

## How she started the Women's Institute in Labrador Straits

**Contributor:** Margaret Goudie

**Collector:** Ann O'Brien

**Ann O'Brien:**

Mag is going to continue with her story.

**Margaret Goudie:**

Yes, I'll tell you now about some... how we raised money. We use to have a carnival week. I think all the branches did the same things, we'd have a Carnival week and we'd ...well we'd have sandwiches and then they'd have all kinds of games for the men and for the women and for the kids. And the hall was opened at least... sometimes almost a week.

And then in Easter you'd put off a concert and then they'd have what they calls at that time a "time", but it was a big supper people...all the people made soup or whatever you was going to have and everyone made pies and cakes and you laid up the tables and everything, and after the supper was over everything was cleaned up and then you had a dance.

**Ann O'Brien:**

What kind of a dance would you have?

**Margaret Goudie:**

A square dance then.

**Ann O'Brien:**

Oh, wow.

**Margaret Goudie:**

(laughs) A big old square dance then. So ah...

**Ann O'Brien:**

Who would you get to play the music?

**Margaret Goudie:**

Oh, there was lots of good players. Tom Lee was one, Jim Marshall and as it got in later years, ah... you'd have a band, Lawrence Normore was a band and his brothers, Mikey Normore and Bernard Bolger.

**Ann O'Brien:**

Llewelyn Normore.

**Margaret Goudie:**

And Bernard Bolger use to play the drums but that's when the new dances come out. But there was no trouble to get anyone to play.

**Ann O'Brien:**

What did you call the new dances?

**Margaret Goudie:**

Belly Rub. (laughs)

**Ann O'Brien:**

(laughs)

**Margaret Goudie:**

Yes (laughs)

**Ann O'Brien:**

Got the name on it.

**Margaret Goudie:**

Belly Rub. Yeah but it was good fun though. I had something else.

**Ann O'Brien:**

You enjoy... you enjoyed it.

**Margaret Goudie:**

Oh I did, yeah. It was a big headache sometimes, because you had to take the responsibility of a lot and ah... you know you ... anyone needed and Christmas. Every Christmas we'd have a Christmas tree and we'd give out chocolates to the senior citizens and I think they still follows up on that and toys for the kids, we did that. And we done up fruit... not fruit baskets but it would be cake and vegetables mostly and cake and that for someone that really needed in the Harbor in the places.... Harbor they use to t call it then. So we had all those things going.

**Ann O'Brien:**

Now Mag you would help ah...if somebody had to go to the hospital because they were sick and of course there wasn't very much money around.

**Mag Goudie:**

Nope.

**Ann O'Brien:**

First years, that you.

**Margaret Goudie:**

First years, we couldn't do that but I think in later years they did it. They helped out whoever they could. You'd have a...the Women's Institute now, has a ...gets together with the Firehall and they has bingos and card games. Oh yes, I'm forgetting the card games. I remember our branch had a card game, every Thursday night and bingo. You'd get together and you'd have that and anyone that needed money to go anywhere. You know, sickness ... really sick or something, well you'd help out the best you could. I think they do now more ... well there's more money around now. Now there's more money and more people goes to bingo because you can get there by car and but when we started there was no cars. There was cars alright but how many... not very many. You couldn't .... didn't get around very good.

**Ann O'Brien:**

Not out of the place.

**Margaret Goudie:**

No not out of the place. No 'cause I remember when I started up first me and Lucy use to have to walk up to West St. Modeste, then. We didn't have a car. The road was through.

**Ann O'Brien:**

Well Mag, thank you very much for that wonderful story.

**Margaret Goudie:**

Thank you.