

The W.I. has had Representatives on the Library Board, Fair Board and Playgrounds Committee.

Radio Broadcasts have been given on C.H.L.O. St. Thomas Farm Show - by Mrs. L. Blancher (1955) and Mrs. Wm. Matthews (1962)

In 1958 (Sept.) the W.I. assumed the Sponsorship of the 4H Girls Homemaking Club - providing money, and Leaders, Mrs. Bruce McLelland and Miss Ruth Richardson.

Many thanks are due to Mrs. Mabel Minard and Mrs. H. Collard for their untiring efforts in the making of so many beautiful quilts.

In May, 1959, Mrs. A. W. Beattie, presented a fine new Tweedsmuir History Book, Under the skilled workmanship of Mrs. Norman Taylor - this is a prized volume of our local History..

Life Memberships were presented to Mrs. Estella Pettit in 1957 and to Mrs. Annie Ferguson in 1958.

In 1954 we mourned the passing of our President, Mrs. Archie Crawford, at the conclusion of her term of office, and that of our Founder, Mrs. John Barons in 1955. They were truly an inspiration to all loyal W.I. members.

The Belmont W.I. long ago set the pace for the raising of funds and other goods which have been dispensed with lavish hand. Some fund raisers have been: Donations, Food and Plant Sales, Fair Exhibits, Teas, Draws, Birthday Box, Card Parties, Dances and Banquets, and since 1958 the W.I. has taken its turn in catering to the Lions Club Dinners.

The Institute has continued the support of the Library by large donations for decorating, purchase of books and equipment.

The Elgin Museum has always received our loyal assistance in time, money and gifts.

The Belmont Arena opened in July 1949 has had our support since Opening Night when we were asked to arrange for a Refreshment Booth. Booth Assistance was given through fall and winter activities as well as catering to Banquets and Carnivals since a Kitchen Equipment has been given also and in 1961-62 \$79.00 to the Ice Fund.

Belmont Fair is still a major interest with prize money donated to Jr. Fair Projects as well as participation in the Displays and Parades.

Other gifts have been made (to mention a few) to: Unitarian Services, Travellers' Aid, White Gifts to Aylmer Optimist Club and Children's Village, Sloman School Car, Flowers and Cards for the sick, and on special occasions; Shut-in boxes; baby Bank Books, and Help for the Needy.

Financial Support has gone to the Fire Dep't; 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, and in 1962 - \$110. was given to the School for Retarded Children.

These are the Records but they are but symbols of the effort and sacrifice so freely given by each one. Fifty years of work are about to pass into History. It would take many volumes to relate the complete story of the Belmont Women's Institute.

To us has been left a glorious Heritage of Responsibility and Opportunity. Let us pray for strength to meet the Obligation.



50 years



50 years



50 years
MRS. MATHENS



50 years
GERTRUDE TAYLOR, MILDRED BARONS, FANNIE WINTERMUTE



60 years
GERTRUDE, CLARA WELDHEN, LOUISE, BERNICE TAYLOR,

BELMONT :

HISTORY :

Early History of Belmont compiled by John McTavish in 1900, originally Kettle Creek

In 1830 the first settler, Harvey Norton, built a house on the spot where John Boyd's house stands at this time. He built a grist and saw mill where the Belmont School stands. David Norton settled on the Simpson place, John Norton on S $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 1 7th Con. Westminster in 1834. Wm. Shearer and James Forsher, bought mills of H. Norton in 1846 and sold to John Gregory in 1850.

Mills burned in 1854. In 1868 the present mills built by Hector McKay and half interest sold to John Cochran. This firm sold to Wm. Grey who was succeeded by Boyd and Garrow. Garrow sold to John McNicol who sold to J. Boyd in 1890, who in 1899 installed a roller mill.

Mathew Looney first blacksmith in 1846 where Masonic Hall now stands, followed by Albert Denott where John Charles' barn stands. In 1850 another shop started by John McDougall where W. T. Nugent's store stands and is location of Bank of Nova Scotia at present time (1969)

First plow factory owned by Alf. Manning 1847-1852 then sold to Archie McKellar wagon maker who since conducted the business. Later other blacksmith shops and wagon shops were run by John Prouse 1854-1860. H. Seemers and Wm. Mohr, D. Fitchett and E. Matthews. James Walker purchased the McDougall shop which is now owned by J. McGrath 1857-1872. Robert Sleeth built the shop now owned by Strachan and Procunier. In Dec. 1899 Strachan sold to Procunier who conducts alone.

First store owned by D. Sutherland and S. Keeney 1850, Keeney buying Sutherland's interest and selling to Lewis Simpson who built a frame store where Nugent's store now stands. Later Sutherland and Waterbury were in business 1853-1857 selling to Hiram Shain who 2 years later sold to Chas. Shain who succeeded Waterbury as Post Master. Chas. Shain sold to W. H. Odell in 1867 who succeeded him as Postmaster until 1897 when Peter Odell the present Postmaster was appointed. W. H. Odell and Wm. Dyer operated a general store until 1873 when Odell and McBrayne were in business until store burned in 1892. Wm. Dyer still in business in the store erected by D. McKellar who was in business from 1853-1859 followed by Peter and Donald McKellar, then by D. McKellar and Son. Omie Dyer and W. H. Odell conducted a general store followed by Hawkins, Newmand and Jackson & Odell & Watcher until 1886 when Watcher bought the business and still conducts the store.

Joseph Potts opened a tin shop in 1870. Potts sold to Brown Bros. in 1899. W. T. Nugent started a store in 1867 still in business. John G. Fawcett 1891-1897 selling to J. Birch followed by Allan Barr 1899 now in business, W. H. Soole in business in 1893. Thos Bond furniture store 1874 to 1886, followed by Mohr and Odell, who sold to J. Snyder now in business.

First hotel owned by J. G. Odell 1849-1856 sold to Thos. Copeland 1856, Lewis Olmstead 1860-1875, George Olmstead 1875-1882, Chas. Kennedy 1885-1887 who sold to John Charles now in business. Second hotel by John Prowse 1852-1862, succeeded by Ed Prowse 1862-1867, R. Creamer 1867-1874, M. G. Woodworth 1874-1876 sold to F. Jelly 1876 who was succeeded by Freeman Hodgins, Thos. Mapson who died in 1891, Mrs. Mapson 1891 to 1898 sold to George Brush still in Creamer House.