



Among guests at the 60th anniversary of Wilton Grove Women's Institute were, from left, Mrs. Austin Zoeller, New Hamburg, president Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario; Mrs. Gordon Jenken, the only charter member of the institute; Mrs. Vermont Pow, St. Thomas, London district WI president; and Mrs. Lorne Crinklaw, Wilton Grove Women's Institute president.

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WILTON GROVE WI

WILTON GROVE — Mrs. Lorne Crinklaw was elected president of the Wilton Grove Women's Institute at the recent annual meeting. She succeeds Mrs. Wallace Laidlaw.

Other officers are: Vice-presidents, Mrs. Frank Jenken, Mrs. R. L. Rodgers; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. J. A. MacGregor; assistant, Mrs. Mac Cameron; district director, Mrs. Laidlaw; assistant, Mrs. Jack Beattie; auditors, Mrs. Thomas Elliot, Mrs. Gordon Gracey; public relations, Mrs. MacGregor; pianist, Mrs. Beattie; branch directors, Mrs. Elda Beattie, Mrs. J. W. Laidlaw, Mrs. George Churchill, Mrs. Richard Jensen, Mrs. Gordon Jenken.

Conveners of standing committees are: Mrs. Henry Anderson, Mrs. Mabel Baxter, Mrs. Beattie, Mrs. Wilson Laidlaw, Mrs. Rodgers, Mrs.

Richard Jensen, Mrs. J. K. Laidlaw, Mrs. John Grieve, Mrs. Frank Jenken.

Institute celebrates 60th anniversary

May 28, 1969

WILTON GROVE — Like a provincial board member for Middlesex County; Mrs. Emerson Stanley, Denfield, president of East Middlesex district; Miss Donna Stewart, London, home economist for Middlesex County; and Mrs. Raymond Lewis, Denfield, wife of the warden of Middlesex.

When Wilton Grove WI members celebrated the Institute's 60th anniversary Wednesday, 14 past presidents were head table guests.

Many of them are descendants of the 49 women who were charter members in 1909.

The group's charter member, Mrs. Gordon Jenken of Belmont, cut the anniversary cake at First Westminster United Church Hall, assisted by Mrs. Jack Beattie who served two terms as president.

Records of the group show the 1909 executive as: President, Mrs. Walter Laidlaw; vice-president, Mrs. George Laidlaw; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. George Murray; directors, Mrs. John C. Nichol, Mrs. George Simpson, Mrs. Fred Bodkin, and Miss Nettie Beattie; and pianist, Miss Deena McCrae.

During the mid-years, Mrs. Norman Anderson gave strong leadership to the group.

Past presidents, all head table guests, taking part in Wednesday's program included Mrs. J. K. Laidlaw, Mrs. George Aberhart, Mrs. Richard Jensen, Mrs. J. A. MacGregor, Mrs. Wallace Laidlaw, Mrs. Andrew Beattie, and Mrs. Wilson Laidlaw.

Whereas the membership was once comprised entirely of farm women, many of them now are urban residents, due to area conversion.

Bringing greetings to Wilton Grove members were Mrs. Austin Zoeller, New Hamburg, president of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario; Mrs. William Stewart, Denfield, wife of the minister of agriculture and food for Ontario; Mrs. Vermont Pow, St. Thomas, president of Women's institutes in the London area; Mrs. Homer Judge, London,

Members and guests were entertained with a program of musical entertainment. Participants were Mrs. Douglas Beattie, Mrs. David Jackson, and Mrs. Tom Jenken, all of London; Mrs. Arnold Weaver and Mrs. Alfred Weldhen, both of Belmont; George Jardine and Donald Ball of Hyatt Avenue Church in London; and the Hopman Brothers of Chatham, variety entertainers.

On the committee that planned the event are: Mrs. Wallace Laidlaw, Mrs. Frank Jenken, Mrs. R. L. Rodgers, Miss Margaret Grieve, and Mrs. Lorne Crinklaw.

Strathroy WI wins prize for rural project

The stakes ran pretty high at Middlesex County building. Up to \$500 changed hands on the turn of a card. Three individuals cashed jackpots containing \$400.

Most everyone went home a winner. Nobody broke the bank.

And the police didn't have to raid the place.

It was a share-the-wealth evening but nobody was gambling.

It was the presentation night for groups which have completed their projects in Middlesex County's centennial rural improvement competition.

Three organizations which placed first in their class received cheques for \$500. Those placing second got \$400 and third prize winners \$300. All other participants collected \$100 grants.

Each group also received two six-foot wooden stakes on which to erect signs identifying their project.

Top organization in each class and the project were: Women's Institutes: Strathroy W.I. improved unused cemetery; Wellburn WI, renovated community centre; Wilton Grove and Belmont WI, jointly improved unused cemetery.