

## Belmont WI Membership Increasing

April 7th, 1964: It was through the foresight and untiring efforts of Mrs. John Barons, after a visit to Harrietsville Women's Institute, that Belmont Women's Institute was organized.

A meeting was called at the home of Mrs. Barons and invitations were sent to Mrs. Batey, district president; Mrs. Anderson, district secretary, and Harrietsville Institute as well as women of the community who cared to attend. Belmont Women's Institute was organized on September 19, 1912, at this gathering.

In August, 1915, a Red Cross branch was organized. It was called the Belmont Women's Institute Red Cross Society.

Over \$5,000 was raised by garden parties, plays, bazaars, dinners, booths at fairs and other projects. Each boy of the community who served overseas was remembered and \$75 was sent to help purchase a hospital ship in World War 1.

During World War II, the women worked faithfully sewing, knitting, quilting and giving blood donations. The Institute also helped buy a canteen kitchen for oversease use.

On December 5, 1921, the Institute was asked to give financial aid toward a Belmont Public Library. The group co-operated and each year, a substantial donation until the building was paid for. On Aptil 15, 1917, \$500 was donated to Byron Sanitorium to furnish a room to be known as the Belmont Women's Institute room. Through the aid of the Institute in 1923, a street lighting system was installed, and better sidewalks were laid.

The Institute sponsored a 4-H Club with an enrolment of 12 members, in September, 1958. The club has continued, completing four units, and has steadily increased its membership. The club is assisted financially whenever funds are required.

On October 2, 1952, the 40th anniversary of the founding of the WI was marked with ceremonies befitting the occasion. The event was repeated June 5, 1962, to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Through the years, members have attended district annuals, area conventions, Guelph conventions, winter picnics, workshops, rallies, short courses and social activities and have contributed their talents to many of them as well as to local x-ray clinics and other local projects. The WI has representatives on the Library Board, Fair Board and Playgrounds Committee. Radio broadcasts have been given.

In May 1959, a fine Tweedsmuir History Book was presented. This is now a prized volume of local history.

Financial support has been provided to the Fire Department, Muscular Dystrophy, Canadian Institute for the Blind, Save the Children Fund, Flood Relief, United Appeal, Cancer Fund, Dr. Snell School of Nursing, Tornado Relief, March of Dimes, Elgin Manor, Victoria Day Fireworks, Elgin Museum, St. Thomas; \$110 to the School for Retarded Children, St. Thomas, and donations to the library for books. Some fund raisers have been donations, food and plant sales, fair exhibits, teas, draws, birthday box, card parties, dances and banquets, catering to the Lions Club dinners, quilting bees, and booths.

Through the years, the institute has been steadily growing and reaching out for newer, better and more up to date understanding of the problems of home and country.

Officers for the May 1963 to May 1964 term are: president, Mrs. William Mathews; first vice-president, Mrs. Roy Langford; second vice-president, Mrs. A. Weldhen; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. B. McLellan. Living charter members are Mrs. Fred Taylor, Mrs. Bert Taylor, and Mrs. Fannie Wintermute.

Dedication of the Tweedsmuir History Memorial Table, September 3rd, 1964.

"To-night we meet not only for your Institute meeting but also for the purpose of honouring the memory of one who is not with you now. We meet to pay tribute to the sterling worth of a woman who left her mark on this community in so many ways. I am very pleased to have been asked to take part in the dedication made possible by Miss Mildred Barons in memory of her mother, Mrs. H. J. Barons. It was through the foresight and untiring efforts of Mrs. Barons that the Belmont Women's Institute was organized on September 19, 1912, at her home. Mrs. Barons was a farmer's wife and mother of six children. She was Belmont Institute President for several years as well as president of the Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church and later years, was a staunch United Church worker. She was presented with a cut glass pitcher from the Ladies Aid for her services on her 15th wedding anniversary.

During World War I, she worked strenuously for the Red Cross and helped raise over 5,000 dollars for the organization. When the war ended, all the left-over material was sent to London Red Cross. She was an excellent cook and won many prizes for her roast chicken and homemade bread and rolls at Belmont Fair, also exhibited all kinds of needlework and as her friends have said, she never sat down with idle hands, she was either knitting or crocheting. She passed away April 4th, 1955, at the age of 85, leaving a host of friends.

It is fitting indeed that such a table should be dedicated to the memory of one who made such an impact on this community and which will contain the Tweedsmuir History of the Belmont Women's Institute to be kept in this library.

To the memory then, of a wonderful woman, the inscription reads "To the memory of Mrs. H. J. Barons."



ALETA MATHEWS  
BERNICE TAYLOR  
MILDRED BARONS  
FANNY WINTERMUTE  
GERTRUDE TAYLOR



"center."

DONNA JEAN LEGG, RECEIVES AWARD. of ELGIN W.I. PLAQUE, 1964

## HISTORY OF BELMONT W.I.

So concluded the History of the Belmont Women's Institute in 1952.

40 years had passed since its organization on Sept. 19, 1912. A milestone had been reached. This was a time for Celebration. Accordingly on October 2, 1952, the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Belmont W.I. was marked with ceremonies befitting the occasion.

Another decade had begun -

In Nov. 1952 the Area Convention was reported. Its theme "There is no time but now" was almost prophetic. We had looked back and with gratitude in our hearts for the past, and trust for the future, we were again ready to Go Forward.

Women's Institute day had long been the first Thursday of the month. Until May, 1955 afternoon meetings were held but since, are usually in the evening.

Members have met regularly in the homes or Public Library presenting excellent programs, supporting current projects and giving freely of their time, talents and money at home and abroad.

Programs planned and printed for each year allow adequate preparation time but are flexible enough to permit change.

Each standing Committee presents one meeting a year with Devotions, Roll Call, Motto, Message, Demonstration on Film centred on this emphasis.

In June, 1954, a Devotional Period was introduced and since Nov. 1956 Mrs. Fanny Wintermute Devotions have been our constant inspiration. In May 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Matthews donated a flag and holder to the Women's Institute. This flag has been "presented" by Mrs. Jas. Tribe throughout the years. For these faithful on-going services we are grateful. Highlights each year are Installation of Officers, Family Night, Grandmother's meeting and the Christmas meeting with its special music, message and White Gifts.

The 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the W.I. at Stoney Creek in 1897 was marked here by Mrs. Norman Taylor, in costume, telling of its origin. Our own History was read and W.I. reminiscences were in order.

Jan. 5, 1961, was "Mildred Baron's Night" when the Belmont W.I. honored the daughter of OUR founder, on the occasion of the naming of the "Mildred B. Barons School" for her.

Special Speaker, Films, Demonstrations and a tour of Borden's of Belmont have brought a wide variety of information.

Short courses on Personality and Dress (1949), Modern Methods of Food Preservation (1957) and Sandwiches for all occasions (1960) were shared with other Institutes as have been many of our social activities.

Belmont W. I. was hostess to the District Annual Meeting for Middlesex in 1950, and for Elgin in 1958, the County to which we now belong.

Through the years, members have attended District Annuals, Area Conventions, Guelph Conventions, Winter Picnics, Work Shops, Rallies, Short courses and Social Activities, and have contributed their talents to many of them, as well as to Local X-Ray Clinics and other local projects.