

with a record attendance of 206. There was also a successful Family Night held this month with 110 present. A bountiful supper was served followed by a programme in the Auditorium, at which was shown "Let There be Light", the film made of the pageant given at the 50th Anniversary in Guelph on June 18th., 1947. \$50.00 was donated to the West Lorne Library Board to purchase a table for the new Library. The official opening of the new Public Utilities building in West Lorne was held on May 5th, for which the Institute catered to 90 persons. The District Annual was held in Wallacetown on June 9th. A public speaking contest was sponsored in the Community Hall. \$100. was donated to the new St. Thomas-Elgin Hospital building fund.

An outstanding meeting of the year 1951 was the one on Historical Research, at which the story of the building of the first brick house in Aldborough Township was given. This was on the Thomson farm on Middle Street, and was built of brick made from clay from a field on the farm. Mrs. Hannah Thomson, wife of one of the descendents of this pioneer family, was a member of the committee for this programme. Mention was also made of the creation of the Gillies Cemetery on Middle Street by John Gillies, who set aside a portion of his land in 1825 for this purpose.

In April, 1951, Mrs. Chas. Cooper was appointed president. The members of the Dutton's Institute were entertained; demonstration of salads was given stressing their value in the individual diet. A Life Membership was presented to

Mrs. Mac McKillop, a Charter Member and a former District President- prior to her leaving to make her home in Windsor in October. A talk on the fishing industry was given by Mr. Bub Skinner and a paper was given by Miss Tena McKillop describing her visit to a sardine packing plant in New Brunswick. The District Annual was held in Cowal on June 7th.

In January, 1952, the death of King George VI occurred and a Memorial Service was held during the Institute meeting on February 9th. The Historical Research meeting in March was in keeping with the centennial year of Elgin County. It featured a sketch on the founding of the Talbot Settlement in 1852 and the allotting of land. This was prepared by Mrs. N. Murray, the convenor. The characters were:

Colonel Talbot	- Mrs. Isabelle Fordham
	Mrs. Roy Hauser
Colonel Mahlon Burwell	- Mrs. Dan Dymocker
John Pearce	- Mrs. Chas. Cooper
Stephen Backus	- Mrs. Roy Evans
Colonel Talbot's Hostess-	Mrs. John A. McKillop

Colonel Talbot was an Irishman, and the 'Kerry Dances' were played as part of the musical Programme. The Winter Picnic was held at Dutton; 18 were present from West Lorne.

1952 was Centennial Year of Elgin County, and the Institute assisted in serving meals in Dutton at the Caledonian Games on August 4th (a part of the Centennial celebration); had a quilt on display in St. Thomas at the tea-room set up in Anderson's store, the design being "Grandmother's Tulips".

Four large cartons of good used clothing were sent to

Greece; New Canadian women were entertained during the year and a demonstration of New Canadian baking and hand-work given; we had a booth at the Kiwanis Club Hobby Fair at the West Lorne Arena; we assisted with the T.B. and X-Ray Clinic surveys.

January 8th., 1953, marked the celebration of the 40th. Anniversary of the West Lorne Branch of the Women's Institute. The programme was in charge of the active Charter members. At present there are six Charter Members living, four of whom are active. A broadcast over Radio Station C.H.L.O. at St. Thomas, to further mark this event, was given by the President, Mrs. Cooper.

The District Annual was held at Payne's Mills on May 25th. Agriculture and Canadian Industries meeting featured the story of the manufacture of salt by a film shown by Mr. Bosman, Principal of the West Elgin District High School. Mr. Donald Small showed pictures taken by himself of farms and agricultural activities in the British Isles. It was a most successful meeting. Then, on Coronation Day, June 2nd., the Institute cooperated with the committee arranging the Parade to celebrate the occasion, and donated \$25.00 towards the expenses. On July 17th. the Branch Picnic was held, the participants going by bus to Port Stanley. The programme was carried out on Invererie Heights and was followed by a dinner at the Hillcrest Inn. A memorable day for enjoyment.

In August the Associated Country Women of the World

Convention was held in Toronto in the Maple Leaf Gardens. This is a biennial convention and was an outstanding event with Mrs. Sayre, the President, in attendance and delegates present from all parts of the world. Nine members from West Lorne attended the meetings on Saturday, August 22nd. The pageant, "Dominion of Destiny" was given and depicted the history of Canada from the days of the Indians, through the first visit of the Vikings, the arrival of the French and English explorers, the battles for a forest empire, the days of the fur trade, the gold rush, the coming of the railway, Confederation and, finally, the celebration of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

A Life Membership was presented to Miss Ellen Bolsby, a Charter Member, and a paper was given on the formation of the Horticultural Society in 1949 and their work in the Community since that time. In September a wonderful travel talk was given by Mrs. Roy Evans on her trip to England and the Coronation. Mrs. J. Gammon told the story of her trip to California and the Canadian West. The year closed with a most impressive Christmas programme convened by Mrs. Nicholson and roll call answered with a gift to the War Memorial Children's Hospital in London.

This article was written and prepared
by:

Mrs. Norval J. Murray.



Members of West Lorne Women's Institute
modelling old-time hats at the January
meeting, 1955, in answer to Roll Call.

