

indicate fifteen charter members of this branch still living.

Very entertaining features of **Kintore's** fiftieth anniversary were a debate on "Whether the Good Old Days Were the Good Days"; a dialogue "Through the Eyes of the Minute Book for the Past Fifty Years"; and typical songs of the times by decades, sung by members dressed in the styles of the periods.

At **Woodville's** fiftieth anniversary celebration, life memberships were presented to two charter members, Mrs. Richard Hawkins and Mrs. Hector Grant. These ladies entertained the gathering with accounts of fund-raising events through the years.

**New Lowell** at its fiftieth anniversary gave a life membership to Mrs. Robert Macham and gifts to some of the older members in recognition of their service. One feature of the programme was an old-time song contest.

**Coldstream** presented life memberships to four of its present and past presidents at its fiftieth anniversary. The roll call was answered with "My earliest recollection of the Women's Institute"; a history of the branch was read; community singing featured familiar songs from 1900 to 1953; and as the meeting was held out of doors a tennis match, 1900 style, added to the entertainment.

Col. T. L. Kennedy was guest speaker at **Annan's** fiftieth anniversary. Pieces of the birthday cake were sent to shut-ins and former members who could not be present.

**Hampton's** fiftieth anniversary was celebrated with a banquet at which the district executive presented the branch with a silver cream and sugar tray.

At the fiftieth anniversary of **New Flos** Institute the members entertained their husbands but all the speaking was done by the women. The birthday cake was cut by a charter member, Mrs. A. Potts, eighty-five years old.

**Staffa** had six past presidents in attendance including their first president, Mrs. Sarah A. Hill, the only surviving charter member.

At **Binbrook's** fiftieth anniversary it was recalled that the women who organized the institute were officers of the first Institute at Stoney Creek—Mrs. E. D. Smith, Mrs. Erland Lee and Mrs. J. H. McNeilly. Life memberships were given to Mrs. T. Evans and Miss Kate McAllister, each a member of forty-eight years' standing.

**North Middlesex** district marked its fiftieth anniversary with the publication of a "Golden Anniversary History" of the district, with introductory messages by Mrs. George Wilson and Mrs. Harmon Morton who compiled the book, Mrs. Wales the District President, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Purcell, Mr. Riddell, County Agricultural Representative, Mrs. Hobbs, Chairman London Convention area, Mrs. Carmichael, F.W.I.O. Board Member. There were tributes to deceased leaders, Mrs. George Edwards, Miss Emily Guest and Mrs. M. E. Graham, a report with dates of the organization of the branches, and a history of the

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## THE BRIDGE BUILDER

By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway  
Came in the evening cold and gray  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fears for him  
But he stopped when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with  
building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way,  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge, at evening  
tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head  
"Good friend, in the path I have come,"  
he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm which has been as naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth might a pitfall  
be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,  
Good friend, I am building the bridge  
for him."

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district and of each branch. Compiling this book must have been quite a task but it will be even more valuable fifty years hence than it is now. A copy was given to each person at the anniversary meeting . . . A highlight of the celebration was a playlet, re-enacting the first meeting of the first Institute in the district, Coldstream. Another feature was a map of the county with the location of each branch marked by an electric bulb. The Past President of the Juniors, Miss Agnes Prebble, who was responsible for the map arrangement, turned on the light as the representative of each branch came on the stage . . . Mrs. Oille, the only living charter member of Coldstream, cut the birthday cake.

**Kintore's** fiftieth anniversary programme was in charge of the Historical Research committee. The highlight was an amusing debate "Resolved that the good old days **were** the good old days." A sketch of the Institute's history was divided into decades, each reviewed with items from the Minute Books, and musical numbers for each decade were given by members, dressed in the costumes of the period. Mrs. Wilbur Dunlop, the only charter member living, was presented with a gift and also with the memorial bouquet sent by Mrs. George Goodall of Vancouver and Miss Jean McCalum of Calgary in honor of their mother, one of the earliest presidents. Corsages were given to the oldest active member, Mrs. Robert McNally, and to a former president, Mrs. McDowell of Saskatchewan. Members of the Junior Institute assisted the social committee in serving tea.