

Roy Evans, reported that the school had been supplied with paper towels, soap, peroxide, and iodine, and permission had been obtained from the School Board to have Dr. Webster examine the eyes, throat and teeth of the children. It was also suggested that teeters and swings be bought for the school grounds. It was later reported that the cost of the teeters would be \$70.00 and the swings \$90.00. Members also acted as judges at the School Fairs held throughout the District. In 1928 a talk was given each month on one of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

Two important events took place in the year 1929. *Just went* On January 17th the Institute's first "Family Night" was held. This took the form of a banquet in the Old Opera House when Institute members and their families were invited. There were over 100 present. The President, Mrs. McPhail, was Toast Mistress for the occasion and the toasts were:

"Our Institute"--Responded to by Mrs. J. C. McMillan

"The Home"--Responded to by Mrs. Schleihauf

"Our Country"--Responded to by Mrs. Evans

"Our Youth"--Responded to by Carman Nicholson

"The Men"--Proposed by Mrs. John A. McKillop,

Responded to by Mrs. Arthur Petherick

"Our Town"--Proposed by Mrs. A. B. McColl

Responded to by Reeve D. Leitch

The programme consisted of:

Duet--Anna Gammon and Francis Bole

Vocal Solo--Mary O'Neil

Instrumental Solo--Lionel McKillop

Vocal Solo--Margaret McIntyre

Instrumental Solo--Jean Ferguson

The second important event was the laying of the Corner-Stone of the Memorial Hall.

On Tuesday, June 3rd, 1930, the Hall was officially opened with fitting ceremonies. Colonel D. E. Gerrard opened the Hall and unveiled the Memorial Tablet, Wreaths were placed, a Dedication Prayer given, Last Post and Reveille sounded. School children, war veterans, resident clergymen, Reeve D. M. Leitch and Warden D. K. Andrew took part in the proceedings. A baseball game was held between Shedden and West Lorne. Afternoon tea was served, also supper from 6 to 7.30 p. m. by the Women's Institute. In the evening a concert was given by the Schubert Concert Company of London in the new auditorium.

Mrs. John A. McKillop was President of the Institute when the Hall was opened, and Past Presidents, other officers and members were invited to be present for the occasion. The Institute provided the sum of nearly \$3,000.00 towards the building expenses. The electric clock on the outside of the Hall, and the one in the Institute room, was purchased with money donated by Mrs. Dugald McPherson estate for a memorial to the soldiers (minutes, Nov. 10, 1922).

In connection with this bequest a resolution, presented by Mrs. Sherk and seconded by Mrs. McPhail, was unanimously adopted that a moment's silence be observed by this Institute each year in the month of June, being the month in which Mrs. McPherson passed away, to show their esteem and appreciation of this gift, and the Secretary was instructed to send a copy of such resolution to the Executors of the Estate (minutes of Dec. 14, 1922).

The following is the inscription on the clock:-

" This Memorial Clock

donated by

Mrs. Dugald McPherson

in Memory of

Our Boys

Who Died in the Great War. "

The Plaque was given by the Town and Township Councils. Since the opening of the Hall the Institute meetings have been held in the Institute room.

Madam President:-

Your Committee re Institute Room beg to submit the following report:-

As requested, we sought an interview with the Community Hall Board and were most courteously received. We asked if it were possible to have an agreement regarding the use of their room. The Board said they would willingly do so, if they had control over such matters. When the Hall was built the Provincial Government gave a grant of \$2,000.00, thus bringing the building under the Provincial Law known as the Community Hall Act. By this Act the Board works under the Government and has no power to rent a room to any organization. Therefore, the law does not allow them to grant our request. But, we were assured by the Members of the Board that they would see that we, as an organization, were fairly treated and they could see no reason why this room would not be known always as the Institute Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion C. James, Convener.

West Lorne, Dec. 10th, 1931.

