

Marion Orchard

Marion has spent her retirement years, since 1979, living on the family farm about three-quarters of a mile west of Shedden. Those sixteen years have been relaxing and enjoyable. She often remarks that her thirty-seven years as an active teacher in Elgin County were very rewarding but the years of "doing things to please oneself are just MAGNIFICENT!!"

Marion was president of our local STO in 1982 - 1983 and again in 1988 - 1989. She reminds us modestly that it was not popularity but necessity plus pressure that led to the second term. Marion informs us that she was 'literally supported' in her first presidential term by her efficient Secretary - Treasurer Grace Armour. Finances were very limited in the Elgin Unit of District 8 and there was pressure to become a separate District or join with Oxford. She recalls that there was a concerted effort by the unit Executive to increase membership and provide interesting, friendly, informative Christmas and spring meetings. In regards to the effort to search out new members she jokingly stated 'new membership meant more money.'

Her second presidency in 1988 - 1989, with Marion Thompson as her precise secretary (and producer of excellent pumpkin pie) was necessary to fill the slate of officers for the Elgin Unit of the new District 37.

The Elgin unit had proudly provided the nucleus of the District Executive leaving the Elgin unit depleted for the year. It turned out to be a great year for both Elgin and District activities and strong bonds were formed with the Provincial office and local membership was becoming more involved in Provincial committee work. Local membership also continued to grow. Marion Laughingly speaks of the year being a success 'in spite of the leadership' but we all know that the reverse is true.

She is still active in O.A.S.W.T. and STO meetings, does a little free tutoring (just to keep her nose in school activities), enjoys some neighbourhood babysitting and participates in her church activities. In fact, she says that 'she is so busy' that she is hardly home long enough to entertain her family and friends or even take proper care of her dog Champion.

Her closing words -

' I'm so proud of our Elgin STO organization. We've come so far since our 1971 beginnings '