

35 TH

ANNIVERSARY.



24.

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

CRINAN W. I. MARKS 40th ANNIVERSARY

On April 16, 1959, the Crinan W. I. held their meeting with the celebration of 40 years of Institute work.

The retiring district director opened the meeting with "O Canada" and Mary Stuart collect. The officers for the coming year were installed by Mrs. Carmichael. Mrs. D. B. McCallum, president, and her officers took their respective places and in a short talk the president expressed her acceptance. The roll call was answered by "Sing, say, do or pay."

The minutes of the last meeting and correspondence were read.

The convener of the program committee was to take charge of the anniversary program. This part of the meeting was opened by singing the Institute rally song. Mrs. J. Carmichael spoke briefly, to honor the charter members present and paid tribute to those who passed to higher service. A moment of silence followed. Mrs. D. McMurchy read a paper, "Things My Grandmother Told Me," prepared by her mother, Mrs. F. McLarty. A short history of the last five years was read by Mary Belle McRae.

Mesdames Lorne, Harold and George Carroll with Mrs. M. Little accompanist, rendered "Flow Gently Sweet Afton." Mrs. J. Andrews told about Indians and displayed some Indian work. Mrs. J. McEachren spoke briefly regarding the Tweedsmuir Book. The offering was received and the meeting was closed by singing "God Save the Queen."

The hostess, Mrs. G. Johnston and her committee were in charge of lunch. The dining table was covered with a beautiful white cloth, centred with a birthday cake with four candles. At each end of the table were silver tea services and trays of cups for serving. Mrs. George Carroll and Mrs. M. B. McColl poured tea. Mrs. Frank McLarty lit candles for charter members, past officers and present ones and to the future of the W. I. Mrs. A. McMurchy, charter member, Glencoe, cut the birthday cake. A pleasant social hour was enjoyed over cups of tea.



The West Elgin District W. I. tea for the Cancer Society Gift Cupboard was held at the Crinan W. I. Community Centre on Wed. July 17, 1968 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Crinan W. I. members took charge of preparations and arrangements for the tea. Mrs. Dave Saunders, president of the Cander Society met with the executive and proved very helpful with plans for the event.

Receiving at the door were Mrs. Harold Butler, president of West Elgin W.I., Mrs. Dave Saunders, and Mrs. George Jamieson, president of Crinan W. I.

Guests were then invited to the main hall where a Bake table, a Touch and Take table and Tea table were set up. Also there was a table where tickets were sold for the Cancer Society draw.

Pouring tea were Mrs. E. Frank Sanders, Mrs. Herbert Jackson, Mrs. Thomas Beil, Mrs. James Andrews, Mrs. George Carroll, Mrs. Bruce McCallum, Mrs. Harold Stafford, Mrs. Grace McColl and Mrs. Earl Lemon.

Crinan W. I. ladies were assisted by members from fourteen other insitutes of West Elgin. The tea was very successful and a sum of well over \$500 was realized for the Cancer Society.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF C.W.I.

The 50th anniversary of C.W.I. was held at the Crinan Women's Institute Community Centre on Saturday evening, April 19th 1969. A short program followed a pot luck supper and social evening.

The tables were nicely decorated with blue and gold streamers and arrangements of yellow and bronze mums, which were later given as prizes. The birthday cake was cut by Mrs. Grace McColl, only child of the first president, Mrs. J. C. McMillan. Several snapshots of yester years were on display.

The Women's Institute Crest was made by Mrs. Pow and placed at the front of the Community Hall. The president Mrs. George Jamieson presided and the history was compiled by Mrs. D. B. McCallum and Mrs. John Carmichael.

Birthday greetings were read from West Lorne, Women's Institute. Laura McAlpine sang two solo's and Stewart McIntyre contributed voilin numbers. A skit "The Sewing Circle was prepared and given by Mrs. Douglas McMurchy and Mrs. Harold Carroll.

Gifts of jewellery were presented to two charter members, Mrs. George Carroll and Mrs. James Andrews. Thanks was expressed for gifts and the many hours of planning each of the committee had done.

About 100 guest were present of whom there were 14 presidents and 10 secretaries.

Progressive euchre and a social hour looking at the pictures on display and reminising, concluded a pleasant and memorable evening.



50th ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY OF CRINAN W.I.
1919-1969

Like any rural community, Crinan has a long tradition of freindly co-operation from the earliest days of bees for quilting, spinning, sewing carpet rags and wool picking. But it first took organized form in the Red Cross work of the First World War. When this work was ended, it seemed unfortunate to many of the members to lose the satisfaction of meeting and working together as an organized community group. The formation of the Women's Institute was suggested by several of the women, and particularly advocated by Mrs. J. C. McMillan, who was always keenly interested in the Crinan community and became very enthusiastic about the Women's Institute movement.

At a meeting held in the classsroom of Argyle Presbyterian Church the Crinan Women's Institute was organized on April 24, 1919. The meeting was attended by three representatives from the district - Mrs. Whiting (District President for West Elgin), Mrs. McLévey (District Secretary) and Mrs. A. D. McGugan all of Rodney.

So tonight on the 50th Anniversary let us recall the history and some of the activities of our Society.

The first regular meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Neil McEachren on May 19, 1919, with 17 ladies present. Mrs. John C. McMillan was the natural choice as president of the new society. She was later honoured by becoming President of West Lorne district in 1921. In 1922 she became President of Western Ontario Women's Institute.