The completion of the Memorial Hall closed a second chapter in the history of the West Lorne Women's Institute. The presidents from 1931 to 1939 were Mrs. Philip Schleihauf, Mrs. Sheeler, Mrs. H. C. McKillop (sec. term) and Mrs. Norval Murray, while Mrs. Nicholson gave continuous and efficient service as Secretary-treasurer.

This period might be termed the "Ordinary Years" of the Institute. In them the work as suggested by the Department was pretty faithfully adhered to. Programmes were built around the subjects of the Standing Committees, viz.-Education, Community Activities, Canadian Industries, Home Economics, Health and Child Welfare, and Historical Research. The "Grandmothers'" meeting was a popular one and programmes were also held on Music, Peace, Christmas, Easter, etc. The month of October was "Guest" Month, when one or more neighbouring branches were invited, the visitors putting on the programme. This promoted sociability in the District. Winter Picnics, District Annuals, and the London Conventions were attended by delegates and members from the branch.

One important item of business is contained in the minutes of Nov. 9th, 1933, when a report on the Mortgage held by the Women's Institute on the ball grounds was given by Mrs. Ferguson. It was moved by Mrs. McPhail, seconded by Mrs. Beggs, that this Mortgage be given over to the Town, thus fulfilling the Women's Institute's obligation toward Community Hall. The land taken over by the Town to be used as ball grounds.

Grandmothers' Meeting of March 9th, 1933, featured a drill by the following grandmothers:- Mrs. Gallagher, Campbell, Leverington, Sherk, Branchflower, and Mrs. Archer. This drill was one of the best acts on the programmes for a long time. A cookie and stirred cake contest was held, these being entered by the grandmothers. Mrs. Archer received first prize for

cookies, and Mrs. Branchflower for cake. A ten cent tea was served. Mrs. Beggs, on behalf of the Institute, presented Mrs. Sherk (the only great-grandmother present) with a bouquet of flowers.

"Family Night" held on March 9th, 1934, was marked by a splendid programme, viz.- Instrumental duet, piano and saxophone by Mrs. Merrett and Carman Nicholson, solo by June Merrett, solo by Donald Leitch, Piano Solo by Dorothy Cullen, song by Mary McKillop, solo by Walter Ripley, solo by Billy Sheeler, recitations by Keith Eddy and Jack Schleihauf. An address by Mrs. J. C. McMillan, Past President of Western District, solo by Miss Margaret McIntyre, piano duet by Anne Merrett and Ruby Sharatt, recitation by Beryl Schleihauf, reading by Noreen Nicholson, and piano solo by Mary O'Neil.

A framed picture taken at the opening of the New Hall was presented to the Institute by Mrs. John A. McKillop, and the framed Motto, "For Home and Country", was given by Miss Dorothy Stafford, daughter of the United Church minister, the motto being her own work.

The piano was purchased in 1932, on a motion by Miss Bessie McKillop, seconded by Mrs. Arthur Petherick, for seventy-five dollars, cash in full to be paid. (minutes of July 14, 1932)

Mrs. McPhail volunteered to make a wool rug for the Institute Room, providing the members furnished the wool. Needless to say the ladies accepted Mrs. McPhail's offer, and a ten cent collection was taken at the meeting for this purpose. (minutes of Dec. 8, 1932)

The Institute took charge of canvassing the village for donations to be sent to the drought-stricken areas of Western Canada, and under the general Chairmanship of Rev. Mr. Eddy, the United Church Minister, two car-loads containing food-stuffs, vegetables, apples, canned fruit, jams, jelly,

and all kinds of clothing, etc. were sent from West Lorne and Aldborough Township.

The year 1936 is known as the year of "The Three Kings". George V died and the Institute took part in the Memorial Service for him that was held in the Community Hall. Edward VIII abdicated the throne on Dec. 10th of that year and George VI became the reigning Monarch.

