

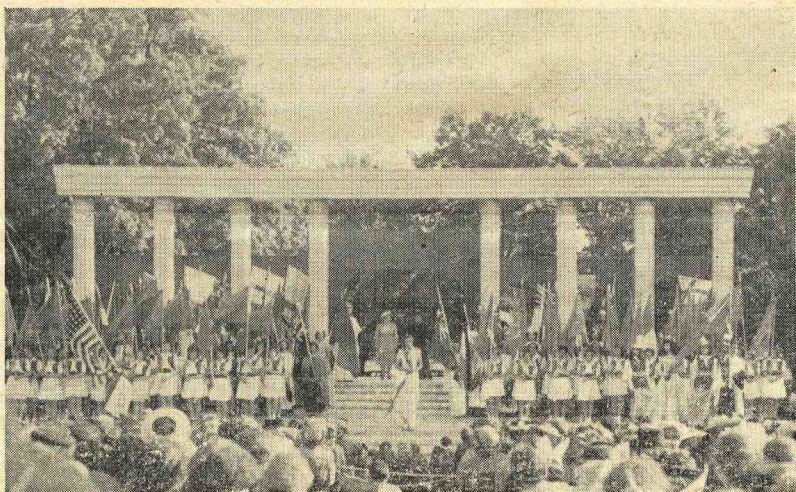
CROWD OF 12,000 VIEWS PAGEANT

With the beautiful administration building of the O.A.C. as a background, this photograph, taken from the platform, shows part of the crowd at the Women's Institute 50th Anniversary Celebration.



ANOTHER VIEW OF W.I. CELEBRATION CROWD

Above is another picture from the rear, showing the huge crowd which enjoyed the pageant of Women's Institute history.



THE GRAND FINALE OF THE PAGEANT

With representatives of the provinces, the nations of the world, and of youth massed on the stage for the final scene of the W.I. pageant, Miss Amy P. Lewis, as the spirit of the future, takes up the challenge that comes from part.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Great Gathering of 12,000 Institute Members Assembled at Guelph, Pay Tribute to Pioneers of 1897

Blessed by perfect weather, and successful beyond the fondest dreams of those, who for months had laboured in its organization, the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Women's Institutes of Ontario, held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on June 18th, 1947, was the greatest gathering of members of any one women's organization ever assembled in the Dominion of Canada.

Advance estimates of attendance never went higher than 6,000; actually, close to 12,000 members of Women's Institutes flocked to Guelph, to crowd the campus, create problems for the O.A.C. staff in feeding them, and to jam all the parking space with busses and cars. In all, some 185 chartered busses brought delegates to Guelph, and three special trains were pressed into service. The commissariat department of the O.A.C. worked wonders, because after preparing tea-hour bags of sandwiches and urns of coffee for some 5,000 people, they had to go into action and raise the count to 9,500.

The celebration had an international as well as a national flavour. Delegates were present from all over Ontario, from most of the Provinces of the Dominion, from the United States, Great Britain and New Zealand.

The scene as the 12,000 women assembled on the College campus for the celebration programme was bright and colourful.

After the opening speech by Mrs. Summers, in which she expressed the pride of all Institute members in the celebration of 50 years of useful service, Mrs. John McCulloch of Brampton, F.W.I.O. Secretary, read a message of greeting from the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada. Mayor Gordon L. Rife of Guelph officially welcomed the guests to the Royal City.

Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, brought greetings from his department. "This is a sight those sitting on this platform will never forget," said Mr. Kennedy. "Many of the amenities of life which have been introduced into our farming community are a direct result of the persistent efforts of the clear-thinking women who, down through the years, have given leadership to the Women's Institute movement. Better schools, better health services, better community facilities, have been developed because there were Women's Institutes to see the need for them and work unceasingly for them. W. R. Reek, President of the O.A.C., gave a warm message of welcome to the delegates.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
CELEBRATE 50th ANNIVERSARY (Cont'd.)

Anna P. Lewis, Director of the W.'s. I. Branch and Home Economics Service, said that in the fifty years of Women's Institute history, the service had improved but the original aims had not changed. She declared that when the country women of the world work together for the common good, they could determine the course of world progress and history.

Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, first government lecturer and organizer, sent out on Institute promotion work 47 years ago, and now in her 83rd year, spoke in a reminiscent mood, and advised that leadership must be sound to build for the future. Chancellor G. Gilmour of McMaster University, brought greetings from the Canadian Council of Churches.

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"

After tea, the great crowds once again assembled in front of the beautiful stage which had been erected for the occasion, and thrilled at the presentation of the historical pageant, "Let There be Light", produced by Brownlow Card with Horace Lapp and his orchestra supplying the music. Both symbolical and historical, the pageant reviewed the fifty years of Women's Institute History, and the spread of the organization across Canada and throughout the world.



St Thomas 4m. St Thomas 4m. London 17 m. St Thomas 3 m. St Thomas 3 m. St Thomas 3 m. St Thomas 3 m. Yarmouth centre 2 m. New Sarum 2 1/2 m. Orwell 2 m. 1/40 81'00' (Tullisburgh)

42'45' Aylmer 2 m. Luton 2 m. 34'0' Dumboyne 3/4 m. Copenhagen 1 m. Copenhagen 1 1/2 m. 40'

VI
V
IV
III
II
I

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

Kettle Creek
Cat Creek
Spraymiller Pond
Jaffa
Sparta
Union
Port Stanley
Port Bruce
DEXTER
HYDRO.
ELECTRIC
STANLEY
LONDON
AND
STANLEY