

Seventy-five WI celebrates 75 years of service

Seventy-five years of service to their community will be celebrated next Wednesday, May 30, by the members of the Ripley Women's Institute.

The Institute is celebrating the occasion with a luncheon at 1 p.m. at which the Honourable Pauline McGibbon, lieutenant-governor of Ontario, will speak.

The Institute has had a long and interesting history. Formed in 1904, the Ripley organization has always been there to jump in and help out in community projects. Over the years they have assisted in the building of schools, organizing fairs and have assisted with the Township Hall, tennis, agriculture, the memorial arena and with yearly grants to the library.

In addition to bettering the community, the club has also been active in area, district and even the national level of the Federated Women's Institute.

Mrs. Dierlam in 1930 and Mrs. J. R. White in 1942 were elected to the federal board in Toronto.

Mrs. Francis Gemmill was elected president of the district in 1966 and was also elected president of the Grey-Bruce area in 1976, after having served three years as a provincial board director in Toronto.

Mrs. James Kirkpatrick was elected district president in 1972 and Mrs. Ross Cumming held the same position in 1978.

Mrs. Gemmill and Mrs. Kirkpatrick served, as well, as presidents of the Bruce County rally.

At the present time, Mrs. Joe Scott is the area convener of resolutions.

In 1955, the Women's Institute became actively involved with the young people of the area through 4-H homemaking clubs. These are held each year and sponsored by the Institute.

The Ripley Institute received national recognition in 1952 when a quilt made by the club of the Canadian coat of arms was presented by the riding's MP at the time, Donald Blue of Ripley. The presentation was made to Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent. Mrs. Blue was president of the Institute at the time the presentation was made.

The quilt was made by the branch under the eye of Mrs. David B. MacDonald of Ripley and was designed by Yvonne Kathleen Morgan of Huron Township.

In addition to their work of helping out the community with money at times of need, they also



Pauline McGibbon

opened a soldiers' relief fund in 1914, knitting and sewing for the soldiers overseas) the institute has a fine history of the village in its Tweedsmuir History Book. As well as the history of the institute, the book contains a history of the village and well-known residents through the years.

Mrs. L. Outerbridge, curator of the first Tweedsmuir Book held the position until 1965. Under her direction the book took first prize in district competition. Mrs. Outerbridge took on the editing, typing, publishing and microfilming of the book, which was the first in the county to be microfilmed.

Mrs. Mary (Donnie) MacDonald has continued on Mrs. Outerbridge's fine work in book two of the history. Others who have helped include Mrs. W.J. MacKay, Mrs. Charles Liddle, Mrs. Gordon Scott and

Mrs. Ross Martyn.

In 1967, the Tweedsmuir History Book was condensed and published by the Ripley Institute as a centennial project.

Two charter members of the Institute remain, Mrs. R. J. Graham, the first president and Miss C. MacDonald.

Listed below are the presidents of the institute since its inception: 1905-15 Mrs. R. J. Graham; 15-16 Mrs. S. T. Jackson; 16-18 Mrs. Rev. McLean; 18-19 Mrs. S. Bowers; 19-20 Mrs. G. H. Mooney; 20-22 Mrs. R. Martyn; 22-23 Mrs. M. H. Dierlam; 23-24 Miss M. McInnes; 24-25 Mrs. L. Culbert; 25-26 Mrs. A. McAuley; 26-27 Mrs. D. J. McDonald; 27-28 Mrs. R. G. Munn; 28-30 Mrs. Thornton; 30-32 Mrs. J. Bryce; 32-34 Mrs. J. R. White; 34-35 Mrs. D. R. Finlayson; 35-37 Mrs. R. Martyn; 37-38 Mrs. O. Crawford; 38-39 Mrs. R. MacKenzie; 39-40 Mrs. Walter Lane; 40-41 Mrs. E. Morgan; 41-43 Mrs. N. McLennan; 43-45 Mrs. D. McDonald; 45-47 Mrs. K. McKay; 47-49 Mrs. A. Wylds; 49-51 Mrs. R. Martyn; 51-53 Mrs. D. Blue; 53-55 Mrs. D. McArthur; 55-57 Mrs. A. Gamble; 57-59 Mrs. F. Gemmill; 59-61 Mrs. J. Kirkpatrick; 61-63 Mrs. Donnie MacDonald; 63-65 Mrs. Joe Scott; 65-67 Mrs. Andrew Patterson; 67-69 Mrs. Walter Lock; 69-71 Mrs. Finlay McLeod; 72-74 Mrs. Donald McLean; 74-76 Mrs. Graham Cook; 76-78 Mrs. Ross Cumming; 78-79 Mrs. Walter Lock.

The Institute's motto is "for Home and Country" and the Ripley branch has served both well over the past 75 years.



LIUENTNANT GOVERNOR of Ontario, Pauline McGibbon was in Ripley Wednesday afternoon to help the Ripley Women's Institute celebrate its 75th anniversary. Here,

Lt. Gov. McGibbon presents Eutha Culbert with a certificate saying she has been a member of the Ripley WI for 58 years. Mrs. Culbert was one of about eight women who

were presented with certificates by the Lieutenant Governor, but Mrs. Culbert has been with the WI the longest. (Bev Clark Photo)