

The Institute has always stood ready to help families in the community in need of necessities, and with personal visits to the sick, always interested in the health of the children of the community, the Institute placed first aid kits in four schools, a district short course in nursing was held, conducted by a nurse from the Department of Health. Hospitalization was provided for a local boy, and other financial aid given in cases of sickness.

In the field of Education the Institute has donated prizes for public speaking and paid the expenses of two girls of the community to attend short courses at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph.

Since the beginning of World War 2, the Institute has been active in Red Cross work in affiliation with the West Lorne and East Aldborough Red Cross Society. Their activities in this connection included sewing, knitting and jam making.

The programs include Historical Research. Once a year papers reminiscent of pioneer days in the community are read, and a grandmothers' meeting is held annually when relics and antiques are displayed. The grandmothers have charge of the program and is much enjoyed by all. An old time luncheon consisting of scones, crackers, cheese, gingerbread, marble cake and all kinds of cookies is served at the close of the meeting.

Like all Institutes the Crinan Institute features the studies and demonstration of Home Economics. We entered the competition for thrift at the local fair which included the canning and processing of fruit, meat and chicken, and a competition for the best article made from cotton sacks, -demonstration on making over garments, and making new ones from worn clothes were held. Classes were given by a sewing instructor for a week, specializing in dresses.

During the course of its 25 years of life the Institute has been honored by having one of its members, the late Mrs. J. C. McMillan appointed 2nd Vice President at Iona in 1919, President of the West Lorne district in 1921, and later chairman of the London Convention, the only person from Elgin County to have had that honor.

The following is a press report of the 25th anniversary of the Crinan Women's Institute:

With Mrs. N. McEachren President, presiding, the 25th anniversary was opened with the Institute Ode, followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison. Mrs. A. McKellar, district President brought greetings and Mrs. E. Lemon accompanied by Mrs. Wm. Merritt West Lorne, rendered two pleasing solos, "Open The Gates Of The Temple" and "Dear Little Boy Of Mine". Miss Bessie Stalker read a history of the society from its beginning. The late Mrs. J. C. McMillan was instrumental in starting the society and held many offices in the work. She gave willingly of her time and energy and the result was the fine Institute we have today.



Pleasing duets by Mrs. G. Carroll and Mrs. H. Urquhart accompanied by Miss Jean Carroll were rendered, "Singing A Song" and "Mary Of Argyle". Mrs. P. D. McPherson expressed her congratulations to the ladies and chose for the subject of her very interesting address "Women and a Post War Community". Mrs. Merritt, Chathan, pleasingly rendered two solos, "Danny Boy" and "I Cannot Sing The Old Song Now". Mrs. B. McGugan, Rodney who was present twenty five years ago spoke briefly. Mrs. Douglas McMurchy gave two readings, "The Master Is Coming" and "The Institute Women". Piano music by Mrs. McPherson, after which Mrs. Morrison, Shedden brought greetings. A piano duet by Mrs. Merritt and daughter June, West Lorne, was much enjoyed. Mrs. Tripp, Dutton, Mrs. Smith, West Lorne, and Mrs. Cameron Wallacetown brought greetings from their societies. Mrs. John McPherson gave a humorous reading: "Essay On A Cow!" Mrs. McAlpine conducted a millinery display whereby several ladies received new Easter bonnets, causing much merriment. Greeting letters from Mrs. B. McPherson Windsor, and the Cowal society, read by Mrs. H.D. Urquhart. Mrs. McLevey, Rodney, had charge of the cake lighting ceremony. Those lighting candles were, Mrs. M.B. McColl in honour of the first officers; Mrs. F. McLarty in honour of officers and members who passed on. Mrs. A. J. McMurchy in honour of continued members; Mrs. J. Andrews in honour of those in uniform; and Mrs. W. Cadogan in honour of the Red Cross. Miss Mabel McColl cut the cake in honour and memory of her grandmother, Mrs. J.C. McMillan. Mrs. Donalda McRae in a few well chosen words expressed the thanks of the society and officers to those giving of their talents to make the afternoon such a success. The meeting was closed with "God Save The King".

From a beautifully decorated table centred with a three story cake and silver candlesticks, Mrs. A. J. McMurchy and Mrs. John Carmichael poured tea. A delicious luncheon was served on prettily decorated tables with Institute colors. A happy social hour was spent, renewing old friendships and making new ones.

The Institute carried on Red Cross Work as long as necessary contributing quantities of knitted articles and sewing, - one hundred lbs of honey was sent to Britain each year. War Saving Certificates were also purchased. One hundred and fifty dollars were sent to Woodeden in honour of our returned soldiers in memory of those who died in foreign lands.

