

Name of Branch: Abee Women's Institute

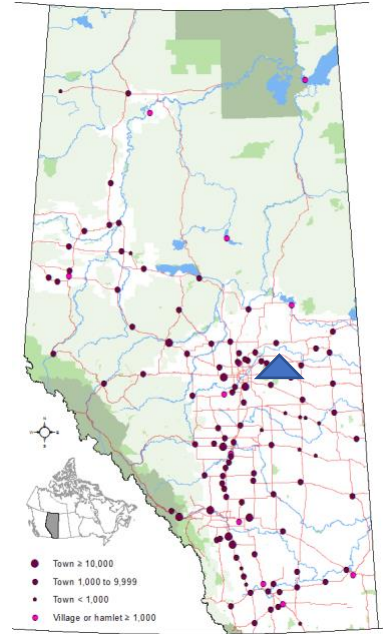
Location: The hamlet of Abee is located on the CNR line and Hwy 63 about 16 km northeast of Thorhild and 49 km south of Boyle

Organized: Jan. 12, 1946

Charter Members: Mrs. Blanche K. Nuttycombe, Mrs. Martha Shadeck, Mrs. Kathleen Grinnell, Mrs. Anne Petryk, Mrs. Adeline Eckert, Mrs. Bernice Bolton, Mrs. Stella Holst, Mrs. Martha Priebe, Mrs. Harriet Reishus, Mrs. Ruth Hoskins, Mrs. Tynne Jacobson, Mrs. Effie Berglund

First Executive: Mrs. Blanche K. Nuttycombe, first president; Mrs. Martha Shadeck, first vice-president; Mrs. Kathleen Grinnell, first sec-treasurer

Disbanded: n/a



Activities: Most WI branches helped to build and care for their communities in a wide variety of



Abee Women's Institute Members. Left to right: Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Prather, Mrs. Priebe, Mrs. Boulton, Mrs. Kirk.

ways. *Building and Working Together*, a history of the Thorhild District, says of the Abee WI, "The things they have done over the years are legend. Several burned out families have been helped out during crises. Magazines and books have been donated to schools and monies to scholars with highest marks. A trophy has been presented to a 4-H Club member with the highest achievement marks over a number of years. The ladies have held bake sales, sales of lunches at farm sales, raffles, whist drives, and quilting bees. They have sponsored workshops,

organized the local annual Cancer Society canvass, and have donated to the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Northern Alberta Children's Hospital Fund, and the Abee Community Association. Also, a Canadian flag was presented to this association in Centennial year. Vegetables have been donated to a local hospital and the Thorhild Senior Citizen's Lodge has received articles for their Fall Tea from this branch. Christmas fruit baskets and cards are sent to local patients and shut-ins. Members also try to visit these people" (*Building and Working*, p 242).

Some WIs nominated members who had given exceptional service to the organization. Biographies were written and submitted for inclusion in the Life Histories. In 1982, the Abee WI nominated Mrs. Bernice Boulton for a Life Membership. Mrs. Boulton was one many women, for whom WI was a life-long commitment. In the Summer 2004 edition of *Home and Country*, Agnes Avery of the Abee WI was celebrated for her membership at an age exceeding 90 years.

In 2001, Abee WI [nominated Mr. Frank Pearson](#) for the [Erland Lee Award](#). His contributions were thought to be representative of the characteristics of the helpful husbands of the Institute women. His nomination reads, in part: "Harold has always demonstrated an eagerness to serve our Abee branch in whatever way we needed. Some of his ways of service have been:

- Ensuring his wife was in attendance to meetings each month
- Each year he photo copied our program books never asking to be reimbursed for expenses
- Harold has over the years collected and distributed papers, helped to develop programs and suggested topics for roll call and guest speakers
- Harold, when not working full time, will always lend his wife a helping hand in the kitchen to prepare a delicious lunch at Mavis's house for our meetings
- Harold portrays a great willingness to serve, as his career of a teacher dictates these sincere qualities
- We find Harold not only a loving husband, but a caregiver to his wife and the Abee community, offering to help whenever possible. "

Life Membership: Mrs. Bernice Boulton was nominated for a Life Membership in 1982.

Sources: *Building and Working Together: A Study of the Thorhild Area*. Vol. 1. Thorhild, AB: Thorhild and District History Book Committee, 1985. (text and photos pp. 242-243); *Home and Country Summer* (2004): 3; PAA 2007.0380/55 Box 2. AWI Branches Vol.1]