Left to right: Mrs. C. Cooper, Mrs. H. Riepmann,
Mrs. E. Kelly, Mrs. S. Gardner, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson (winner
of 1st prize), Mrs. D. Dymock, Mrs. J. A. Mc Killop (winner
of 2nd prize), Mrs. R. Evans, Mrs. J. J. Ripley, Mrs. H. J. Merritt,
Mrs. M. Nickleson.

WEST LORNE'S FIRST DECADE

West Lorne was formerly two distinct villages, "Bismarck and Lorne". Bismarck still remained the name of the Michigan Central station until about the year 1907, when the company changed the name to West Lorne to correspond with the town. The name "Bismarck" was in honor of the then Chancellor of Germany and the name "Lorne" in honor of the Marquis of Lorne, the popular son-in-law of the late "Queen Victoria", who in turn got his title from the district of Lorne in Argyleshire, Scotland.

The Marquis soon after the naming of the village became Governor-General of Canada--and in 1878 with his gracious and talented wife H. R. H. Princess Louise, visited St. Thomas. He did not come up to "Lorne" to see the little hamlet named after him but nearly all the Highlanders of the district went down to St. Thomas to the reception of the Marquis and his lovely wife.

The site of "Lorne" was to a certain degree low and swampy and hence the name "Lorne" was no misnomer for the meaning of the Celtic word is "low land." This term runs away back into ancient Scottish history.

At this time the site of West Lorne was rather uninviting, where the Canada Southern Railway was being put through in 1871 and 1872. What is now Main Street, in spring and fall was almost impassable. Travellers going west who were wise took the woodland road turning west at the entrance to the Memorial Athletic Park.

"The Park that was sponsored by the Women's Institute", and coming out on Back Street near the Daley residence. Those going East travelled through the woods on Chestnut Street crossed Back Street and continued along the Cahill and Fitzpatrick ridge down to the Robinson place and beyond that was almost a primeval swamp.

South of Jessie Street, on the East side of Graham Road was a Tamarac Swamp.

The Graham Road at the intersection with Main Street was a bog hole.

This road had been chopped out by the McKillop Brothers and McColl Brothers, who lived on the Talbot Road West of Eagle, in the forties, ^{1840s} being paid at the rate of twenty-five cents a day or thereabouts.

The road, had as it was formed a connection with the Talbot Street settlers and the newly formed Highland settlement at Crinan.

It is told that between the Tamarac Swamp and where the John McCallum house is ^(near 212 Graham) (the house now owned by John Murray) one of the Talbot Street young men who had bought a farm near Crinan in the fifties, killed ten rattlesnakes as he went out one sunny day to clear up his new farm. This was Archiebald McKillop father of Archiebald, John A and Daniel McKillop.

On the village site proper at the time of the Railway Boom there were only two houses, one owned by Charles Bainard lately moved in from Southwold and the other by John Armstrong.

There was a small settlement at McKillop's Mills which bore the poetical name of Poemsville, afterwards called McKillop's Corners and part of that hamlet is now included in West Lorne.

John Armstrong was an original character. He was a first class hunter and his famous dogs, were not only famous as hunting dogs but as savage ones as well. His humble log house stood where the original Methodist parsonage stood later on Munroe Street. When the Railway Survey was run so close to his home, he grew terrified at the thought of rearing his large family so close to the track and swapped his farm with Squire Schleihauf for a farm out on the Talbot Road. He owned the West fifty acres of Lot 18 and it was mostly woods as were the other hundred and fifty acres that formed the kernel of the new town. Before the coming of the Railway most of the farms near the site of the village were uncleared.

The settlement to the West of the Town site was made up of the Axford's, Avery's, Eden's, Hill's and Wilton families.

There were not many to the North until you got out near Crinan.

Eastward were the pioneer Irish, Quigley's, Cahill's, Robinson's, O'Neil's and Fitzpatrick's.

To the South were the Clark and McKillop families, while east of them on Mill Street were hardy pioneers, the Sexton's, Holland's, Mulholland's, Litchfield's, Gusterson's Schmeltz's, Zoller's and Bullock's. West were Rose's,

Schleihaufts, Hookway's, Snell's and Collard's. While further South on Middle Street were the Thomson's and the Gillie's families. Many of the descendants of these early settlers reside still in or near the Village

The first church in what is now West Lorne was down on Wm. Clark's farm on the hill at McKillop Corners. It was of the Methodist denomination and was connected with the Tryconnel Church and held services at 11.a.m. and Sunday School at 2.p.m.

The location of the station was a moot question when the Railway came. The first station was built away up on James Street. A Hall also was built up there by Mr. Trigger but it was found very inconvenient and the Railway Authorities after some time changed the location, of the station. The same thing happened at Dutton but there was no change made in the location there. Before the Rails of the new Railway reached here a Post Office had been opened with Mr. Duncan McKillop as the first Postmaster and the mail was carried for two years from the Talbot Street Stage route at Eagle. It was carried by horse and cutter while sleighing lasted by two boys, John G. and Duncan McKillop but when March came these two 12 year old boyshad to get to work and a 10 year old boy John A. McKillop, on horseback, finished the year's Contract. The contract price was \$60.00 and the second year it was carried for less. Mr. Garlick was the Contractor in 1872. He was the owner then of the Blackwood farm.