

Pageant shown under
the auspices of the
Federated Women's
Institutes of Canada
honouring the
Associated Country
Women of the World,
At their International
Conference in Toronto
August 21st, 1953.

From Indians to the UN

WI Pageant to Portray Canada's Vivid History

For a colorful, exciting, authoritative picture of Canada's history, the pageant, "Dominion of Destiny", to be staged in Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, on August 21 and 22, is something unprecedented in this country.

The pageant is shown under the auspices of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada honoring the Associated Country Women of the World at their international conference.

On "Canada Day" at the conference, all seats in the Gardens will be reserved for members of the organization. But to meet the requests of hundreds of people, men, women and children who could not be accommodated on "Canada Day," a repeat performance is arranged for Saturday, August 22. This showing is open to the public. Reservations for seats can be made through the Maple Leaf Gardens box office, either direct or by mail.

The program on Saturday begins at two o'clock in the afternoon. Some of the extra attractions will be an address by Mrs. Raymond Sayre, president, ACWW; organ music by Kathleen Stokes of radio

fame, including a solo medley of Strauss waltzes; the Junior Farmers' choir of Oxford County directed by Henry Clark. Mr. Clark has composed a special song for the occasion, "Canada, Dear Canada."

Then comes the pageant -- a continuous action cavalcade with a full concert orchestra, a chorus of mixed voices, solos by the singing star Ernest Adams, dancing directed by Boris Volkoff, a large cast of actors with units of the armed forces and various animals, vehicles and necessary props to portray Canadian life from the country's earliest days to the present.

Seldom has history been presented more vividly than in this pageant. The story begins with the Indians and the Vikings, the coming of Cartier and Champlain, the Hudson Bay Company and the powerful, peppy Frontenac. There in the dramatic incident of Madeleine de Vercheres, the battle of the Plains of Abraham, the adventures of Captains Cook and Vancouver, and Alexander Mackenzie and Simon Fraser and the tragic affair of the Red River Rebellion. The days of the fur trade and the gold rush and the heroic early exploits of the North West Mounted Police lead up to Confederation, the linking together of the provinces by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the influx of immigrants with their influence in shaping our Canadian culture. Stoney Creek and the founding of the first Women's Institute come in here; then World War One, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Peace Bridge and World War Two. The last stage features the United Nations and Canada's new stature as a nation, the Coronation, a prayer and the finale.



Kingsmill Mapleton
Women's Institute float
driven by Mrs. Donald Finch
in the Elgin Centennial
Parade, St. Thomas
August 1953

The faithful service of a number of pioneer members has been honoured by life membership certificates : - In November 1934 - Mrs.David White, In July 1940 - Mrs.Sam Garton and Mrs.Roy Mc.Gregor, In September 1942 - Mrs.Denzil Finch, In 1944 the Kingsmill Group honoured Mrs.J.Blumstein and in September 1948, the Crossley-Hunter Group honoured Mrs. Arthur Moore. Life membership pins, a gift from the Crossley-Hunter Group, was presented to Mrs.Arthur Moore, Mrs.Sam Garton and Mrs.Roy Mc.Gregor.

In September, 1948, one was presented to Mrs.J.Blumstein by the Kingsmill Group.

In 1940, the International Ploughing Match was held on the Ontario Hospital grounds in South Yarmouth. Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch, anxious to raise funds for the Red Cross, decided on a booth and made plans accordingly. A space, ten feet by a hundred feet was procured, a tent rented and a banner for the front of the tent purchased. Hot beef sandwiches, consisting of two slices of bread with beef and gravy, one scoop of potatoes and another vegetable complete for twenty cents, was the special feature. Pie, extra, was five cents a serving and tea or coffee, each five cents per cup. This proved a popular menu and a financial success. The total receipts were \$ 547.03, with expenditures of \$ 302.03, leaving a balance for the Red Cross of \$230.00.

February 5th, 1942, Kingsmill-Mapleton Institute celebrated its thirty fifth anniversary at the Church of Christ, Mapleton. A supper was served in the basement, followed by a program of local talent in the auditorium. Mrs. Arthur Moore was in charge at the registration desk, where 187 people registered. The president, Mrs. Ross Evert presided and welcomed all present. 'God Save the King' was sung, followed by the presentation of the flag, by Mrs. Sam Garton. Mrs. W.H. Legg gave a brief history of the society and a

flower ceremony was conducted by Mrs. Roy Mc.Gregor, who presented each past president, present, with a coloured carnation and placed a white one in a vase, in remembrance of each deceased past president's year of service. Mrs. Carlton Dance outlined the Women's Institute work, briefly, since its inception by the pioneer members, telling of the fight to carry on, in difficult times. Letters of congratulations from other societies and from those unable to attend, were read by the secretary, Mrs. J.C. Jenkins.

Miss Anna P Lewis succeeded Miss Clarke, as Superintendent of Institutes, in July 1945 and it was during her term of office that the fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the founding of Women's Institutes, by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, at Stony Creek, in 1897, was celebrated at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on June 18th, 1947, when about 11,000 women attended.