On January 13th, 1938, the 25th Anniversary of the West Lorne Women's Institute was observed. This was during the presidency of Mrs. Norval Murray. Mrs. Sims of Kitchener, who was the first president, Mrs. Wray of Rodney, who helped organize the branch, and Charter Members were the distinguished guests. Mrs. Hugh C. McKillop, the first Secretary-treasurer, presided over the programme. The roll was answered in a unique way when all forty-five members stood and repeated the following--"As a member of the Women's Institute I will do all within my power to promote peace, both at home and abroad". The roll of Charter Members was called and the following ladies responded:- Mrs. W. Becker, Mrs. H. C. McKillop, Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. Merrett, Mrs. Dr. Webster, Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Sharratt, Mrs. J. A. McKillop, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. John G. McKillop, Mrs. Lippold, Mrs. John Ward, Mrs. Mac McKillop and Miss Bolsby. The programme consisted of a vocal solo by Miss Dow, vocal duet by Misses Dow and Beatrice McColl, tap dancing, Louise Welch, playlet "Wooden Soldiers" by Mrs. Nicholson and Mrs. Evans, and an excellent address by Rev. Father Chisholm on "International Peace". Lunch was served from prettily decorated tables with a large birthday cake as the central figure. To Mrs. Merrett was given the honour of cutting the cake. A cameo brooch was presented to Mrs. Sims by Mrs. Murray, the presiding President, as a token of her having been the first President of the Branch. The committee in charge of this memorable occa-

sion was Mrs. Hugh Turner as hostess, Mrs. Schleihauf, Mrs. McCurdy, Miss Bolsby and Mrs. T. O'Neil.

June, 1939, was the month of the "Royal Tour" when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth toured Canada from Halifax to Vancouver. In keeping with this historical event a programme on "Empire Loyalty" was held, with the Motto--One Crown, One King, One Empire. There was a talk on "The Royal Tour and its Significance" by Miss Bessie McKillop and an instructive flag demonstration by Mrs. Mac McKillop. This demonstration was repeated at Clachan when West Lorne was invited there.

In October, 1939, the Institute served the banquet to mark the official opening of the Waterworks System in West Lorne.

September, 1939, marked the beginning of the Second World War, and from this date to May, 1945--the years of the war--the Presidents of the Institute were Mrs. John A. McKillop and Mrs. Sheeler, serving jointly for one year; Mrs. Nicholson for one year; Mrs. Arthur Smith three years, and Mrs. Jessie Lemon. The Secretary-treasurers were Mrs. J. Milner, Jr., Mrs. Ernie Young, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Allan Craig, with assistant Secretary-treasurers Mrs. T. F. Ripley, Mrs. Roy Wilton and Mrs. Cullen.

A Unit of the Red Cross was formed which took charge of the war work, but the Institute assumed the responsibility of Jam Making for Overseas; 700 lbs. made during 1940 (minutes of May 8, 1941) in addition to 50 lbs. of honey (minutes of Sept. 1942); had representation on the Red Cross buying and cutting committee; had a War Work Convener who kept a record of the sewing, knitting etc. done by the Members for the Red Cross. A Soldier Box Committee was formed in June, 1940, which functioned all during the war. Boxes were sent each month to local men overseas; ninety-two boxes were sent in one year. This proved to be a most important part of the War Work done

by the Institute. The convenors were Mrs. Norval Murray, Mrs. DeLong and Mrs. Schleihauf. In Sept. 1940 the name of the Flower Fund was changed to "Soldiers' Cheer Fund" with Miss Gillies continuing to act as Treasurer. Money for this work was raised by collections at the meetings, voluntary contributions from people outside of the Institute, sale of a "Dutch Girl" quilt, play, and a special tag day.

The Institute took charge of packing Ditty Bags for the Navy League, gathered old wool, gave donations to the Central War Fund to help purchase a Mobile Kitchen and send seeds to Britain; contributed to the Women's Institute Sugar Fund for further jam making and the members gave generously of blood to the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic; also assisted in the issuance of Ration Books.

Besides war work, courses were taken on meat and vegetable cookery, buymanship, sewing, nutrition, renovation of clothing, care of clothing, rug making etc., and practical demonstrations given. Rallies were attended on Officers' Training.

