

## Whitby and Kemble Women's Institutes Celebrate 70th Birthdays



Mrs. Russel Saunders President and Mrs. Earl Ward Secretary examining the Tweedsmuir History of the Whitby Branch of the Women's Institute, the second Institute, at their 70th birthday party.

AT THE FARMERS INSTITUTE meeting at Kemble in 1897, which included both men and women, the late Mrs. James Gardiner was a guest speaker and her subject was, "Man Works From Sun to Sun, but Women's Work Is Never Done". She expressed the thought that it would be nice if women could meet monthly, as it would be a boon to Rural women, who could discuss home making problems and exchange ideas.

In August of that year, Mrs. Gardiner called from home to home inviting the women to a meeting in the Library Hall for the purpose of organizing a Women's Institute, similar to that recently formed at Stoney Creek. A clause in the first Constitution shows that the first idea was to promote better architecture and sanitation in the homes and to study food and fuel values. Later came a desire to learn and advance in many ways, which has never disappeared from Rural Canada.

The outcome of this meeting was that Mrs. J. S. Smith of Whitby organized the Third Women's Institute in the World.

When Kemble was organized it was given encouragement and assistance by several Owen Sound ladies, among whom were Mrs. J. McQuaker and Mrs. J. C. Griffiths.

The first officers were: Hon. President, Mrs. J. S. Smith of Whitby; President, Mrs. James Gardiner, an office which she held for ten years; Vice-President, Mrs. Daniel Davidson; Secretary, Mrs. Franklin Wilcox; Treasurer, Mrs. George Beckett; Directors: Keppel—Mrs. J. Gardiner and Mrs. William McGregor;

Sarawak—Miss Muir and Mrs. W. J. Saunders. Some twenty-three members were enrolled at this meeting.

Notes tell us that Mrs. William McGregor succeeded Mrs. Wilcox as Secretary after a short while.

The president of Kemble Women's Institute is now Mrs. John Edmonstone, R.R. 1, Clavering; Secretary—Mrs. William Craig, R.R. 1, Clavering. There is a membership of twenty-eight.

Members of Kemble Women's Institute are proud of their long history of W.I. work and take pride in keeping their Tweedsmuir History up to date.

### Whitby

AT WHITBY on the 29th of June last, a meeting of the ladies of South Ontario was convened by Mrs. J. L. Smith for the purpose of organizing a Women's Institute. There was a fair attendance, considerable interest was manifested and a partial organization was affected. A short time later another meeting was called, officers were elected and the Women's Institute of South Ontario was fairly launched."

The above paragraph is quoted from, "The 1900 Report of The Farmer's Institutes." Thus we have an authentic record of the founding of the second Women's Institute in the world. The report continues and tells us that on October 12, 1897 the first regular meeting was held in the Council Chambers at Whitby. The President Mrs. S. L. Brown explained the objects of the association and proceeded to carry out the programme that had been provided.

A Miss Meen of Whitby read a paper on "Window Gardening." Laura Rose (Stephen) was present and presented two addresses, "Bread Making" and "Butter Making."

The officers of the second Women's Institute were Honorary President, Mrs. J. L. Smith; president — Mrs. S. L. Brown; Vice president, Mrs. Purvis; secretary, Mrs. Wm. Anderson; treasurer, Mrs. J. B. Mitchell.

In closing her report of this meeting the secretary says "Judging from this, our first meeting, I think we may safely say that the Women's Institute of South Ontario is likely to become, at an early date, a very successful and useful organization."

The Whitby Branch of Women's Institute is still very active. The president in 1967 is Mrs. Russel Saunders and the secretary is Mrs. Earl Ward.