

# W.I. Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Bruce-East District of The Women's Institutes recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary

and this week "The Mildmay Town Crier" wishes to acknowledge the tremendous effort by the members of that organization over those years.

There are 14 branches in Bruce-East District and each prepared a brief historical sketch which is printed throughout this edition . . . commencing on Page 7.

The Women's Institutes have always played an intricate part in every community where they have existed. Many names in these printed historical sketches will be recognized by citizens of this part of Bruce County and many happenings will also be recalled.

The Women's Institutes Organization is continuously working on current needs and concerns and over the years it has been instrumental in helping our  
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## BRUCE EAST W.I.

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society in a host of areas . . . look over this list and you might be very surprised.

- having bread wrapped
- having white line painted on the centre of provincial highways
- having red stripes removed from bacon wrap
- getting fluorescent paint used on sides of railway cars
- getting garments labelled as to quality
- putting music on school curriculum (1937)
- "STOP" signs being placed at railway crossings
- having fowl graded for sale
- getting the legal marriage age 16 years with parent's consent (1937)
- requiring car owners to purchase liability insurance before getting a licence
- making the law mandatory for traffic to stop when school bus is stopped (1962)
- making hot lunches available in schools
- requiring breathalyzer and blood tests for motorists
- hospital benefits for all nursing homes

- making it necessary for all persons handling food to have "T.B. Test"
- teaching sex education in schools
- enacting legislation on dimming car lights when meeting
- having staples abolished on packaged food products
- having poison containers clearly marked
- banning the sale of mineral based detergents
- establishing the International Peace Gardens on the border between Manitoba and North Dakota.
- dental and medical inspections in schools
- establishing a course in Household Science at MacDonald Institute
- requiring the pasteurization of milk
- establishing the MacDonald Institute, University of Guelph (Adelaide Hoodless)
- encouraging war memorials and war services.

## BRUCE EAST DIST. 1938 TO 1988 . . .

In 1938 Bruce West District was dissolved and East Bruce came into being. Geographically it contained the following: townships of Elderslie, Brant, Carrick Greenock (Eastern portion); towns of Southampton, Port Elgin, Tara, Chesley, Paisley, Walkerton, Mildmay; and settlements of Allenferd, Elsinore, Arkwright, Burgoyne, Underwood, Pinkerton and Dobbinton.

1939 - The meeting was held in Allenford United Church where a sumptuous dinner was served for 35 cents a plate. First president was Mrs. E. G. Evans, Allenford.

1940 - 1945 were War years. Articles and donations of all description were forwarded.

1949 - Changes were made in the sub-division. While Walkerton was host to a meeting in the Townhall, another meeting in the Arena attracted the Prime Minister of Canada, Honourable St. Laurent, as guest speaker. The District Meeting recessed for a two and a half hour noon-hour, so members could attend the political rally as a body.

1954 - 1955 - A television was purchased and presented to Bruce County Home for the Aged. On July 1, the Bruce County Historical Museum was officially opened. A total of \$790. was contributed by the District, followed by voluntary donations. At this time there were 26 senior branches with a total of 818 members.

1956 - Bruce County Rally formed to co-ordinate Branches and form a common fellowship within the District. The common cause was primarily for education

and recreational purposes.

1956 - East Bruce was sub-divided again as it is today - Bradley 1953, Brant 1964, Brant-Greencok 1964, Chesley 1910, Eden Grove 1961, Gillies Hill 1959, Jackson 1963, Malcolm 1954, Mildmay 1949, Paisley 1901.

Pinkerton 1901, Solway 1951, South Line Brant 1934, Walkerton 1901, Walkerton Evening 1947, Williscroft 1949.

Two branches organized later disbanded - Elora Road North 1947-1963 and Dobbinton 1951-1959.

East Bruce in in Subdivision "17". There have been two FWIO Board Directors from this District - Mrs. Wm. Middleton 1976-1979 and Mrs. Ivan Thomas 1985 - 1988.

1970 - Mrs. Wm. Middleton was a Delegate to the National Convention held in Winnipeg and Mrs. A. G. Teasdale was a

delegate to the first Convention in Ottawa.

1973 - Mrs. Fred Friar attended as delegate to Banff, Alberta.

1977 - Lady Tweedsmuir, founder of the Tweedsmuir History Books, died in England.

Convenorships have been arranged from time to time. In 1948 the following were started: Agriculture, Canadian Industries, Citizenship and Education, Historical Research, Current Events, Community Activities, Public Relations, Resolutions, and Junior Activities.

Life Member in the District - 1969 - Mrs. H. Moffat, Pinkerton and Mrs. J.J. McKinnon were initiated. At one place in the book it stated that there were 8 members to receive certificates but it gave no names.

Tweedsmuir Books - Volume 1 - compiled by a number of volun-

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## W.I. 50TH . . .

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teers contains early History; Volume 2 - contains history from 1976 - 1987 while curators were Mrs. Eldon McKinnon, Mrs. Bryan Crispin, Mrs. Clayton Schaus and Mrs. Aileen MacDermid.

## PINKERTON W.I. TELLS HISTORY . . .

The Pinkerton Women's Institute organized on June 26th, 1912 at Pinkerton in Centre Bruce Area by Mrs. Isaac Shoemaker of Paisley. During the early days of the branch many topics pertaining to homemaking were the topics of the meetings as they are today. During both wars regular activities were set aside for the time being and all took part in the community at large, knitting and sewing for the soldiers. The branch helped with the Forresters Hall, took responsibility for a room in Bruce County Hospital. Many other local projects have been supported, also many charities. For many years we have sent leaders to 4-H training schools to lead 4-H clubs in the community.

This sounds like all work but we had fun too; such as picnics, trips, dinners, quiltings. One fun time a Halloween Costume Party, and Box Socials, we also included our husbands from time to time.

We have celebrated our Anniversary 7 times, 35th with a regular meeting and an anniversary cake, 45th and 50th with a catered to Banquet and 55th with Centennial meeting and anniversary with a parade in Centennial dress and food. The 60th, 65th and 70th were celebrated with come and go teas. The 75th was celebrated June 26, 1987 with a catered to dinner and all past members available were present. We now work on to another milestone.

The W.I. Scholarship Committee holds a competition yearly. In 1987 the winner, Miss Theresa Schular, H.H. 4, Kincardine, received \$200 to assist her to attend University.

The Bruce County Tartan Committee, headed by Mrs. Eldon Reid of Pinkerton, has a table at each meeting of the District displaying and selling its articles.

1987 - A District quilt was made by each Institute contributing one block. It was quilted at the District President, Mrs. Lois Freilburger's home. It was raffled off with the proceeds going into the District Treasury coffers. Participation Lodge received 50 quilts and realized \$10,500.

Frances Middleton, of Gillies Hill Branch, took her members down memory lane at the Fall Rally in Belmore depicting founders Adelaide Hoodless and Mr. and Mrs. Eriland Lee among others.

Submitted by  
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Curator of Bruce East District