

Title: Unveiling of memorial plaque honors late Kate Scott Aitken . Page 1/2

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June 3 in Beeton

May 20/75 "The News"

Unveiling of memorial plaque honors late Kate Scott Aitken

The unveiling of a memorial plaque to the late radio and television personality, newspaper columnist and author Kate Scott Aitken is expected to attract a large crowd to Community Park in Beeton June 3.

Mrs. "A", as she was so well known, was born in Beeton on April 6, 1891, the daughter of Robert Scott, a general merchant, and Anne Scott. She recounted her memories of her native village in her novel, "Never a Day So Bright." She never lost an opportunity to boost the South Simcoe village and is buried there, in Union Cemetery.

Kate began her career at the early age of 14, as a teacher, at the magnificent salary of \$32.50 a month in a small country school in Adjala Township. Then she moved to Western Canada for a period, until the death of her father brought her back to Beeton.

Kate left the classroom in 1914 to marry her childhood sweetheart, Henry Mundell Aitken. They had two daughters, Anne and Mary, who will be on hand to unveil the plaque to their mother on June 3. Now they are Mrs. Anne Thompson and Mrs. Mary Hortop, respectively.

PRODUCE

Following a year in Minnesota, the Aitkens returned to Beeton, where they began what was to become a successful poultry farm operation. This was diversified into an orchard, crops of early potatoes, and market garden produce. She was active in the formation of Beeton Women's Institute, of which she became the first president. Two of the farm's white Wyandottes established world egg-laying records.

Mrs. Aitken's first overseas mission saw her in charge of

a Canadian Craft Exhibition in London, England. She visited Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France on the same tour. The following year a government assignment took her to Italy and an interview with Mussolini, then dictator of Italy. It was a long way from rural life in Beeton!

The depression years led to Kate starting a series of cooking schools in Montreal. These extended to the Maritime Provinces, the World's Fair in Chicago and the CNE, where she was given the job of heading the Women's Division.

CAREER

Kate's career in radio came about literally by accident, when the woman commentator

at a local station broke her leg. Eventually she was doing three broadcasts a day, five days a week, 39 weeks of the year. They took her across Canada — from Cornerbrook to Kitimat, and several times around the world. When television came along, she took the new medium in her stride.

In 1958, Mrs. A. retired from the limelight into a life of quiet service to her fellow men in her work with the United Nations and UNICEF, an active role in the Women's Auxiliary of South Peel, and on the board of directors for the CBC.

Her life, marked equally by her gaiety, courage and dedication, ended quietly on the evening of Dec. 11, 1971.



KATE S. AITKEN

Courtesy of Simcoe County Archives