

STORIES HOUSES TELL

By
LILLIAN
GIBBONS

ONE of the Ontario men who came to the new province of Manitoba in 1871 built a house which is still standing. John H. Bell, born at London, Ont., in 1840, came adventuring, hewed trees for a log cabin in East Kildonan and held the first Masonic meeting in this province on his property. He was the first grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, holding office from 1875-79. From 1880-84 he was grand master. The Masonic Temple treasures several pictures of Mr. Bell taken when his hair was receding from his high forehead and his pointed beard was grey. He has a pleasant alert expression.

Mr. Bell took an interest in the affairs of the new country; he was elected a representative to the legislature for East Kildonan from 1883 to 1886 under Premier John Norquay.

As the years passed Mr. Bell covered the logs of his house with siding, planted an avenue of trees from the highway down to his home. Today the shaggy firs tower high over the house.

Mr. Bell would have to look twice today to get his bearings. Oakview avenue is cut through from the highway, passing what was his back door. The front of the house therefore appears to be looking the wrong way, across the snowy fields to the south. The front door has twin glass panels with round heads and an old twist-bell now no longer rung since visitors approach by the north door. The sun was streaming in from the south, the day the house fender called, glinting on the polished walnut bannister that ran in a graceful curve from the flat round newel post to a curve at the top of the stairs. The spindles are painted white to match the woodwork. Mr. Bell would doubtless raise his bushy eyebrows at the dainty skirted slounces and mirror-top dressing tables in the bedrooms now at the top of his old stairway.

Today the municipality of East Kildonan owns the interesting house. The tenants are Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Atkins, who love the old place and have furnished it appropriately. When you enter from Oakview ave., where a verandah has now been built, there is a narrow hall with cream wallpaper printed with little colored Windsor chairs, butterfly tables, fireplaces and bookshelves.

The living-room is almost square, with a centre beam running the length of the ceiling, a white fireplace, book shelves, a dark oak chest with the date 1718 carved in its front, shining brasses including a giant Belgian milk pail. Woodwork is white, the paper is the faintest green and green in a swirl design.

The east wall of the living room is 15 inches thick, covering the



30 Oakview Ave.—Bell Farm of 1871

original logs. Thresholds in this room are wide, polished boards raised above floor level.

The dining room is in the original front of the house, with a bay window filled with a tiered plant stand. Hanging corner cupboards, fat pieces of old blue china on the buffet and a richly figured wallpaper make it a pleasant room.

Following Mr. Bell, W. W. Watson became owner of the farm. Mrs. A. J. Andrews is a daughter. The name Watson's Grove was then applied to the property with the tall trees. J. W. Battershill of the municipal offices says he remembers as a boy going for picnics to Watson's Grove. "We went on

the steamer Antelope, turned in at the bank at the foot of the Watson homestead, and enjoyed ourselves. The biggest novelty was pop. There were no welters then. I remember my mother used to pack a big basket of good, home cooked things to eat." The Vulcan Iron Works gave the picnics to employes and their families.

From 1913 to 1929 Thomas Gellie, commissioner of immigration, and his family occupied the house. They built on the front part and added dormers in the second storey. In the big yard where the badminton court is now he kept 60 or 70 hives of bees.

THE WINNIPEG HOME

Two War Wives Combine All Household Expenses

By KATHARINE MIDDLETON



Katharine Middleton

AMONG the letters asking for household budget advice received this week, has come one from a housewife whose husband and father are both overseas serving in the C.A.S.F. She and her mother, plus her 11-months-old child, are living together to save expenses. This is an excellent idea, and I am sure they are wonderful company for each other. She writes that they "pool" their resources, and pay living expenses out of the general fund. She gives their expenses in some detail, not forgetting the monthly tobacco and cigarettes sent to their men. She asks, also, for a detailed weekly food list, which I am always very glad to suggest.

She writes that they live in the upper part of a duplex, and that except for having a cleaning woman in every week to wax the floors, etc., they do all their own work. She and her mother make most of their own clothing, and thus are able to save quite a bit on this item. Here is a suggested outline for their monthly combined incomes, and expenses as listed in the letter.

Suggested Adjustment
Operating Expenses \$46.00
Rent—\$32.50
Lights—\$4.00
Cleaning woman—\$4.35.

Social \$25.00
Tobacco (\$6), cigarettes (\$6) for overseas; transportation, recreation, gifts, and miscellaneous—\$13.00.
Savings \$34.80
Educational fund for baby—\$7.00.
Medical, dental care, etc.—\$8.00.
General savings—\$15.70.
War savings—\$4.00.
Total \$152.00
Foods and Drugs
Suggested weekly market order

Mrs. F. J. Sutcliffe Heads Women's Conservative

Women must take even more responsibility and leadership in Canada's war effort, said Miss Katharine Middleton, home economist and director of The Winnipeg Tribune's Women's Conservative association, at their annual meeting and luncheon, Friday, in the Marlborough hotel. "They are doing magnificent work now from coast to coast," Middleton continued, "but they must do even more. They must take the full responsibilities of citizenship which is given them by franchise. They should take a more active interest in the affairs of the nation and their own communities."

"Any problems of national importance which affect the war effort, the health of the people, or the economic stability of the country, are the business of women — not because of their sex but because of their citizenship," Major General La Fleche, president of the Women's Press Conference in Ottawa last October, answered a query in regard to the mobilization of manpower in Canada. "If you want something, work hard for it, and you'll probably get it. I can't sound advice and a challenge cannot afford to ignore."

In regard to problems of national health standard in Canada, Middleton spoke of the Home Front Victory campaign and its effect on women. The opportunity to learn how to feed their families adequately for the least cost during shortages occurring in distribution of food lines, she said, "causes a lack of supply, or the need to go to Britain as much as possible, or to interfere with the shipment of certain foods to Canada now more necessary than ever before. Every housewife increases her knowledge of nutrition, and how to get the greatest food value for the money spent."

In thanking the speaker, C. Irvine said: "We all feel that we must do more to help our country, especially must we consider food problems."

War Work Chief Concerned

Mrs. E. G. Phipps Baker, president, reviewed the association's activities during the year. She said, had been the concern, political activities had been dropped for the present. Cross work and the raising of money for the mobile kitchen has kept us together and we are ready for the day of re-political activity."

Miss Donna Aitken read a telling of the amounts raised by the Conservative women of Canada for the mobile kitchen fund to Manitoba Conservative women. They have contributed \$674. Mrs. Aitken read a letter from Viscountess Innes in reply to congratulatory messages sent him on his elevation to the House of Lords.

Mrs. A. T. Cameron, treasurer, reported receipts for the year of \$137 and disbursements of \$100. L. L. Carruthers told of money raised for the mobile kitchen at the meeting. The second week at the homes of the members.

Wool was distributed at the meeting.

Mrs. E. R. Chapman expressed the appreciation of membership association to the executive committee during the last year. Frank Ritchie, president of the Local Council of Women, presented the report of the nominating committee, urged the women to realize the value of united effort in consideration of problems of their country. The association passed a motion that they would take immediate steps to join the national Council of Women. Solos were sung by Miss Whiteley.

The Officers

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