Mrs. N. McEachren was President and Mrs. H. Urquhart Secretary in 1944-45; followed by Mrs. Cadogan in 1945-46 with Mrs. Donalda McRae as Secretary. Mrs. G. McAlpine, President in 1946-47 with Mrs. McRae, Secretary.

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1. Exact date of organization April 24th., 1919.
2. The name of the Organizer was the late Mrs. Whiting, Rodney, district President.

The district Secretary - Mrs. McLevey. The late Mrs. McGugan, Rodney was present, of these ladies, Mrs. McLeveyis, still, living in Rodney.

3. The first Officers were the late Mrs. John C. McMillan, Crinan and Miss Sara McColl (Mrs. Basil McPherson, Windsor) was the first secretary-treasurer.

Reports of Standing Committees

(A) Agriculture and Canadian Industries.

A meeting was given over to these subjects each year and splendid papers and addresses were heard.

(B) Citizenship and Education.

We had special Speakers on Citizenship and different phases thereof. In Education we had special Speakers along different lines in Education. The Institute gave prizes for public speaking in the Schools. We sent two girls to Guelph for a short course.

(C) Community Activities and Public Relations.

The first money earned was spent on linen for the communion tables in the Argyle Crinan Presbyterian Church. The old linen had been used for bandages in the First World War. A Baptismal Bowl and a coal oil stove was purchased for the Church. A fence was built around Simpson's Cemetery, where the Pioneers were buried.

(D) Historical Research and Current Events.

Antiques were displayed and old fashioned dresses were worn by the grandmothers on their special meeting days throughout the years. A fine Tweedsmuir Book was compiled, telling, not only, of the Women's Institute but of the whole Community.

(E) Home Economics and Health.

1. Local Fair - Competition for thrift:

- (a) Canning and processing of fruit, meat and chickens.
- (b) Competition for best article made from cotton sacks.

2.

- (a) Demonstration of making over clothes.
- (b) Short courses.



First Aids were placed in schools, Hospitalization for a boy was paid for and other financial aids given in cases of sickness.

The Institute was very active in War work in World Wars I and II and gave freely of finances to Red Cross Donations, to the London Children's Memorial Hospital, Cancer, Blind, Blood Clinics etc.

Mrs. J. C. McMillan was appointed second vice-president in 1919 and in 1921 she was president of the West Lorne District. Later, the late Mrs. McMillan was Chairman of the London Convention, the only person from Elgin to have that honor at this time. The Institute donated one hundred and fifty dollars to Woodeden Camp in honor of our soldier boys who returned and in memory of the boys sleeping in foreign soil. The present President is Mrs. Neil McEachren, at whose home the first Meeting was held. Mrs. Donalda McRae - Secretary-Treasurer and Historical Research-Mrs. Arthur Johnson.



# Crinan Gift Aids Camp

## for Crippled Children - 1947.

### Money Given To Woodeden

**D**URING its 28 years Crinan Women's Institute has been interested in various community activities and active in Red Cross work in the war.

The branch was organized in 1919 with the late Mrs. John C. McMillan as first president. Mrs. McMillan was district vice-president and was president of the Western Ontario convention area for a year.

The institute has given donations to such projects as the cancer fund, blood donors clinics, children's welfare and Red Cross, besides helping local charities.

During the war part of the institute money was spent in War Savings Certificates. In honor of local returned men and in memory of those who lost their lives, the institute made a donation of \$150 to Woodeden Camp for Crippled Children.

The branch has been interested in an active way in the local agricultural fair, competing with other institutes by entering displays of flowers, fruit, baking, sewing and remaking of old clothes into usable articles.

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At present the chief work is the compiling of material for the Tweedsmuir history book which it is hoped to have finished this month.

Officers are: President, Mrs. Gertrude McAlpine; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Douglas McMurchy; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. John McEachren; 3rd vice-president, Mrs. John Carmichael; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Donald McRae; assistant, Mrs. Douglas Livingston; press reporter, Mrs. John McEachren; pianists, Eva Johnston and Muriel McGill; district director, Mrs. Walter Cadogan; hospitalization secretary, Mrs. George Johnston; institute directors, Mrs. Earl Dawson and Mrs. Neil McEachren; standing committee conveners, historical research, Mrs. Arthur Johnson; legislation, Mrs. George Carrol; agricultural and Canadian industries, Mrs. M. B. McColl; education, Mrs. W. G. McCallum; citizenship, Mrs. John Carmichel; health and social welfare, Mrs. James Andrews; publicity, Mrs. Philip McCallum.



