

# Golden Anniversary

**Irwin** Institute in West Kent celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a supper and social evening held in the hall where the Institute was organized. Over one hundred and fifty guests attended, and three of the twelve charter members.

**Conn** in North Wellington had its fiftieth anniversary celebration in the form of a turkey dinner attended by over two hundred guests and former members. The oldest charter member present, Mrs. Wm. Duncan, cut the birthday cake and seven of the oldest members were presented with corsages. The dinner was served by the 4-H Homemaking Club girls.

**Springvale** used the Institute colors in yellow daffodils and blue hyacinths to decorate the church where their fiftieth anniversary meeting was held. The two charter members present recalled that the first meeting was held on a stormy February day and that the mode of travel at that time left something to be desired "but anyone got anywhere they wanted to go if they tried hard enough." Mrs. Harvey Paisley of Dunville, the guest speaker, gave some interesting facts from the lives of pioneers in the Institute movement, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen and in the international field, Mrs. Raymond Sayre. In a history of the Institute by Mrs. Earl Carpenter, two items of interest were that in 1911 the Institute bought a vacuum cleaner which they rented to members for twenty-five cents a day and to nonmembers for fifty cents; and that the subject of the first

paper given at a meeting was "Judicious Buying," by Mrs. Addie Benn.

At the fiftieth anniversary of **Essex** Institute the candles were lighted by the only living charter member, Mrs. Scott Thornton, of Leamington, who gave an interesting account of the first few meetings. Mrs. Minerva Armstrong, who joined the branch forty-seven years ago, gave a synopsis of a paper given that year on "Good Housekeeping" and Mrs. E. Schipp contributed a paper of recipes of fifty years ago and now.

At **Cambray's** fiftieth anniversary the historian, Mrs. A. E. Tamblin, reported that the Institute was organized on a cold stormy day and it began with only five members, but twenty-two more joined before the year ended. Mrs. Tamblin said: "Our aim at that time was not so much the raising of funds for charitable purposes as now. We met for the purpose of talking over the problems arising in our homes, to exchange ideas and recipes, and, in fact, to be a sort of 'mutual improvement society'." Mrs. W. Burns, a former Cambrey girl, now F.W.I.O. Board Member for the zone, was guest speaker.

**East Kent** district celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at Highgate. Three hundred women attended a luncheon. Miss Anna P. Lewis was guest speaker and was presented with a handsome table cloth as a gift for her approaching wedding. This district celebration was held on March 10. On March 31, **Highgate** branch celebrated its fiftieth birthday with a family night.

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## New Branch in a City Survey

**P**ERHAPS the new housing developments springing up on the outskirts of most cities may be logical new territory for the organization of Women's Institutes. The following letter from Mrs. John Armstrong, President of King's Forest Branch recently organized in South Wentworth, tells its own story:

"Although we are within the city of Hamilton limits, this is a small, new survey in a recently annexed section, and because of the manner in which it was laid out, it really seems more like a little village than part of a big city. There are sixty homes, mostly with young mothers who cannot get out often and who were feeling rather lonely.

"Personally I was a farm woman for most of my life and a Women's Institute member for nearly thirty-five years, and I have missed the Institute very much since I have had to live in the city. So at our area convention I asked Miss Lewis if it would be permissible to organize a new Branch in the city. She said,

'I see no reason why it should not be done, providing you never lose sight of the rural point of view, since the Institute was originally meant to be a rural organization.' That suited me perfectly as my main reason for wanting to get one started was to try to get a better understanding between producers and consumers, as I am still very rural at heart.

"No one in the survey, except myself, had ever been a member of an Institute, the majority never having even heard of it; but nearly all welcomed the idea of a get-together close to their homes where they could exchange ideas and learn something. We hold our meetings in the evening when husbands can babysit.

"Our District President, Mrs. S. Harrison and our District Secretary, Mrs. N. A. Fletcher, conducted our organization meeting. We already have thirty-two members with more expected and we hope soon to be a creditable unit in our great organization."