

## *Union W.I. celebrate 75th Anniversary Luncheon*



*75th holds Memories*

*Mother-Daughter team, Mrs. Sowden, first Secretary of Bowmanville W.I. and Mrs. L. W. Hughes, President Central Area.*

Ninety-four year old Mrs. Sowden first Secretary of Bowmanville Women's Institute was present for the 75th Anniversary celebrations. In fact she participated in the programme, by reciting two recitations. She has seen many changes in the Women's Institute, the community and life in general. Mrs. L. W. Hughes, President of Central Area was guest speaker. It was a proud moment for this Mother-Daughter team to be recognized for their Institute accomplishments by the sixty-three members and guests present for this special day.

Bowmanville Branch has contributed much to the community during the 75 years through projects which benefited all. Institute members have contributed to the artificial ice fund at the arena, toward the stage lights and rest rooms at the town hall, as well as assisting the library. Education was not forgotten and prizes for school children were provided along with donations to community funds and organizations.



*Members attending Grenville South 63rd District Annual pose on the steps of the United Church at North Augusta. Seated in the front row are the officers. L-r Mrs. Ross Sommerville, Past President; Mrs. Roy Simpson, newly elected President; Mrs. Seymour Reynolds, newly elected 1st Vice; Mrs. Wm. Burchell, Secretary; Mrs. Mansell Hough, newly elected Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Arnold Wilson, President; Mrs. John Mayor, Public Relations Officer.*

One of the five recipients of a life membership was Mrs. Ernest Rittenhouse. It was extremely special because Miss Helen McKercher, Director, Home Economics Branch pinned the badge on during the presentation.

Their association goes back a long way, when Miss McKercher was the Home Economist in Lincoln thirty-two years ago, she pinned a 4H pin on Ethel Burkholder now Mrs. Rittenhouse and as Miss McKercher "did the honours" she said "it's a first for me, it takes me back a long way to those days in the County and I'm proud to see one of my former 4H Homemaking Club girls achieve this distinction. In fact I've never even presented a life membership before."

She continued to wish every success and the best to the others including Mrs. Joseph Wismer, Mrs. Douglas MacNinch, Mrs. Wm. Honsberger, Mrs. Bruce Haynes.

Dr. Ethel Chapman, special guest, impressed upon all that it is important to keep the standards of Women's Institute high, that the quality of WI work is most important because now organizations must compete for women's time. The more things change the more they stay the same — home, family, and standards within the family unit are as important today as 75 years ago.

The history of the Branch by Mrs. John Morrison revealed the tremendous amount of work done by members during both wars and their strong community ties and involvement over the seventy-five years. It was evident the WI was held in high esteem for many community minded citizens were at the head table. The Hon. Robert Welch, MP, The Hon. Wm. Andras, MPP, Lincoln Mayor Fred McKenzie, Chairman of Niagara Region John Campbell, as well as the District President Mrs. Wm. Harper, Area President Mrs. Lorne Grey, FWIO Board Director Mrs. Leo Jones, Home Economist Joyce Canning, Editor of Home and Country Mrs. Zoeller.



*The Community appreciates Union Branch. Miss Helen McKercher pins life membership badges on l-r Mrs. Bruce Haynes, Mrs. Joseph Wismer Sr., Mrs. Wm. Honsberger, Mrs. Ernest Rittenhouse and Mrs. Douglas MacNinch. All received a life membership certificate as well.*