

## EDEN GROVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Eden Grove Women's Institute was organized in January 1961. Mrs. John Maxwell of Chesley conducted the installation of officers. Mrs. Robert Atkinson became the first President with Mrs. Hugh Campbell as Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Wilson Parker as District Director.

It was decided to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. This chapter began with twelve members in January and by May had a membership of twenty-five.

As a new WI organization in the early 60's we started raising funds by sponsoring two Hallowe'en dances at the Cargill Masonic Hall, also by selling tickets on a copper picture donated by Mrs. Wilmer Alexander. This enabled us to sponsor 4-H clubs and also to donate two clocks to the County of Bruce General Hospital in Walkerton, One clock for the women's ward the other for the men's ward. We catered to two weddings and had bake sales at Inverhuron and quilt draws. These funds went towards helping the local Boy Scouts finance a trip to the east coast and to help buy sleeping bags.

We have toured several interesting places for the enjoyment and education of the members. We had our first annual bus trip in 1962. We invited other Institutes to come with us, Among them Bradley, Paisley, Pinkerton, and Jackson. A bus load consisted of about forty people. This continued until 1979. Because of the lack of interest; in 1980 we decided to limit the trip to only our members with cars being the mode of transportation.

In 1967 The WI entered the Cargill Centennial Parade and won second prize for the organizational float class. The theme of the float being "Old and New methods of Homemaking".

In 1973 the members decided to add Cargill to the name making the new name Eden Grove and Cargill WI.

As the years past we have sold tickets on several quilts, lawn chair, knit afghans, crocheted table runners, Christmas decorations and had bake and variety sales and raised a good amount at our lunch booth at a members auction sale in the spring of 1987.