

W.I. President Retires in Tune.

To the tune of "Beautiful Lady" the Provincial President, Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, entered the hall of the Nepean Sportsplex in Ottawa, where she was honoured by the Women's Institute members of Eastern Area.

Approximately 250 friends came from the Ottawa Valley to pay tribute to the Provincial President who is serving the last year of her term.

The Stormont "Ladies in White" delighted the audience with their usually fine entertainment. A number written especially for the day "Do You Love Your Neighbour Every One" was appreciated.

The activities were in charge of the Area President, Mrs. Wm. MacLean and Area Secretary Mrs. Howard Giles, with Mrs. Hugh McMillan at the organ.

Entertainment included a skit "Tea for Mrs. Noblitt" by Mrs. Ralph Johnson and Mrs. James Lemmon, "Get Away Old Man" from an old Neil Cleary gramophone "from away back when" and a Seaway Valley Song written eighteen years ago reminiscent of some of the places now flooded, Long Sault and the Rapids Queen, Our Lady of Grace Church at Dickenson's Landing, located at the entrance of the locks on the peaceful St. Lawrence.



Mrs. Neil Cleary at piano, Mrs. Kathleen McMillan, and Mrs. H. Noblitt enjoy the music.

Mrs. Frances Bowen brought greetings on behalf of the Home Economics Branch, saying Miss McKercher was indeed sorry not to be able to come, however "I'm glad to be here in her place." Mrs. Bowen went on to say that she had spent many pleasant hours attending last year's Area Conventions with Mrs. Noblitt so this event was special.

On behalf of all the Area members Mrs. Hugh McMillan presented a scroll to Mrs. Noblitt. "We the Branch members of Eastern Area of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have gathered here today to honour you as our Provincial President. We are proud and happy to have such an esteemed personality in our Area. We realize you have done much good. Branch, District and Area work, prior to being elected to the Provincial Board and then to Provincial President, the highest position possible in the Province of Ontario, and the second Provincial President to be elected from the Eastern Area. (Mrs. Carrie Field Robertson, Lanark County, held the office of Provincial President from 1924-27). In order that our Area members may long remember your achievement we have established a scholarship to be known as "The Bernice Noblitt Scholarship" which will be awarded annually to members of the Area, for the preservation and promotion of the skill of Arts and Crafts, or other educational projects as approved by the Area Board of Directors."

"We have appreciated the guidance you have given us in the past and it is our hope and prayer that you may continue to work for Home and Country, and it is our earnest wish that you may remain in the Eastern Area for many years to come to assist us in your usual capable, pleasant manner. We further wish you continued success in all your endeavors." Signed by the President and Secretary of the Area on behalf of all the Area members.

Mrs. Noblitt found the whole affair a surprise but thanked all for the honour bestowed on her, all the kind thoughts, especially all the work put into the preparation and was astonished that "so many have come out."

"It has been my desire to build a stronger Women's Institute during my term as President. I can think of only two other events more special, my wedding day and the day our daughter Shirley arrived. It is my hope that the members are honouring "Harvey" as well, for without his cooperation and encouragement I could not have made it."

Mrs. Noblitt went on to say that the office holds a great deal of responsibility and if she has encouraged the members to become more familiar with the objectives and more conscious of the important role the Women's Institutes play at home and outside the home, her term of office will have fulfilled some of her goals.

This has been a most wonderful experience and an opportunity to broaden horizons and learn at every turn; to meet fine women, to sit on Boards, to travel, to continually upgrade our knowledge. The Women's Institute has a great future if we will continue to open our minds.

Mr. Noblitt and their daughter Shirley and niece were introduced.

Afternoon tea and dainties were served and everyone had an opportunity to mingle and enjoy a lovely afternoon, the result of excellent planning by many members.