Golden Anniversaries

NEW FLOS Institute celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with an evening banquet to which members' and guests' husbands were invited. Mrs. James Bell was guest speaker, and the birthday cake was cut by Mrs. A. Potts eighty-five years old, a continuous member for fifty years and winner of twenty-seven prizes for regular attendance. The history of the Institute's activities from 1903 to 1953 was given by the secretary, Mrs. Sam Allen. A few of the early projects reported were: sending delegates to the convention in Guelph in 1906; for ten years holding a joint meeting with the Farmers' Institute every November; in 1908 holding the Institute's first garden party to raise funds to buy books for the Institute library; building fences around two churches, planting trees around two schools. These led into a program of fine present-day work.

Special features of **Ethel** Institute's fiftieth anniversary were a debate: "Resolved that the 'gold old days' were the good days," and a skit "Album of Memories" in which Mrs. de Deolder sang the song "Memories," then the "photos" in the album were shown—ladies dressed in costumes in keeping with a number of old songs sung by the audience under Mrs. de Deolder's leadership. The refreshments were served by members of the Girls' Homemaking Club.

"God gave us memories that we might have roses in December" was the motto taken by **Fordwich** for its fiftieth anniversary meeting. Instead of a roll call, each past president gave the highlight of her term of office. Miss Margaret Brophy of Wingham radio station was guest speaker, and there was a social half hour when the women mingled with their guests, looked over old minute books, pictures, life membership certificates and letters from those who could not attend. An unusual feature of this anniversary was that the Institute, as an "anniversary gift," had the auditorium of the hall painted and drapes hung at the window.

At Bluevale's fiftieth anniversary, Mrs. L. H. Bosman, president in 1921 and now ninety-six years old, was the guest especially honored. She cut the birthday cake. Homemaking Club Girls, trained by local leaders from the Institute, and wearing the Institute colors in yellow caps and blue and yellow aprons, served the refreshments, assisted by young men of the community.

Over two hundred attended **Oakwood's** fiftieth anniversary. The secretary reports: "Old time pictures were shown and our oldest living president was present and assisted in cutting the cake. An old time dance by members in ancient dress won great applause. Mrs. Carl Moynes presented the history of the branch and baskets of flowers for departed members, pioneer members, future members and guests were placed by grandchildren of the officers."

At **Burgessville's** fiftieth anniversary, among the greetings from friends was a letter from Mrs. Wesley West recalling the days when she and Mrs. Justus Cohoe, the first district president and secretary went about organizing institutes throughout Oxford County. On one of their journeys they got off the train in a pouring rain and there was no one to meet them so they walked to their meeting place—a walk that took them about three hours. Burgessville's anniversary celebration began with a noon dinner. Mrs. D. H. Hart spoke on "Look To This Day," from the premise that yesterday is past, tomorrow is a vision, but this day well lived is the best preparation for the next fifty years. Mrs. C. E. Walker, the only charter member present, cut the birthday cake. The history of the Institute was given in three sections: "In the beginning," "Through the Years," "Newer Developments of Recent Years" and a humorous prophecy of the next fifty years. There was a display of crafts, old and new; of quilts and old pictures and curios. In contrast to these, the Girls' Homemaking Club sponsored by the Institute showed an exhibit of their work in the club unit "What Shall I Wear?"

At **South Lobo's** fiftieth anniversary, the district president, Mrs. Harvey Wales, paid a tribute to the early pioneers, praising the work of the late Mrs. George Edwards, district president from 1914 to 1930 and provincial president from 1920 to 1924, and Mrs. Newman Tuckey who had served the institutes as member of the Western Ontario Fair Board and secretary of the convention area. The president, Mrs. Norman Reith, presented Mrs. Tuckey with a life membership. The Institute's history, reviewed by Mrs. Edwin Campbell, recalled that it was organized in 1904 in the hall over the blacksmith shop and that Laura Rose, the first government lecturer addressed the meeting in the Masonic Hall that evening.

"Retrospect, reminiscence and reformation" were features of **Beachburg's** fiftieth anniversary celebration. A record of North Renfrew's first District Annual and a history of Beachburg's fifty years were of special interest; and Mrs. S. Wilson of South Renfrew traced the work of the Institutes from their beginning up to the present, carrying out the original objectives according to the needs of the present time.