

**Name of Branch:** Malmo Women's Institute

**Location:** Wetaskiwin

**Organized:** June 12, 1950; scroll presented for 25 years in 1975

**Charter Members:** Mrs. A. Brunner, Mrs. A.P. Greener, Mrs. O.A. Graff, Mrs. May Bussard, Mrs. T. Zillke, Mrs. A. McLaughlin, Miss Ellen Johnson, Mrs. Archie Olson, Mrs. R. Pleum, Mrs. E. Reeves, Mrs. R.P. Fullen, Mrs. E. Zillke, Mrs. R. Berg

**First Executive:** Mrs. A. Brunner, pres; Mrs. A.P. Greener, first vice-pres; Mrs. O.A. Graff, sec-treas; directors: Mrs. May Bussard, Mrs. T. Zillke, Mrs. A. McLaughlin

**Disbanded:** 1997 [Cole and Larmour]



**Activities:** From a letter written by Mrs. W. Abell to Elizabeth Lefsrud in 1975, these are a few anecdotes from the Malmo WI: "Each year in November we have a fund-raising event. In 1972 we had Prof. Leonard Gads show slides of his recent tour to his homeland 'Russia.' This was to be followed by a small Handicraft and Bake Sale concluding with free coffee and sweets.

Just before the evening started one of our women suggested we auction it off. Some felt dubious. But we asked one of our humorous neighbours if he would consent to be the auctioneer. He did. The handicrafts sold first and bids were high, but they really soared when it came to the bake table. This, by the way, was the first fall that grain and cattle prices were picking up. A coffee ring sold for \$4.50; an average size loaf of Swedish Rye bread \$3.00. 'Hobo Bread' \$2.00 a loaf. What's Hobo Bread? It's a dark raisin bread without yeast and baked in 14 oz. tins – the loaves aren't very large. A good WI husband bought a chocolate layer cake for \$4.50. The auctioneer sort of blundered on this one: 'Come on boys, this is a heavy one, you'll get your money's worth.' Then came the eggs – a bride of the near future paid \$1.00 a dozen – there was a catch – she thought she was getting 3 doz. For \$1.00. But she was a good sport and paid her \$3.00. This we haven't tried again as we don't expect we'd ever have that success again.



The organization meeting of the W. I. is shown above. Left to right are Mrs. Elmer Zielke, Mrs. Howes (Millet), Mrs. May Bussard, Mrs. August Brunner, Mrs. Ted Zielke, Mrs. Alfred Griener, Mrs. Edna Graff, Miss Ellen Johnson, Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Agnes McLaughlin. Kneeling are Mrs. Rupert (Millet), and Mrs. Archie Olson, hostess for the meeting.

An embarrassing moment: Our sweet Home Economist, Mrs. Bernice Olson, had been invited out to a meeting last Oct. to speak on nutrition. She arrived as the business was finishing, wearing a beautiful wool coat dress. Our modest hostess, not noticing, asked her if she'd like to put her coat in the bedroom and she got a quiet reply, "Thanks, but this is my dress!"

Unattributed Anecdote: “We were tying a quilt at the home of Mrs. Tinis for our handicraft competition and having our usual difficulties in getting going. When all seemed to be getting an OK, Mrs. Tane pulled her needle back up from the underside of the quilt to find the yarn broke off. She re-threaded her needle and went on, only to find it broke the second time. When it happened the third, she bent over to look under to see what the trouble could be and found Mrs. Tinis’ two young daughters – aged 6 and 3 – under the quilt with a pair of scissors. The trouble was soon removed and the quilt tying progressed without any more difficulties.”

### **Notable Members:**

#### **Book of Remembrance Vol. I:**

- [Averil Meyer](#) moved from Nebraska in 1912 with her family to the New Norway West District. She married in 1917 and joined the Malmo WI in 1950, when it formed. She was active in Malmo WI until she and her husband retired to Ponoka in 1953, where she joined Ponoka WI.

**Sources:** Photo taken from Malmo Women’s Institute. *Lewisville Pioneers*. Malmo Women’s Institute, n.d. p. 6; PAA 91.3041/ 10 AWI Branch Listing and Contact 1944-1961 [for Districts 1,2,3,4,5]; *Book of Remembrance* Vol. I; PAA 2007.0380/55 Box 2 AWI Branches Vol. 2 [nd]; Cole, Catherine C. and Judy Larmour. *Many and Remarkable: The Story of the Alberta Women's Institutes*. Edmonton: Alberta Women's Institutes, 1997. 125-131; private correspondence from Mrs. W. Abell to Elizabeth Lefsrud, 1975.