

by Mrs. T. F. Ripley.

An Easter Pageant under the direction of Mrs. Ernie Johnson was another good programme during this period.

Money raised by renting the Institute Room to the Elgin County, St. Thomas Health Unit for \$20.00 per month, putting on lunches for dances and catering for banquets, etc. Donations were made to the West Lorne Cemetery and Library Board; tag days held for the Blind and Navy League.

We have reached the Institute year of May, 1946--May, 1947, in which Mrs. Hugh Turner is President and Mrs. Allan Craig the secretary-treasurer. It has already been marked by excellent attendance, an increase in membership, and the purchase of sufficient silverware and dishes to take care of serving for banquets. A garden club was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Craig and prizes given to the girls for their efforts.

So far outstanding programmes have been given on Citizenship, Historical Research, Community Activities, Agriculture, and Canadian Industries, Christmas etc.

In September three ladies from the Middlemarch Institute (Mrs. Alex. Lyle, Mrs. Stanley Lyle and Mrs. J. R. Fatcher, Federated Representative) visited West Lorne, displayed their "Tweedsmuir Village History Book", with the result that a Committee was formed in this Branch to compile such a record. The Committee comprises Mrs. John A. McKillop as Convenor, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. Mac McKillop, Miss Currie, Mrs. Cullen and Mrs. Norval Murray.

November featured an address by Lieut. N. S. Alice Meek, recently returned from overseas, telling of her travels and experiences while abroad. One of her impressions was that the people of Switzerland were good examples of citizenship--they were intelligent, industrious, systematic, clean

kind.

A rally on "Programme Planning" was held in Nov., attended by Institute members from Wallacetown, Rodney and Clachan, as well as West Lorne. Mrs. Duke, a former President of the London Area, was guest speaker.

The Institute was responsible for the preparation of Posters by school students to compete in the "Poster Contest" for the 50th Anniversary of the Institutes. Prizes were given by this Branch to those who took part in the contest from here.

December was again marked by a Christmas meeting with a playlet entitled "One Holy Night", being given by the Committee in charge under the con-venorship of Mrs. Nicholson. This was repeated at the United Church Christmas Entertainment. According to the usual custom the roll call was answered by a gift for the "War Memorial Children's Hospital", London.

January, 1947, under the Community Activities, a Round Table Conference was held, led by Mrs. George Silcox, First Vice-President of the West Elgin District.

On January 29th, the banquet was held for the returned women and men from World War II, at which a goodly number of the Institute women assisted. 250 people attended the banquet.

On February 12th, 24 members attended the Winter Picnic at Dutton. This year it had a special significance, owing to the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Institute. Mrs. Harvey Miller, the District President for West Elgin, presided, and seated at the head table were Past Presidents and Past Secretary-treasurers of the District. A delicious dinner was partaken of first, and the opening ceremonies of the afternoon programme were recorded by Station C.F.P.L., London, to be broadcast the next day. West Lorne Institute had the honour of being in charge of the "Presentation of the Flag".

W. I. Celebrates 50th Anniversary

1947

Queen Elizabeth Sends Message
of Congratulations

GUELPH, June 18 (CP). — The growth and development of Women's Institutes from an original group of 101 women in a small Ontario village to an international organization with hundreds of thousands of members throughout the world was recalled here today when more than 5,000 women met for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The Queen, in a message of congratulations, said: "The opening of the Stoney Creek Women's Institute in 1897 is a landmark in the history of rural life and I know of the thankfulness of my fellow members for their institutes. Besides those in Great Britain, I have lately seen members in South Africa and Rhodesia enjoying the opportunities for service, mutual help, education and fun which membership brings and which we owe to the Stoney Creek women."

The death of an 18-months-old boy from drinking impure milk gave the original impetus to the movement. His mother, Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, wondered why farmers gave so much thought to feeding their stock and so little to feeding their children. At a meeting of the local Farmers' Institute she suggested that farmers' wives meet regularly to study homemaking just as their husbands studied farming. The idea caught on and spread throughout Canada.