The first Secretary Treasurer was Mrs. Geo. Carroll, who was relieved on account of family duties during her term, by Miss sara McColl (Mrs. Basil McPherson), followed by Mrs. Jas. Andrews. A list of presidents and secretaries for the past fifty years is enclosed for any one wishing to read it.

In the course of the past fifty yea s the Institute has engaged in varied activities. The first money ea ned and contributed was spent for linen covers for the Communion Table at the Church - the old ones being used for bandages for the Red Cross. A abptismal bowl and coal-oil stove were also purchased for the church. During Mrs. J. C. McMillan's presidency the present fence was built around Simpson's cemetery. In 1957 this fence was repaired by the Institute and repainted.

The Institute has always been interested in Education. They have donated prizes for pupils taking part in public speaking contests, also have placed First Aid Kits in the four public schools of the district. At various meetings we have had special speakers on education.

Like all Institutes the Crinan Institute features the study and demonstrations of Home Economics. In the earlier years we entered the competition for thrift at the local fair which included the canning and processing of fruit and vegetables, meat and chicken, and a competition for the best article made from cotton sacks. During the years classes were given by instructors from the department in sewing, millinery, nursing, mat making, cooking and interior decorating.

Once a year we have a meeting devoted to historical research having papers on the topic and a display of antiques. In January 1955 an antique display and tea was held at the home of Mrs. M. B. McColl; many of the West Elgin District members attended. The proceeds were sent to the Elgin County Museum at St. Thomas. Each year a donation is given to it and the members help with bake sales and teas held at the Museum. Each August the Grandmothers' meeting is held honouring all Grandmothers of the community. An old time lunch is served consisting of foods of long ago - scones, crackers and cheese, gingerbread, marble cake or cookies etc.

A Tweedsmuir Book was started in 1947. This book records history and many interesting facts of the community from the days of the early settlers to the present day. In 1966 at the District Annual in Dutton this book won first prize in the contest for the area books.

The Institute is deeply interested in the welfare and social life of the community. Needy families have been helped in various ways. During the Second World War years the W. I. was active in the Red Cross work. Their activities included sewing, knitting, jam making and quilting. Twenty two soldiers and one nurse from our district were remembered with boxes during the war years. In later years members have helped at the Tuck Shop in Elgin Manor, also at Beattie Haven. We have given donation to Cancer Society, United Welfare, War Memorial Hospital, Easter Seals, Muscular Dystrophy and Memorial Park at New Glasgow. For several years the W. I. sponsored bus trips to various places of interest - Belle Isle, Wallaceburg Glass and Brass factories, Shakespearean Festival, O. A. C. Guelph, Pinecroft Pottery, Elgin Manor, Maple Leaf Gardens, Goderich and London Theatre (My Fair Lady). One winter the ladies spent many a lively evening at their Ho-Bo teas. During Centennial Year our Institute was host to the West Elgin District Annual. Several of our members were dressed in costumes of one hundred years ago.

Those celebrating Golden Weddings in the community are always remembered with a gift from the Institute. Each year Hallowe'en Parties are held. Numerous people have contributed generously with their time and talents to our social functions. Special mention of Stuart McIntyre with his toe-tapping music can not be overlooked.

In June 1965 a new era in education dawned when our rural schools were closed in favour of area schools. The Institute feeling the need of a community centre ekpt an alert eye on the auction sale of the schools.

3

Prior to this the raising of funds was discussed and a community auction was held in McLarty's field adjoining the church grounds. The people of the district and neighbouring towns were most generous and a sum of approximately \$550. was realized as a starting fund for our new hall. In December 1965 the Union No. 3 Aldboro and Dunwich school was purchased at an auction for \$800. The piano was also bought. A hall committee was appointed consisting of one man from each former section and three Institute members. In 1968 a sign "Crinan W. I. Community Centre" was put up over the front entrance. We are fortunate to have such willing helpers in our men of the district in repairing and maintaining the hall and grounds. Many social functions are held in it in the form of card parties and dances, as well as meetings. To-day we are proud to say the hall is free of debt and we have a bank balance of over \$200.00 in the hall fund. We hope the enthusiasm of the past years carries into the future and that the hall serves as a community centre for many years, and the Institute members always bear in mind our motto "For Home and Country".

Much credit for the success of the Institute is due to past officers as well as the present who are President - Mrs. Geo. Jamieson and Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Frank Dewitte. We are very fortunate in having two charter members who are still active in our organization. Mrs. Geo. Carroll and Mrs. Jas. Andrews.

Truly we treasure the past; the deeds and accomplishments of the women who have gone before, their unselfish service and their high ideals inspire us to go on. May we accept our challenge, face it with courage and faith and go on to greater things in the new "Institute half-century" that lies ahead.

In 1969 C. W. I. made one hundred and fifty bed pads for the cancer clinic in Dutton through Mrs. David Saunders. Thanks to Mrs. Bob Edgar & Mrs. D. B. McCallum for having this written up and typed.

AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Mrs. George Jamieson, Mrs. George Carroll, Mrs. Jim Andrews



BC Taken at the
home of Neil McEachern

1924

Lot 1 cow to
all brought ^{to} Dunwich
townline.

GRANDMOTHER'S MEETINGS
THROUGH THE YEARS

1924



1925