

# Fiftieth Anniversaries

**A**MONG the hundred members, ex-members and 4-H Homemaking Club girls of **Aughrim** Institute who met to celebrate the Institute's fiftieth anniversary were: a daughter of the first president who came from Detroit for the day, three daughters of the first hostess, who came from London, and the only living charter member, Mrs. Clifford Shortt, still an active member. Mrs. Shortt cut the birthday cake. The first six years' records of the Institute have disappeared, the earliest Minutes being for 1913. A number of members, dressed in costumes of the day, re-enacted the second meeting for which there are Minutes so that the first Minutes on record could be read. Four former members of that year returned to take part in this, answering to their maiden names and two of them singing a duet. Two members had prepared a history of the branch which was printed in an eight-page booklet and sold at the meeting. Copies were given to special guests. (The anniversary year was celebrated by having the year's programmes printed on gold paper.) There were greetings from Mrs. Clifford Davis, an alternate F.W.I.O. Board member, and a report of the Institute's relationship with its Friendship Link in Wales. Some of the 4-H Homemaking Club girls gave musical numbers and some helped to serve refreshments.

**Embro and West Zorra** Institute celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at a luncheon with Mrs. J. E. Houck as guest speaker. A church group with no Embro Institute members catered for the luncheon so that all the Embro members could sit down together. Three of the four living charter members were present and assisted with the ceremonies — Miss Graeme McDonald, Mrs. W. G. Dawes and Mrs. A. A. McKinnon. A display of quilts, crocheted bedspreads, antique jugs and vases

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## POST-MORTEM KINDNESS

Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your affection sealed and laid away until your friends are dead. Speak your words of commendation while their ears can hear them. The things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their departure, send beforehand to brighten their homes ere they go out of them. Appreciation when the heart is stilled has no inspiration for the spirit.

Post-mortem remembrances do not cheer the hearts of the burdened. So if you have vases laid away, and perfumes of sympathy and affection you intend to dispense some day, open them now when others will be refreshed by them, and do not wait until it is too late.

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and a very new exhibit of articles made in the extension project "Sew to Save Dollars and Make Sense" gave an anniversary touch to the hall. Mrs. J. D. Hossack, F.W.I.O. vice-president and daughter of a charter member presented the branch with a call bell. Mrs. Walter Ross — remembered by many Institute members as Miss Sutherland who worked with Mr. Putnam years ago, presented life memberships to Mrs. G. M. Ross and Mrs. Wm. Fleming. Reading the history of the branch, Mrs. R. J. Sutherland recalled that in the early 1900's Embro and West Zorra had a flourishing Farmer's Institute and at the January meeting in 1908 women were invited to a meeting to hear Dr. Annie Backus speak. At this meeting the Women's Institute was organized. The history recorded a sound and active programme of education and service through the fifty years since that time.

Music had an important place on the programme at **Little Current's** fiftieth anniversary tea with selections played on a zither and the vocal solo "I Love a Little Cottage." The book used to record the Minutes of the first meeting on October 9, 1907, was on display. At this meeting sixteen women were in attendance and the organization was conducted by a Mrs. McTavish, a representative from the Department. A corsage was sent to the only living charter member, Mrs. John Carruthers, 93 years old.

**Edenvale** had its first president, Mrs. W. Culham and its first secretary-treasurer, Mrs. H. Young, at its fiftieth anniversary celebration. The county or area convention chairman, Mrs. G. R. Lane was the speaker and Mrs. A. S. Maw gave the Institute's history. An entertainment feature reported was the singing of "When You and I Were Young" by two members dressed as a bride and groom of fifty years ago.

**Ayr's** fiftieth anniversary celebration paid tribute to the Watson sisters, Mary Urie, principal of Macdonald Institute and Elizabeth who was president of the branch for its first thirteen years. The Institute was organized by Mrs. William Elliott of Galt, Mrs. Knowles of Hespeler and Mrs. J. Anderson. It was recalled that at the third meeting Miss Watson had given a demonstration of the use of a mop wringer. Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless was one of the early speakers. Among the Institute's creditable accomplishments of Red Cross and community work it was reported that since the local community centre was built in 1950 the Institute has contributed almost \$11,000 in cash donations, rental and supplies. This Institute made a pleasant arrangement for its anniversary luncheon in having a neighboring