It reached Britain during the First Great War when the British Government invited two Canadian women to assist in a food conservation campaign and the organization of Women's Institutes resulted. From Great Britain they spread throughout the world and in 1933 the Associated Country Women of the World was formed with a Canadian woman, Mrs. Alfred Watt, as first president.

New President of W.I. in Ontario



MRS. J. ROBINSON FUTCHER, who has been elected president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, succeeding Mrs. Hugh Summers, of Fonthill. Mrs. Futcher, whose home is near Middlemarch, is a former president of the Middlemarch W.I., of the West Elgin District Institutes, and a former member of the provincial board of the Federated Institutes of Ontario. She was also recently appointed rural representative for Ontario for the new Canadian Consumers' Association.

The flag has been presented during the opening ceremonies of this Branch since the meeting on Nov. 11th, 1943.

The February meeting included a debate by four men of the village, (Mr. J. P. Scott, Mr. Allan Craig, Mr. L. W. Holland and Mr. Ern. Hayes), on the merits of 50 years ago and the present time.

Today, March 13th, 1947, we are gathered to observe the Golden Jubilee of the Formation of the Women's Institute. In this Branch it is being commemorated with the

"Theme"--"For Home and Country"

Roll Call--"A Characteristic of a Good
Institute Member"

Topic--"Golden Jubilee of the Women's
Institute"

Committee--Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. John A.

McKillop, Mrs. Merrett, Miss

Bessie McKillop

During the 34 years of this Branch, three District Annuals have been here, and it has enjoyed the distinction of having four District Presidents. The first was Mrs. Sims, in 1914; Mrs. Mac McKillop was second, serving in the years 1920 and 1921 when the District Annuals were held in the Presbyterian Church in Wallacetown and the Disciple Church, West Lorne. Mrs. Hugh McKillop was District Present ¹⁹²⁷ in 1927 and 1928, presiding at the District Annual in the eastern territory in 1928, and at Dutton in 1929. Mrs. Nicholson was the fourth West Lorne member to hold this office, presiding at the Winter Picnic in Dutton in 1941. Owing to ill health she was forced to resign before her term expired, and Mrs. J. R. Fatcher of Middlemarch took over the leadership of the District.

Removals from the village and deaths have depleted the number of Charter Members, but Mrs. Mac McKillop, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Miss Bolsby, Mrs. Merrett, Mrs. John A. McKillop and Mrs. Lippold are still active workers. Mrs. Sharratt, another Charter Member, resides in the village. Other ladies of continuous long-standing membership are:- Mrs. A. Smith (1914), Mrs. Fred Cullen (1916), Mrs. Schleihauf (1918), Mrs. Earl Lemon (1920), Mrs. Hugh Turner (1923), Mrs. Franks (1925), Mrs. Nicholson (1925), Miss Bessie McKillop (1925) and Mrs. Branchflower (1925).

Of the older members who helped make history for the West Lorne Women's Institute, the names of Mrs. J. McGregor, Mrs. Arthur Petherick, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Wanless, Mrs. Archie B. McColl, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Ainsworth, Miss Alice Jamieson, Mrs. Wm. Neil, the former Mrs. W. A. Becker, Mrs. Dan McKillop, Mrs. Dr. Webster, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. Neil Campbell and Mrs. Liddell are revered in memory.

This Institute is a tiny cog in the wheels of that organization which had its birth in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, fifty years ago. Without "parts" you cannot have a "whole", and the branch Institute is the first and most important part of the whole Institute set-up.

Through the record of the West Lorne Women's Institute run the shining threads of initiative and enterprise, sacrifice of time and personal pleasure, good deeds, work and achievement, and the development of latent talent in many of its members. The door of the 34th year closed on January 29th, 1947, behind it lie the "What Might Have Beens". They are precious years; may they be cherished for their matchless worth. The door of the 35th year has opened with its opportunities rich with promise. Knowledge can be gained from the past. May the years ahead of this Women's Institute be filled to overflowing with good works and success.

