the problem.

She then used the letters L.S.D. to signify three needs which all people have, both as individuals and within our groups. They are love, security and discipline.

The President, Mrs. Christopher George, was then presented with a plaque to honor the occasion. It was donated by the Ontario Government. Mrs. Harry Burns made the presentation on behalf of M. P. P. William Hodgson. Mrs. Burns then read the In Memorium for all who, while living, were members of the Kettleby Institute.

A skit, written by a member, Mrs. John Maginn, was then performed by the special program committee for the day. The scene was the first regular meeting of the Women's Institute of Kettleby, held on February 25, 1911, at the home of Mrs. Artemus Hambleton, an aunt of the author. It was amusing and a pleasant conclusion to the ceremonies.