

the Salem Branch. The Belmont and Dorchester W.I.'s were invited. They decided to carry on, interest revived and the next year they had 39 members.

During the 1920's the Institute paid to have the floors of the schools at Nilestown and Derwent oiled to keep down the dust. However by the 1930's each School Board oiled its own floors.

In 1922 at the November meeting, the Institute Ode was used for the first time and current events were included in their program also.

When the Salem Branch was organized most of its members were from the Salem church district. Hence it was named Salem W.I. But as time went on, only one or two members were from that area and the rest came from Nilestown. So, in 1927 the name was officially changed to Salem Nilestown W.I.

The Salem Nilestown Institute was always interested in finding ways to make their meetings worthwhile. The Blind Institute of Toronto requested the branch to sell brooms and baskets for them which they did. A bazaar was held annually for several years. A garment making club was organized, a sock-darning contest was the highlight of one meeting and a button hole contest at another meeting. An exhibit of house dresses made by members was held and the winning garment was sent to compete in the District Annual exhibit. Special church services, the Institute members attending in a body, were held for some years.

The Branch helped serve tea at the Western Fair for several years. A donation was made to help build a memorial waiting room at Byron Sanatorium. A banquet for Institute members and their families was first held in 1931 and continued for several years. Dr. Hugh Stevenson showed slides of his trip abroad. Plays were put on by local talent. We enjoyed a summer series of meetings at the home of Mrs. C. R. May for several years. Euchre parties were held in the Masonic Hall and in some homes as a source of funds. Lunch was served at three farm sales.

During the Second World War years, a great deal of Red Cross work was done in our Branch particularly knitting. Jams and honey were purchased and boxes sent to the army personnel overseas from this area. When they returned a social evening was arranged for them and each was presented with a ring. Showers were held for war brides coming to the community.

In March, 1946, the 30th anniversary of our Branch was fittingly celebrated. All past officers and past members were invited. Mrs. C. Shiels, the first president was unable to be present because of illness, but she sent greetings and flowers were sent to her. The history of the Branch was reviewed and tribute paid to deceased members.

On February 12, 1947 we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the founding of Women's Institutes. Special invitations were sent to all married women and girls in the community. A splendid program was given followed by a 25-cent tea.