

RODNEY W. I. OBSERVES FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Rodney Women's Institute's Fiftieth anniversary was held in the Evangelical Church basement on Friday June 29th, 1956 with over ninety women seated at the beautifully decorated tables. Following the delicious banquet served by the ladies of the church, Mrs. H. DeGraw, the president, welcomed all who were present, after which Mrs. Frank Graham and Mrs. Peter McCallum lit the fifty candles on the cake. Mrs. Tough and Mrs. McLevey were then called to the front where Mrs. C. Martini presented them each with a beautiful corsage for their faithful service in the Institute, they being the only two charter members living. "For they are jolly good fellows" was then sung by all. Mrs. Tough, being the daughter of the first president, Mrs. E. J. Schmid, then cut the cake. Mrs. Keutch and Mrs. Wettlaufer led in the Community singing.

Mrs. Wilfred McMillan gave a talk on the history of the Institute. Mrs. Wm. Mistele and Mrs. McLevey then favored with a piano duet which was very much enjoyed. Mrs. A. McLarty at this time paid tribute to the deceased members. Mrs. Hugh DeGraw introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Roy McNeil of Dutton. Mrs. McNeil spoke on the Mary Stewart Collect, which was of much interest to everyone present. Mrs. Arthur McCallum, of Ridgetown, then favoured with two beautiful solo numbers which were much enjoyed by all. Mrs. Jackson, the district secretary, spoke a few words to the ladies.

Mrs. Messerschmid then thanked the Evangelical ladies for the lovely meal which was so tasty and so nicely served. Mrs. Venna Swanson replied on behalf of the ladies. The program closed with "The Queen!"

RODNEY W. I. OBSERVE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

An outstanding event in the long history of Rodney Women's Institute was the 60th anniversary supper held in the Community Hall, Friday evening, June 1966.

The tables were most attractive with low bowls of roses and orange blossoms arranged by Mrs. James Woodend. The president, Mrs. E. C. Soles extended a warm welcome and introduced the head table guests. Among these were Mrs. Olivia Tough, the only charter member able to attend. She was presented with a lovely corsage on behalf of the branch by another member of long standing Mrs. Mary Plyley. The other charter member, Mrs. G. A. McLevy is confined to hospital. Mrs. Roy McNeil of Lutton, represented the Provincial Board of the F.W.I.O. Other out-of-town guests were Mrs. Herbert Jackson of Fingal, president of West Elgin District W.I., Mrs. Harold Johnston, Clachan, vice-president, and Mrs. Ray Johnston, Iona, secretary-treasurer. Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Steele were among honoured guests, and later in the evening provided interesting entertainment with their fine pictures taken on a recent trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Previous to showing the pictures, a short history of the branch throughout the 60 years was given by Mrs. L. E. Smith.

Mrs. Ernest Lashbrook expressed thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Steele on behalf of all present for showing their pictures. Despite the extreme heat the evening proved to be a most enjoyable one and will be long remembered by all who attended.

Women's Institute demonstrates everyday recipes

Rodney Women's Institute members held their January meeting at the home of Mrs. Mary Downie, with a short course class -- "Baked in a pie" -- under the leadership of Mrs. Downie and Mrs. Broom, who attended the leaders' training class of the Home Economics branch at St. Thomas in November.

The demonstrations were everyday recipes used in many homes -- plain and easy to learn and understand. Each member had an opportunity to make individual pies that made the 12 o'clock dinner menu including tomatoes, celery, pickles and jellos donated pot-luck style with the main dish of meat and vegetable casseroles with small biscuits topping instead of a solid crust.

The dessert course was a variety of small fruit and pumpkin pies made with the maker's choice of pastry -- all-purpose flour or graham wafer crust making a delicious meal. All enjoyed it and found the dishwashing a beneficial exercise.

A discussion of different methods of doing things -- recipes and ideas -- were interesting and educational.

A short business meeting was held with the president finishing reports for 1973 and the meeting adjourned.

The class leaders demonstrated making salmon and potatoe pies in small tin foil pans. With the assistance of the president each member had a pie to take home, bringing to an end a day all the class enjoyed.

Unfortunately, circumstances made it necessary to limit the number who could enroll.

Institute tea raises \$50 for Cancer Society

Rodney Women's Institute sponsored a tea and coffee break April 13 in the Social Centre to raise funds for the Cancer Society.