CRINAN W.I. HOLDS 35th ANNIVERSARY

Thursday, April 22nd, was a red letter day in the life of the Crinan Women's Institute. The occasion being the 35th anniversary. The organization meeting was held in the vestry of the old church building under the leadership of Mrs. J.C. McMillan. This occurred in April 1919 and the group of women had formed a Red Cross group during World War I.

Mrs. James Andrews, charter member, presided, and the secretary for the day was the first secretary, Mrs. Geo. Carroll. The meeting opened with the Institute Ode, followed by the Lord's prayer in unison. In a few well chosen words, Mrs. Andrews welcomed the guests and the former members. Mrs. Maribel McPherson read the history of the past 35 years.

The first meeting was held at the home of the late Mrs. Neil McEachren, with Mrs. J.C. McMillan, president, and Mrs. Geo. Carroll, secretary-treasurer. Those assisting were three Rodney ladies - Mrs. J. McLevey, Mrs. McGugan and Mrs. Whiting. In the early days of the Institute many of the members walked or came by horse drawn vehicle. Today most of the ladies drive their automobiles and pick up the less fortunate who do not drive. She told of the many achievements of the Institute through the years and who had office.

This was followed by the roll call - "My first memory of a Women's Institute meeting". The replies were humorous and varied as every one who registered was called upon to answer. Mrs. M. Merritt, Chatham, rendered two numbers, "Mary of Argyle" and "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton", accompanied by Miss A.I. McCallum. Miss Kate Campbell and Mrs. D. Dobbyn spoke a few words. A minute of silence was observed for those of the membership who had passed to higher service.

Mrs. V. McMillan, Dutton, the first Institute baby, spoke on "Are we carrying a heavy cross?" Mrs. Lyle, Middlemarch, district president, brought greetings and a few thoughts regarding the work of the Institute.

Mrs. Lyle introduced Mrs. Stilwell, St. Thomas, who spoke for a brief time on hobbies, especially Fall Fairs. She congratulated the Crinan ladies and introduced Miss Elliot, Ottawa, who was the first worker with the Junior Institutes. Miss Elliot, who is a home economist, has spoken in every province of Canada and told of her work with the Department of Fisheries. The hymn used was "Blest be the tie that binds".

While the guests were going down to the basement for the supper, Mrs. John McPherson, 89 years young, played the violin, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. K. Small, Paynes Mills, on the piano. After the guests were seated at the prettily decorated tables, four ladies - Mrs. J.D. McGill, Mrs. D. Livingstone, Mrs. A. Carmichael and Mrs. D. McMurphy, accompanied by the pianist, Mrs. H. Carroll, entered. These five ladies were gowned in frocks



of yester years, bonnets, shawls, long black skirts and long white aprons. They rendered two selections - "Long, long ago", and "Your old grey bonnets".

Grace was sung and everyone partook of a sumptuous supper convened by Mrs. Douglas Livingston, Mrs. M.B. McColl, Mrs. Douglas McMurchy, Mrs. Philip McRae, Mrs. Stewart McIntyre, Mrs. George Carroll, and Mrs. James Andrews. At the close of the supper, Mrs. John McEachren, toast-mistress, proposed the Queen, responded to with the singing of "God Save the Queen". Mrs. John Carmichael proposed the toast to the members who left here to make their home in other localities. Mrs. D. Dobbyn, Shetland, responded. Mrs. M.B. McColl proposed the toast to the visitors, and Mrs. J.B. Ferguson replied. Mrs. B. McPherson, Windsor, proposed the toast to the Crinan Institute, and Mrs. Donalda McRae replied. Mrs. James Andrews thanked those taking part and the closing hymn was "God be with you till we meet again".

There were 81 guests registered in the Tweedsmuir Book by Mrs. S. McIntyre. The meetings are on the third Thursday of each month. Guests were present from Rodney, West Lorne, Wallacetown, Glencoe, Dutton, St. Thomas, Windsor, Wardsville.



**FIVE CRINAN W. I. MEMBERS DRESSED IN CLOTHES OF YESTER-YEAR**, provided the musical part of the program at the Crinan Women's Institute's 35th anniversary, held last Thursday in Argyle Presbyterian Church. Seen here, left to right, are: Mrs. Harold Carroll, pianist for the quartette which was composed of Mrs. John McGill, Mrs. Doug. Livingston, Mrs. Archie Carmichael and Mrs. Douglas McMurchy. — Fisher and Kemp photo



35 TH

ANNIVERSARY.



24.

Mrs. Jim Andrews, Mrs. John McPherson, Mrs. Victor MacMillan, Mrs. George Carroll, Mrs. Jack McEachern.