

Here and There With the Institutes

Notes from Correspondents, Press and Observation

Life Memberships For a Mother and Daughter

By Kathryn Lamb

AN UNUSUAL event in Women's Institute history took place Feb. 3, when a mother and daughter, with service totalling more than seventy years, were honored with life memberships in the Centreville branch.

Mrs. A. L. Durrant was presented with her life membership badge by Mrs. P. A. Snider, aged eighty-four, also a life member. Her daughter, Mrs. Edward Brown, received her badge from Mrs. Clayton Knarr, president of the branch. It came as a birthday present for Mrs. Brown who celebrated the next day.

Mrs. Durrant joined the Winterbourne branch (North Waterloo) in 1906, shortly after its formation, and later was active in the West End and Royal branches (near Guelph) and Centreville (near Kitchener). She has held many offices in the Institute, but in reminiscing, Mrs. Durrant spoke particularly of the sewing done during the war. Her group within the Institute at Guelph made as many as 42 quilts a year. Mrs. Durrant, who has been ill recently, said she felt she was now "on the retired list."

Mrs. Brown attended Institute meetings as a child with her mother. She first joined the West End branch. A former president of the Centreville branch, she has been a member of it for 20 years. She has been federated representative of North Waterloo district Women's Institutes and is presently on the executive committee of Guelph area Women's Institutes.

The day following the presentation of her life membership, Mrs. Brown received word that she had won first prize in the F.W.I.O. competition on "Things My Grandmother Told Me."

For Dominion Day Programmes

The Citizen periodical published by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration gives these suggestions for topics for addresses on a Citizenship Day or Dominion Day programme: "Canadian Traditions—What Are They?" "Our Canadian Heritage," "The Challenge of Canada's Future,"

"What is True Patriotism?" "Canada's Role in the Commonwealth."

For a debate or panel discussion or for a speech by students, these subjects are recommended: "Sports or scholarship—which contributes more to good citizenship?" "Of what importance is Canadian literature, drama, music and art to us as citizens?" "True patriot love—what should this mean?" "Resolved that a good citizen of Canada is also a good world citizen." "Unity through diversity," "Our Bi-cultural Traditions."

An easily staged pageant is offered: "Birth of Our Nation," available from the author, Mrs. Muriel Clements, Room 31, Legislative Buildings, Regina, Sask. Single copies, price 50 cents, 3 or more 25 cents each. This is advertised as a colourful pageant, depicting the history and varied population of Canada. It can be staged elaborately with large numbers of singers and dancers or adapted for a simple presentation.

Local Appreciation

Last Christmas the Good Neighbours Women's Institute in North Essex packed boxes of Christmas treats and sent them to elderly and shut-in people in the community, the secretary, Mrs. Bruce Lenon, reports. Following is a "thank you" note from a man who received one of the boxes:

"Hi, Neighbours! This is something new to me as I did not know there was such an organization in the neighbourhood. But I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in thinking of me and sending me the delicious box of fruit and the bottle of Christmas cheer with a kick in it." (This, Mrs. Lenon assures me, was ginger ale.—Ed) "The kick is for me to think that someone was thinking of Old Man Dawson at this season of the year . . . We used to have a Farmers' Institute but it fell through for lack of interest on the men's part. Should have had some women in it to keep it going. Now the wonder is how a grip full of Christmas cheer could be put into a box of that size. And that Christmas cake is out of this world! And now this thought in closing. I hope 'when the roll is called up yonder' we will all be there where we can still be good neighbours."



Left to right, Mrs. Durrant and daughter, Mrs. Brown, are presented with life membership badges by Mrs. Snider, aged 84 and Centreville President, Mrs. Knarr.