

Mrs. M. Burke oldest medal winner at 91

By EVELYN CRICKMORE

Mrs. Margaret Burke, still a part of her community's life at 91, returned from a stay in South Peel Hospital to her home on Jarvis St., Erindale Saturday, April 13 to more calls and congratulations from friends and neighbors for receiving the Centennial Medal and the following citation:

"On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the confederation of Canada, the Centennial Medal is conferred on Mrs. Margaret Burke in recognition of valuable service to the Nation, July 1, 1967."

All say Mrs. Burke well deserved this honor.

A former school teacher, Mrs. Burke came to Erindale in 1902, the bride of the late George Burke. Still mentally alert and a fluent speaker, Mrs. Burke, representing the citizens of Erindale, took part in the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone of the Erindale Elementary School, Oct. 11, 1967, 20 days before her 91st birthday.

She spoke of the history of the community in which she is well versed.

Between these two dates, Mrs. Burke worked consistently for St. Peter's Church, the Erindale Women's Institute, the Erindale Community Hall, the former Erindale Home and School Association, and every worthwhile community project.

She is the oldest Life Member of the W. A. of the Anglican Church of Canada. At 80 years of age she was one of the St. Peter's W A making choir gowns and, upon the Christmas, 1958, made girls' dresses for St. Peter's Missionary sales.

Mrs. Burke is a Charter member of the Erindale Women's Institute organized in 1914 and with it did war work during both World Wars. She is the oldest Life Member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. She has held every office in the Erindale WI. She was its secretary in 1964, their fiftieth anniversary, as she was in 1928 when, due to the Erindale Women's Institute, the Erindale Community Hall was completed and opened by the then Lieut. Governor of Ontario, the Hon. W. D. Ross.

Before this great day the Women's Institute found all the money collected \$2,325 and the government and council grants of \$2,000 and \$500 were spent on the building. There was no money left for the cleaning of the floor, grimy from the men's boots. With true WI co-operation, they divided the floor into a checker-board. Equipped with pail of hot water, soap, a scrubbing brush, and rag, each member cleaned her square and presto, a fine shiny clean floor for the opening party.

Many times during the past 49 years, Mrs. Burke has served on the hall board as chairman or member. The hall was the scene of a birthday party given her in October, 1958 on her 82nd birthday by the groups she had served. The Hon. Thomas Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture and former premier of Ontario, was a special guest and spoke of Mrs. Burke's fine contribution to the community. She continued serving her community during the following nine years.