It is interesting to note how the nature of the meetings changed with the passing of the years. In 1939 the programmes were varied by including five minute demonstrations. Under the topics of "Standing Committees" not so many papers were prepared and given during this period as in previous years. For "Health and Child Welfare" there was a talk on "Common Problems of Childhood" by Dr. Brent, and a demonstration on First Aid and Bandaging.

Historical Research continued to be interesting with the History of West Lorne given by decades. In Jan., 1942, Mrs. (Rev.) Dr. McLean of Larnach was guest speaker, and gave as her subject, "The Story of the Formation of the Women's Institute", and told of the first Convention held in Guelph in 1903, which she attended. It was also learned that the first "Home and

Country", the Institute paper, was published in 1932. A paper on "The Six Nations' Indians" was good (Mrs. John A. McKillop); also one on "The Three Pioneer Churches of Aldborough Township", viz.- New Glasgow Presbyterian, Brock's Creek or Old School Baptist, and the Eagle Church (by Mrs. J. B. Ferguson). There was a paper on "Our National Anthem" by Mrs. Gilson when it was learned that the strains of "God Save the King" are familiar to at least 680 millions of people, and the strongest claim to its authorship is that of Dr. John Bull, who is said to have composed it as a "Keyboard Piece" in 1619. As early as 1545 the phrase "God Save the King" was the watchword of the British Navy and the countersign to this phrase was "Long to Reign Over Us" (minutes of June, 1941).

Education included an address by Mr. J. C. Smith, Inspector of Public Schools, on "The New Curriculum" and the entertainment of the West Lorne School Board and Teaching Staff. Mrs. Rev. R. Simpson gave an address on "Education Outside of the School through the Public Library". The British Museum Library in London, Eng., the Library in Moscow, and the one in Washington, D. C. are the three largest Libraries in the world. The West Lorne Public Library Board was entertained at this meeting.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries included talks on "Victory Gardens" and papers on "The Sugar Beet Industry" (Mrs. Mac McKillop), "Women in Industry" (Mrs. J. B. Ferguson), and a visit to the Erie Flooring Co. where war contracts were being filled.

Citizenship--There were addresses by Rev. Mr. Simpson, the United Church minister, and Mr. Maloney, Principal of the Public School. There was a display of souvenirs sent to relatives and friends here by men overseas. This was most interesting. There were articles from England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and Northern Africa. (Committee--Mrs. Fred

Cullen, Mrs. Lippold, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. L. G. Brown.)

Legislation--an address on "Confederation" by Mr. E. S. Livermore. He said Confederation was made possible by three important factors, viz. - fear of the United States, tariff difficulties, and deadlock between the political parties of the country.

Nutrition--Demonstration on a Wartime Supper and Sugarless cookery.

Community Activities--the observance of Family Night, two addresses on the "Youth Movement", and the Institute undertook the supervision of the Paddling Pool at the Athletic Park. July, 1944, the Hospitalization Plan was introduced into the Institute with ten members signing for it. This number has greatly increased.

The "Grandmothers'" Meeting still well liked and a reading on "Gracious Living" by Mrs. Branchflower was an inspiration to each one present,

The month of May, 1945, saw the end of hostilities in Europe, and "VE-Day" (May 8th) was celebrated in West Lorne by an impressive service held in the morning at the Athletic Park, at which the Institute was represented. The fighting against Japan was over that same year.

The Honour Roll, containing the names of the men and women who served in World War II, was unveiled with fitting ceremony at the Nov. meeting, 1945. The Committee in charge--Mrs. Schleihauf, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. D. Leith and Miss Gillies.

There were meetings on Christmas, including a pageant portraying the Birth of Christ, the Journey of the Three Wise, and the story of "The Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke, convened by Mrs. Norval Murray. One marked by "Slides on the Nativity" by Rev. Mr. Purchase, and a short story concerning the origin and writing of three popular Christmas Carols--"Silent Night", "Away in a Manger", and "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" was convened