A bright, sunny spring day encouraged many to attend. Lovely flowers, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Keutch, decorated the room and tables. Pastel yellow and green made the small tables very attractive. A tea table laid with a lace cloth, a floral centre bouquet, a silver tea service complimented the setting.

Mrs. Weale and Mrs. J. Schmid poured tea. Mrs. Mary Downie was in charge of the "touch and take" table, where many odd shaped parcels added fun and money to the proceeds. A crocheted afghan in harmonizing colors, donated by Mrs. Ivy Shaver, was on display with draw tickets available.

Visitors from other Institutes helped make the tea a success. Proceeds totaling \$50 were given to Mr. Schmid, the campaign treasurer.

April 1971

Longtime record of service continued by Rodney WI

RODNEY—The Rodney Women's Institute has been active in the community for 65 years, with one charter member, Mrs. Olivia Tough; one life member, Mrs. Wilfred McMillan and 21 members. Mrs. Earl Keutch is president.

Activities during the past 12 months included the members helping the doctor and nurses at the clinic held the second Tuesday of each month in the WI rooms; looking after the Tuck Shop at Elgin Manor and Beattie Haven; aiding the Daffodil Auxiliary at the Daffodil tea.

They gave donations to Elgin Pioneer Museum; Penies for Friendship; St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, and the essay contest on pollution for grades 7 and 8.

Expenses were paid for two members to attend training school in St. Thomas for the short course, The Main Dish Makes the Meal. Twenty attended this course when it was given.

A bus trip to London, Ont., was enjoyed; members of two neighboring societies were



MRS. EARL KEUTCH

entertained, and senior citizens were guests on one occasion.

A delegate was sent to the Officers Conference in Guelph in April, and also to the annual Area Convention held in November in Stratford.

The winter picnic of West Elgin District Women's Institutes was held in January in Rodney United Church with Rodney WI as the host group.

The Rodney Women's Institute celebrated their 65th anniversary when the members with Mrs. Gordon Gow of Dutton, president of West Elgin Branch of the W.I., Mrs. Herbert Jackson, Fingal, secretary of London Area Women's Institutes, and Mr. and Mrs. George Sales of Ridgetown as guests attended a turkey dinner at Foster's Restaurant in June 1971. The tables were decorated with the institutes colors of gentian blue and gold streamers, candles and bouquets of roses. A large anniversary cake centred the head table.

The late Mrs. E. J. Schmid was the first president in 1906. Her daughter Mrs. Olivia Tough is the only charter member living. Mrs. Tough cut the birthday cake and Mrs. Alvin McLarty, a niece of Mrs. Schmid, presented Mrs. Tough with a corsage. Corsages were presented to Mrs. Gow, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. W. Plyley who is 83 years old and an active member, and Mrs. G. Sales. (Gordon Gow)

Mrs. I. Shaver proposed a toast to the past presidents and Mrs. Mary Downie responded. Six past presidents were present.

Mrs. Gow brought greetings from West Elgin branches and Mrs. Jackson from London Area W. I. The president, Mrs. Earl Keutch presided for the dinner and evening program.