The Historical pageant, 'Let There Be Light' was splendidly presented, showing the birth of the Institute, which had started at Stony Creek and has spread so that fifty years later, instead of a membership of seventy six, in the first year of Institute history, Ontario has 36,000 members, Canada 70,000.

Institutes have spread throughout Ontario, and Canada to Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Ceylon and Africa, as well as other countries.

From the idea of country women meeting together, our far reaching organization, 'The Associated Country Women of the World' has developed and thrived. The will to do good has prevailed.

A large number of Kingsmill-Mapleton members were present at this outstanding event in Institute history. May we ever follow on to greater accomplishments, because these noble pioneer women have lived and inspired us.

INSTITUTE CREED

Keep us O Lord from pettiness, let us be

Large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault finding and

Leave off self seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet

Each other, face to face, without self

pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment, and

Always generous.

Teach us to put into action, our better

Impulses, straight forward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things; make us

Grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize that it is the

Little things that create differences; that

In the big things of life, we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the

Great, human heart, common to us all, and

O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

In 1947, the Institute creed (Mary Stewart Collect) was placed on the yearly programs, as an inspirational prayer and is repeated in unison at the opening of each meeting.

The December meeting, with a special Christmas message, given by a neighbouring minister, the singing of carols, the Christmas tree, with an exchange of gifts and a roll call (Gifts for the War Memorial Children's Hospital) is an outstanding meeting of the year.

In 1948, the Blackdown Women's Institute of Broad Windsor, Dorset, England was adopted by the Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch and boxes of food^{sent} (one each month from the Kingsmill and Crossley-Hunter Groups, alternately) to this English Society and a special box of candy for the children at Christmas time. Food being rationed so severely in England, what a thrill each English member has

when receiving an article from this overseas box, a real delicacy.

In September, 1948, a hospitalization Group was formed; and in October 1951, the first educational bus trip was taken by our women, as a new venture, with a tour of Detroit, Belle Isle, the Zoological Gardens and other points of interest.

At the August meeting 1950, held in the Kingsmill Hall, with Lyons and North Yarmouth Institutes, as guests, a fashion show was staged, by the British Knit Company. The girls of the community, acting as models, in a very pleasing manner.

In February, 1949, a 'Family Night' was held in the Church of Christ, Mapleton, with a supper, followed by a splendid program, supplied by local talent. This proved such an enjoyable event, that it has become an annual affair.

In July, 1949, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mc.Gregor, moving pictures, in colour, were taken of the Institute meeting, held that afternoon, by Mr. Stanley Durkee of Aylmer. This movie was later shown on several occasions and proved a very popular entertainment.

The activities of the Woman's Institute program (1951) is under six standing committees:- Home Economics, Citizenship, Social Welfare, Historical Research, Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Publicity. These form a working basis of the organization. The Branch appoints a convener for each of these committees and reports are sent to the (East Elgin) District conveners. This, in turn, is reported to the London area conveners and a combined report of the Area activities is given at the London Convention, held the last part of October and lasting for three days.

For many years, this Convention has been held in the beautiful setting of the crystal ballroom of Hotel London. Delegates from Kinamill-Mapleton Branch have been in attendance every year. At the 1951 sessions, it was revealed that

Mrs. George Simpson, a valued member of Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch, had been in attendance at every one of the annual conventions.

The membership of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch for 1950-51 was 65.

Donations through the years have gone to Memorial Hospital, St. Thomas, War Memorial Children's Hospital, London, Children's Aid St. Thomas, Canadian National Institute of the Blind, Cancer Fund, Adelaide Hoodless Foundation, Save the Children Fund, Flood Relief, Federated Institute Central Fund, Sick Children's Hospital Toronto, Red Cross Society, Navy League of Canada, Prisoner of War Fund, Belgium Relief, Mapleton and Disciple Cemeteries, Community Schools, Belmont and Aylmer Fairs, Fire Sufferers, Plants and cards sent to sick and bereaved, Boxes of Christmas cheer sent to the aged and shut-ins (Group work) and many other worthy projects.

surely achievements in the past records of our Branch constitutes a Challenge to do even greater things in the future for 'Home and Country'.



284 -

The above photograph was taken in the Church of Christ(Disciples) at Mapleton, on February 7th, 1952, when the forty - fifth anniversary of the Kingsmill Mapleton Women's Institute was observed. In the photograph are the presidents and secretaries who have held office, during the years. The beautiful basket of flowers on the right is in memory of the deceased officers.

Back row - Mrs. Henry Legg, Mrs. Ross Evert, Mrs. Charles Cline, Mrs. Francis Cline, Mrs. Claude Hoover, Mrs. Alvin Willsey, Mrs. Harry Carter, Mrs. Ivan Warren, Mrs. James Jenkins, Mrs. Ralph Stover.

