Women's Club Edition

The Guardian

SECOND SECTION | Charlottetown, Wednesday, January 29, 1964 | PAGE 1

CHILD'S DEATH SPARKED IDEA OF WIs

Island groups 4,000 strong after 51 years

The first Women's Institute was organized in Stoney Creek, Ontario, in 1897 when a woman, whose child had died from drinking impure milk, began an institute for better rural living with the motto, "For Home and Country."

The Prince Edward Island branch of the Institute was organized 51 years ago and now consists of some 300 groups and 4,000 members.

Meetings of the individual branch institutes are held each month in the various vicinities. The province is divided into 26 or 27 small convention areas with conventions being held annually in early summer.

The highlight of 1963 for the Institute was when Mrs. Walter R. Shaw, wife of the premier, consented to become the first honorary president of the Island Institute's history. She was presented with a life membership in the organization, along with Mrs. Lincoln Dewar, retiring president, and the late Mrs. R. E. Burge, retiring secretary-treasurer, at the 50th Anniversary Convention held on the provincial level at Prince of Wales College Auditorium, Charlottetown on July 10 and 11.

Theme of the convention was "Pride in the past, faith in the future." Carrying out the theme of pride in the past, a pageant, written and directed by Mrs. Helen Herring, Charlottetown, depicted 14 scenes of growth of Institute work and projects in the past 50 years.

Present at the convention were Federated Women's Institute of Canada (FWIC), president, Mrs. Haggerty, Ont., and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), president, Mrs. Van-Beekoff, Holland.

Every Institute in the province shared the pride of the Marshfield Branch when it was National Winner for 1963 of the Carol Lane Safety Award. The award is given to the women's group that institutes and carries out the best safety program in its district.

Important projects in 1964 include preparations for Centennial year celebrations, when the Institute has agreed to sponsor a handicraft display of old and new Island crafts at the Basilica Recreation Centre, June 15 to Sept. 1. It is a comprehensive showcase of provincial crafts of the past century.

Another highlight of this year was the formal presentation at Government House on Jan. 23 of 26 hand-hooked chair seats for the dining room chairs. These seats, featuring the Island Coat of Arms, were hooked by Mrs. Wilfred Pickering, Clinton, and are being presented by the Institute.

At the National Institute Convention in Wolfville, N.S., in June, the winners of the Tweedsmuir competitions will be named. These prize-winning competitions were set up by Lady Tweedsmuir when her husband was Governor-General of Canada.

The competitions are open to all Women's Institute groups in Canada and are held biennually. The various groups compete for trophies in one of all three catagories in the competitions: 1. the best history of a community; 2. a cultural project; and 3. a handicraft.

The new slate of officers elected in 1963 are: provincial president, Mrs. Leslie Ramsay, Indian River; past president, Mrs. Lincoln Dewar, New Perth; first vice- president, Mrs. Arthur Campbell, Spring Brook; second vice- president, Mrs. Walter Dixon, East Baltic; third vice-president, Mrs. Clarence Marchbank, Travellers Rest; secretary- treasurer, Mrs. Norman MacMillan, Alberry Plains.

Conveners of the various institute committees are: agriculture, Mrs. Clarence Marchbank, Travellers Rest; citizenship and education, Mrs. Edwin Cook, Fortune; home economics, Mrs. Leonard Russell, St. Peters; cultural activities, Mrs. Walter Dixon, East Baltic; health and welfare, Mrs. Oscar Gallant, Duvar; united nations and letter friends, Mrs. Reginald MacEwen, North River; radio, Mrs. Julian Herring, Charlottetown; publicity and editor of the Women's Institute News, Mrs. Frank Bagnall Hunter River.

Three executive members of FWIC are: Mrs. Philip Matheson, Oyster Bed Bridge- senior representative, Mrs. Leslie Ramsay, Indian River; junior representative, Mrs. Arthur Campbell, Spring Brook. Director Women's Works in the province is Theresa MacLeod, Charlottetown.

Island women's groups join forces to brighten lives of hospital patients

MRS. FRED OSBORNE CONCEIVED IDEA

Seldom does one hear of an organization without a name, but there is one whose members have devoted themselves to the patients at Beach Grove Hospital since 1950 in a well-organized manner without fan-fare or publicity, their chief reward being the grateful response shown by the patients who are visited weekly by a group of women who distribute treats, magazines and have a few friendly words together.