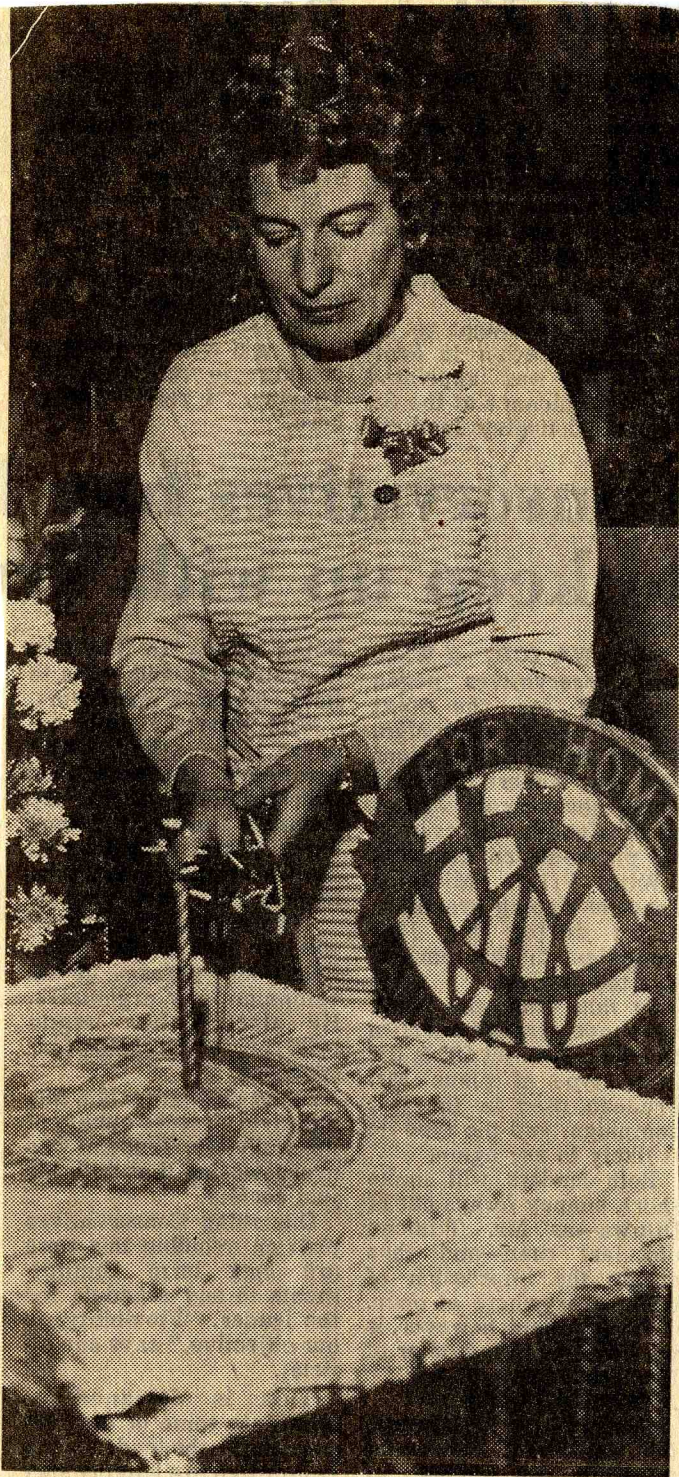
At 8 p.m. a program was presented in the United Church school room when members of other institutes - Clachan, West Lorne, Dutton, and friends attended. Rev. J. Vanslyke welcomed the guests. A musical program was enjoyed. Miss Beth Miller played piano solo. Mrs. George Sales sang two numbers accompanied on the piano by Mr. Sales. Rev. William Weale^{and Merrill} sang two numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Sales showed pictures of their tour last year to the Scandinavian Countries.

65th ANNIVERSARY 1971



MRS. O. Tough
CHARTER MEMBER.

MRS. A. McHarty, Mrs. E. Keutch, Mrs. Plyley, Mrs. N. Heberle.
President.



THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE — Mrs. Keith Heipleh, chairman of Elgin County Women's Institute Rally, had the happy task of cutting the 75th anniversary cake last evening, when WI members from all points in Elgin County, gathered to mark the founding of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. (T.-J. Photo).

- 1946 - The Health Clinic was started with Miss Winchester as Public Health Nurse in charge. In 1956 the Women's Institute sponsored this and 645 babies came to clinic 1956-1957.
- 1959 - The District Annual Meeting of Elgin West Women's Institute was held in Community Hall. Over 100 ladies attended this meeting and dinner.
- 1964 - The Cancer tea each year is sponsored by the Women's Institutes of ~~Elgin~~ West to raise money for the gift cupboard- namely help for patients in our own community - dressings, drugs, driving patients to clinic, treatments, at home etc. Rodney held a very successful tea at home of Mrs. E. Mashbrook June 1964.
- 1971 During the past number of years the Rodney Branch of Women's Institute have taken advantage of courses offered by the Home Economics of Department of Food and Agriculture. Some courses we have taken Meat; Dessert; Baking with yeast; The main dish makes the meal; Vegetables with a flair; Making hats; aluminum trays.
- One evening course on "Uses of Ontario Fruits" was interesting. Over 90 members and friends attended.
- 1970 - Winter Picnic was held in United Church 85 attended.
- 1971 - Mrs. Roy Johnson is Public Health Nurse in charge of Clinic. Mrs. G. Stinson assists also church groups and W. I. members assist at each clinic.
- 1971 - We sponsored girls 4H club with Miss Jean Jenkins, at teacher, at Aldborough school as leader and Janet Hux as her assistant. Rodney Branch of W. I. for several years along with other organizations has been assisting at the Tuck shop in Senior Citizens Homes at Beattie Haven, Elgin Manor, also send baking and assist at teas at the Elgin Manor, Museum at St. Thomas and the Ontario Hospital.