Back two rows(sitting) - Mrs. Will Holmes, Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. Wesley Philips, Mrs. Arthur Moore, Mrs. Russell Armes, Mrs. Bruce Brown, Mrs. Robert Cline, Mrs. Roy Mc.Gregor, Mrs. Robin Dobbie, Mrs. Sam Legg, Mrs. John Donald.

Front Row - Mrs. Bert Foster, Mrs. Hiram Peer, Mrs. Elmer Mossey, Mrs. Wilfred Herbert.



The cake cutting ceremony at the 45th anniversary of the Women's Institute. The picture shows its three Life Members. Left to right -Mrs. Roy Mc.Gregor (only surviving charter member) Mrs. Arthur Moore and Mrs. James Bloomstein.

45th Anniversary, observed in the Church of Christ, Mapleton, on February 7th, 1952.

At the 'Family Night', held in the Church of Christ (Disciple) at Mapleton, February 7th, 1952, the 45th anniversary of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch was observed. Members and their families and guests, numbering nearly a hundred attended this outstanding event in the Institute's history.

The president Mrs. Harry Carter presided for the program and extended a warm welcome to all present. Mrs. Harold Jenkins presented the flag, followed by the singing of 'God Save the Queen'. Two minutes of silence was observed in memory of King George VI, whose sudden passing was being mourned. Past presidents and past secretaries were honoured guests at this occasion, each receiving a corsage of spring flowers in blue and gold, the Institute colours. These were pinned on the recipients by Mrs. Lloyd Laidlaw and Mrs. Roy Legg.

In memory of the deceased presidents and secretaries, a lovely memorial service was conducted by Mrs. Kenneth McNeil, during which a basket of white carnations and snapdragons was placed before a setting of ivory tapers, burning in a huge candelabra, flanked with ferns. At the close of this service, Mrs. Don Shackleton sang 'Does Jesus Care'.

A three storey anniversary cake, made by Mrs. James Bloomstein and decorated for the occasion, was cut by Mrs. Arthur Moore, past president of 1921-22. The cake was later served with the lunch, in the basement of the Church at which time all past presidents and secretaries were guests at the head table.

The Tweedsmuir history having been completed, up to date, Mrs. E. L. Sweet, in a few well chosen words dedicated these very fine books, one for each of the two groups. Mrs Sweet thanked all who had helped in any way in compiling the history of these communities. She spoke of their price-less value in future years and stressed the importance of a suitable and safe place, in which to keep them.

The history of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch, as prepared and placed in the Tweedsmuir Books, was given by Mrs. Roy Mc.Gregor, assisted by Mrs. Hugh Duncan.

A humorous skit entitled '1907 to 1952' was presented by Mrs. Ivan Warren, dressed as 1907 and Mrs. R. A. Smith as a modern 1952 member.

Following this was a program of local talent.

Institute Marks 45th Anniversary

Nearly One Hundred Attend
Interesting Meeting at Mapleton

AYLMER, Feb. 12. — About one hundred members with their families and guests attended the forty-fifth anniversary of the Kingsmill and Mapleton Women's Institute in the Disciples Church at Mapleton on Feb. 7 at eight o'clock. The president, Mrs. Harry Carter, opened the meeting with the presentation of the flag by Mrs. Harold Jenkins followed by "God Save The Queen." Two minutes of silence was observed in memory of the King.

Each of past presidents and past secretaries received a corsage of flowers in blue and gold, the Institutes' colors, pinned on by Mrs. Lloyd Laidlaw, and Mrs. Roy Legg. This was followed by a service in memory of former presidents and secretaries who have passed away. A basket of white carnations and snapdragons was placed before a setting of ivory candles burning in a huge candelabra, and ferns. This was capably handled by Mrs. Kenneth McNeil and followed by a solo, "Does Jesus Care", by Mrs. Don Shackleton.

The Tweedsmuir books which have been prepared during the last five years are now finished, and in a few well-chosen words Mrs. E. L. Sweet dedicated these very fine books, one for each group; also thanking all who in any way helped in compiling the history of this very fine community.

A humorous skit "1907 to 1952," was given by Mrs. Ivan Warren dressed as 1907, and Mrs. R. A. Smith as the modern 1952. This depicted well the story of the older generation with large families doing their own work, and the work of small families today with the help of electricity. A light lunch was served in the church basement, the past presidents and secretaries being guests at the head table. This branch has followed the policy of having the president hold office only one year, so there have been 45 presidents during the life of the branch.

A guitar duet was given by Anne Smith and Mae Carter also a piano duet by Sophia Moore and Shirley Pake. Mrs. Weekes favored with a vocal solo, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. H. E. Thomson. The entire history of the Institute was prepared by the only charter member, Mrs. Roy Mc.Gregor. She was assisted in reading by Mrs. Hugh Duncan. The first president was Mrs. D. D. Finch.

Since the membership of this branch is very large and covers considerable mileage, the members are divided into two groups for convenience in holding social activities.

LIST OF
MEMBERS OF
THE INSTITUTE.
1907 - 1951.