This project was, perhaps, the first for Mrs. F.G. Osborne on P.E.I.— although by no means her last! When Mrs. Osborne came to our Island a stranger in 1946, to offset her loneliness, she devoted her spare time extending kindness to the elderly people, taking them for drives, shopping, etc. Through her contacts with patients of Beach Grove, she discovered that, while they were deluged with kindness at special seasons of the year, there was a great need for visitation through the in-between periods, especially for the patients whose relatives lived some distance away.

In 1950 Mrs. Osborne conceived the idea of interesting women's organizations to form an organized visitation group. The response was so wholeheartedly that since then the patients at Beach Grove may look forward to a visit Monday of each week by a number of women representing some organization from various parts of the province who are keenly interested in their welfare and happiness. This is made more pleasant by the splendid co-operation of the Superintendent and staff of the hospital.

In 1960 Mrs. Osborne, by this time deeply involved in many other projects, asked the "Royal Edward Chapter", IODE to relieve her of the chairmanship, which Mrs. James A. MacMillan, services convener, consented to take. Under Mrs. MacMillan's capable supervision the organization continued to operate smoothly as before. It is regretted, however, that recently she has found it necessary to resign, but not before she completed the schedule for 1964. The Royal Edward Chapter will continue to sponsor this rewarding work which is being temporarily looked after by Mrs. W.E. Massey, services convener.

At present there are 39 organizations sharing in this project, many of which have served for a number of years. The following are the participants for 1964 program:—Baptist Ladies Auxiliary, Baptist Guild, Brackley Point WMS, Business and Professional Women's Club, Central Christian Church group.

CWL groups: Morell, Rustico, Holy Redeemer, Fort Augustus, Coran Ban, Miscouche, Wellington, East Point, Little Pond, Kinkora, Cardigan and Iona;

IODE chapters: Royal Edward Chapter, L.M. Montgomery Chapter, Lady's slipper Chapter, Earl of Hillsboro Chapter, Royalty Chapter;

Marshfield WI, Mt. Herbert WI, Park Royal United Church, Sherwood WI, Southport WI, South Winsloe WMS, Spring Park WOC, St. James LA, St. Peters WA, Jr., St. Peter's WA, Sr., St. Paul's WA Branch "B", Trinity Excelsior group, Trinity WOC, Trinity Young People's, Trinity "Silver Cross" King's Daughters, Trinity "Willing Circle" King's Daughters, and Zion Guild.

SWAMPED!!

Ladies! We've been swamped. We've received far more pictures and stories than we can hope to use in this Women's Club feature section. Those pictures and stories that are not included in this edition will appear from time to time on the Women's Page of this paper.

THE EXECUTIVE of the Prince Edward Island branch of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Canada was elected at the 50th annual meeting of the group held in July. Three of the principal members of the executive are, left to right, Mrs. Lincoln Dewar, New Perth, past president; Mrs. Leslie Ramsay, Indian River, president; Mrs. Arthur Campbell, Spring Brook, first vice-president.

Kinettes pay fees to camp for retarded

It has been another active year for members of the Charlottetown Kinette Club as they continued work with retarded children and assisted the Kinamen Club with preparations for the opening of the Senior Citizen's Home on Fitzroy Street.

Last summer a number of children were able to attend the Retarded Children's Summer Camp at Oyster Bed Bridge with their camp fees being looked after by the Kinette Club. In the fall the club embarked on a program of holding birthday parties for the children at the Sherwood Hospital for Retarded Children. Each month members visit the hospital with gifts and treats for the children whose birthday happen to be during that month.

Prior to the opening of the senior citizen's home last spring the Kinettes assisted the Kinsmen in furnishing the home supplying a number of needed articles for the kitchen and helping with drapries for the lounges. Kinettes are planning to purchase more needed articles for the center during 1964 and are considering helping with the organization of more activities at the center.

The Kinette Club also helped both Charlottetown welfare bureaus with contributions at Christmas and made a donation to the Easter Seal Campaign for crippled children.

