

I would suggest to any Institute situated near a Home for the Aged, that this is one project that brings satisfaction to both the giver and the receiver. Writing letters or doing a bit of shopping is also appreciated.

At the time of our Annual Fall Tea, sponsored by the Women's Institutes of Central Algoma, at which the Home residents are entertained and the public welcomed, we sold approximately \$70 worth of toys, other handicraft articles and mittens knitted by residents. Each individual who had participated in the making of any of these items received a thank you note and a small cash donation.

We have worked mostly with the women residents of the home, but the men make very attractive baskets out of popsicle sticks; and one man makes beautiful rugs.

Minstrel Show and Variety Night

By Mrs. Ross McKinlay

IN OUR Cold Springs Institute in Northumberland county we started out to plan an evening of entertainment to make a little money for our Institute. Someone casually mentioned a Minstrel Show; another suggested a Variety Night; so it was decided to combine the two ideas.

As the details were discussed the project picked up momentum and everyone pitched in to hunt up material, look up jokes and combine their efforts to produce a show which, in our estimation, has been one of our greatest successes.

We first put on our show on the twenty-seventh of April in our own hall with a capacity crowd. Since then it has been requested seven times by various organizations in other centres, some of these groups being other Institute branches. With each performance the production had to be almost rewritten as many of the jokes pertained solely to individuals in the audience. And of course each audience was different although it was reported that one individual was so taken with the performance that he attended five times.

The minstrel show netted us over \$300; and the activity will long be remembered as an occasion of fun, of work and of a feeling of good will among us.

Miscellaneous Briefs

THIS interesting idea on historical research came from Mrs. Arthur McLachlan, P.R.O. for South Lobo Institute:

Mr. Orlo Miller, noted historian speaking at a meeting of South Lobo Women's Institute, challenged the members of all Women's Institutes to do more research to find why our ancestors came so far to settle in the bush country of Canada. He suggested that an exchange of knowledge between our British Members and Canadian members could be valuable. The Women's Institutes

in Britain could furnish information about these people before they left their homes in the Old Land. And we in Canada could tell what happened to these courageous folk who pioneered diligently; how with faith in God and perseverance our great-great-grandfathers cleared the land. For these men and their families history should record more events in their era. Above all it would be an achievement for our Institute if we could find why great-great-grandfather went away from everything in the Old Land to start a new life in a strange country far across the ocean. Our universities and local libraries should have first access to this information, once it is secured and compiled.

River Valley established an interesting friendship with a link Institute, Abbots' Leigh, in England, in 1947, Mrs. Percy MacMullen reports. Gifts were exchanged and as England was on a strict food ration for the next few years, River Valley sent a number of food parcels. Since 1955 Christmas gifts have been exchanged, River Valley sending magazines, mostly, and the English Institute sending such things as calendars and lavender sachet bags. When a River Valley member visited Abbots' Leigh a few years ago she was given a bell to bring back to the home Institute—a bell to use to call a meeting to order . . . River Valley had an interesting way of presenting its fiftieth anniversary programme, appointing a member to be in charge of the presentation of the Institute's history for each ten year period. The presentations varied, including talks, skits, demonstrations, songs, poetry.

Verschoye also received a silver bell from its link Institute in England, to mark its silver anniversary.

When Mrs. Wm. Remple, United Nations Convener for F.W.I.C. visited Ontario in May, the executive of North Oxford Women's Institute District arranged a social evening for her, reports Mrs. J. H. Clark. As a result of this meeting and a talk by Mrs. Remple on her visit to the British West Indies, North Oxford at the district annual voted to buy a UNESCO Coupon No. 400. Mrs. Clark believes this was the first purchase of such a coupon by an Ontario Women's Institute. She writes: "The UNESCO Coupon No. 400" plan is to raise money to encourage adult education under the extramural department of the British West Indies University. The project will be carried out along the same lines as the Ceylon Gift Coupon. A coupon No. 400 costs \$10. Branches will be asked to contribute \$1 or more.

Kilsyth's June meeting featured an interesting bridal programme arranged by the executive and the convener of home economics. One member read the poem "How Do I Love Thee?" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning from "Sonnets From the Portuguese," a poem "My Wish Upon Your Wedding Day", a portion of the marriage ceremony and "The Origin of the Wedding Cake." There were humorous readings, too, including "Men Get Married Too", and "Do Farmers Make Good Husbands?" Musical numbers, vocal and piano solos were in keeping with the theme of weddings; there was a paper on "Wedding Etiquette", one on "The Origin of Bridal Showers" and a contest relating to a bride's wardrobe.