This record is closed on the following thought: -

"Upon thy bended knees, thank God for work,
Work--once Man's penance, now his high reward,
For work to do and strength to do the work,
We Thank Thee, Lord.

Some toil for love and some for simple greed,
Some reap a harvest, past their utmost need;
More, in their less, find truer happiness,
And all, in work, relief from bitterness.

Upon thy bended knees, thank God for work,
In worthless days, all ills and evils lurk,
For work to do and strength to do the work,
We Thank Thee, Lord."

From: -

The Sacrament of Work,

by John Oxenham.

Prepared by
Mrs. Norval J. Murray,
March 13th, 1947.

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
(continued)

In April, 1947, an oratorical contest for Public School pupils was sponsored by the West Lorne Women's Institute; Dr. Bruce Cantelon, a new resident in the village, and Mrs. Roy Evans were the judges. For this contest Wilma Avery, Grade VI, S.S. No. 2, Aldborough, had chosen for her subject, "My Hero and Heroine, the King and Queen". From small beginnings larger happenings develop. In 1953 Miss Wilma Avery was chosen from the West Elgin District High School at West Lorne to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London, England, on June 2nd.

On June 18th, 1947, thirty members from this Branch went to Guelph to attend the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Institute, one of the largest gatherings of women held there. They came by car, train and bus, from all over Ontario. The celebration closed with the pageant, "Let There be Light".

The District Annual was held in Middlemarch on May 20th. of the same year.

The September meeting was marked by the judging of table and room bouquets, prizes being given to Mrs. A.D. McKillop and Mrs. Fred Slaght for table flowers and Mrs. Norval Murray and Mrs. John Graham for room bouquets. A most educational film was shown on the manufacture of plastic material, and there was a display of articles manufactured in West Lorne, canned goods from the Canadian Cannery, wooden handles from

Milner Turned Goods, wooden toys, Presto cooker handles and wooden mats from A. McKillop & Sons, and a piece of hardwood flooring from the Erie Flooring & Wood Products Company.

Exhibits were entered at Rodney Fair by the West Lorne ladies and prizes were won.

In 1948 the Winter Picnic was held at Wallacetown on January 20th., and on March 6th. a goodly number attended the banquet in the Masonic Temple, St. Thomas, in honour of Mrs. J.R. Fatcher on her election to the presidency of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The District Annual was held on May 27th. at Rodney, and on December 14th. in the same year a Conference on Health was conducted at West Lorne by Miss Grace Hamilton of the Department, after which a pot-luck supper was served.

In January, 1949, a small-loom weaving course was held from the 24th. to the 28th. The Winter Picnic was held at Wallacetown. In February a demonstration and exhibit was held and the weaving done during the course was shown. An interesting and educational talk on antique glass and china was given by Mrs. Earl Fowler of Rodney, and several pieces from her own collection were on display as well as articles brought by our own members. This was much enjoyed by all present.

In April Mrs. Roy Evans became President of the Branch. At the meeting a talk was given on Newfoundland, our newest and tenth province.

In May the first Convenors' Conference was held at Guelph and was attended by our president. The venture was most successful, and these conventions have been held each year since. Mrs. Evans in her report said one slogan was "Hats off to the past, coats on for the future"; she reported further- there are three kinds of members, the worker, the jerker, and the shirker- in which class does each of us belong? (Mrs. Fatcher's address at this Conference).

The District Annual was held at Crinan on June 7th. Sufficient dishes and silverware had been purchased to cater for 120 persons.

A Tag Day was held on September 10th. to raise funds for a donation towards the new wing of the War Memorial Children's Hospital at London, the sum of \$50.55 being collected.

On October 7th. a turkey supper was sponsored and the sum of \$224.25 cleared.

In November a committee was named, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. N. Murray, to see about improving the stove situation in the kitchen of the Community Hall.

In January, 1950, two gas stoves were purchased, the installation and total price to the Institute being \$45.70 as the Community Hall Board paid \$25.00 towards the price of one stove.

The Winter Picnic was held in West Lorne on January 31st