The highlight of the social activities for the Kinette Club last year was a tea at the Charlottetown Hotel for Mrs. Hal Rogers, Hamilton, Ont. wife of the founder of the Kinsmen Clubs. "Founder Hal" was in Charlottetown last spring for the 25th anniversary of the Charlottetown Club.

The Kinette Club raises funds they use in their service projects with cake sales, lotteries, "bring and buy" sales, rummage sales and other small projects. At the present time they are holding a lottery for a transistor radio and the draw is to take place at the end of February.

The main purpose of the Kinette Club is to assist their husbands, members of Kinsmen, in various undertakings, and in line with their purpose, the Kinettes in addition to helping with the Senior Citizen's Home also helped Kinsmen with their annual "Easter Basket" project.

There are 17 active members in the club and meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Senior Citizen's Home. Mrs. Jack Johnston is the 1964 president of the club and other members of the executive are Norma Hambly, past president; Merina MacDonald, vice - president; Dottie Brophy, secretary and Irma Cudmore, treasurer.

WO-HE-LO CLUB EXECUTIVE

Executives of the Wo-He-Lo (Work, Help, Love) Club. Left to right Mrs. Gordon Lea, president; Mrs. Thomas Laidlaw, secretary; Mrs. Norman Stewart, vice- president; Mrs. H.E. Hyndman, treasurer.

Greece, Korea receive boxes gifts of USC

The Unitarian Service Committee has been operating in Charlottetown since the autumn of 1959, following a personal appearance of its executive director, Dr. Lotta Hitchmanova sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Charlottetown.

The committee's main objective is the relief of poverty in Asia, the Middle East and Europe. For anyone who is sympathetic about these peoples and have asked themselves what they might do to help...here is the answer. Workers meet at 2 o'clock every Friday afternoon to prepare clothing for shipment overseas.

Membership in the organization is open and an average of 12 workers are present each week. Clothing for all ages as well as articles for layettes, is received from Women's Institutes, church groups, service clubs and many private individuals interested in the work. Wool for knitted articles is supplied at the Charlottetown depot.

Up until September 56 boxes had been shipped to Greece and since then the Committee has shipped 66 boxes to Korea. Boxes average 80 to 120 lbs. each. A local transport company delivers these boxes to the airport and Eastern Airlines take them to Halifax, both services at no charge to the USC. Members of the Y's Men's Association strap and stencil the boxes before shipment.

Executive members of the USC are: pres. Mrs. Fred Osborne; vice - pres., Mrs. G. R. Holmes; treasurer, Mrs. J.H. England; sec'ty, Isabel MacDonald; and publicity, Mrs. P. D. Crosby.

LePAGES

Spring is on its way— and so are our new SPRING SHOES

Exciting new fashions by the "foot"! And be sure to see our new 'sapphires'.

Grafton St. Charlottetown

PC ass'n is proud of contributions

The Progressive Conservative Women of P.E.I. formed the first Association about 13 years ago. At this time Mrs. Hilda Hessan, who was the National Progressive Conservative women's president, visited the different areas organizing groups of Progressive Conservative women.

There are several very active Progressive Conservative Women's organizations in the province, the most active being the Association of the 5th Queens which meets monthly during the fall and winter.

The main purpose of the Provincial organization is to encourage women to learn more about the policies of the progressive conservative party and its platform and to take more of an interest in the political life of our country.

The women's organizations work in close harmony with the Senior Progressive Conservative provincial association, especially during election campaigns. They also work at poll level during election day itself, taking care of the many details which are a vital part of a successfully run election.

The provincial conservative women in all three counties have made a contribution to the party over the years which they are very proud of. They hope that in the future there will be more district organizations started.

The present slate of officers of the P.E.I. Progressive Conservative Women's Association are as follows: past president, Mrs. Ruth MacLeod; Montague: president, Mrs. R.E. Sutherland, Charlottetown; first vice- president, Miss C. Ratchford, Charlottetown; second vice- president, Mrs. Frank Myers, Hampton; secretary, Mrs. G. Maddigan, Charlottetown; treasurer, Mrs. M.A. Farmer, Charlottetown.

An annual meeting of the association is planned for the early spring.

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