

Name of Branch: Calahoo Women's Institute

Location: Calahoo, just west of Edmonton

Organized: Feb 24, 1959, in the home of Mrs. Roy Schmermund with 11 women. By 1960 and 1961, membership had risen to 14 members.

Charter Members: Mrs. Roy Schmermund, Mrs. Gordon Schmermund, Mrs. Carl Bergstreiser, Mrs. Peter McLeod, Mrs. Myles Kerr, Mrs. John Matke, Mrs. Stanley Walker, Mrs. Henry Norris, Mrs. Vance Berry, Mrs. Oscar Nord, Mrs. Jocelyn Shenfield

First Executive: Mrs. Vance Berry, pres; Mrs. Oscar Nord, vice-pres; Mrs. P. McLeod, sec-treasurer

Disbanded: current in 1997

Activities: Calahoo WI was active in compiling and submitting a scrapbook covering its first five years to the Provincial Convention, where it won first prize. This branch was the first to organize a flower and vegetable show in Calahoo for residents of the district. And it was responsible for writing and compiling a local history: *Calahoo Trails*.

Notable Members:

Book of Remembrance:

- [Daphne Kerr](#) was born at Botha, Alberta, in 1913. After Normal School and marriage, Daphne came to settle in the Calahoo area and taught for several years at Green Willow School. She was a charter member of Calahoo WI in 1959 and celebrated her 25 years with the WI and received a Life Membership in the same year: 1984.
- [Addie Thatcher](#) was born in Russia in 1908, emigrating to Edmonton as a child and later marrying in 1926. She and her husband moved to the Calahoo district for retirement; it was at this point that Addie joined the WI and other community clubs. Among her accomplishments was getting the Emmaus Lutheran Church re-opened; she subsequently served on the Church Council. Addie is



remembered for her sociability and great cooking, her knitting and crocheted tablecloths.

- [Isabell Wheatley](#) was born in 1923 in Edmonton, where she worked as a clerk for the federal government until her marriage in 1944. Isabell and her husband eventually moved to the Onoway district, where she joined the Calahoo WI in 1974. She served a term as president and for three years as a constituency convenor. Isabell was a woman of many parts: she was a stamp collector and a registered beekeeper; she regularly submitted knitting and crochet to WI competitions; she was a bird-watcher and avid gardener; she loved to ski and to curl.

Sources: Dalheim, K. and M. Kerr, eds. *Calahoo Trails*. The Calahoo Women's Institute, (c1955); Book of Remembrance Vol. III; *Life Membership Book*; *Many and Remarkable* 125-131