

Of Interest to Women

FWIO's 75th anniversary marked by Elgin branches

It is 75 years since the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario came into being, and the anniversary was marked in happy fashion by Elgin County WI's, last evening, when members from all points in the county gathered in the Grace United Church to view the numerous displays and enjoy the program.

A highlight of the evening was the cutting of the huge anniversary cake, and this pleasant ceremony was performed by Mrs. Keith Heipleh, chairman of the rally committee.

It was an evening of fellowship and reminiscence, as speakers recalled how Erland Lee and Adelaide Hoodless laid the groundwork for what was to become a world-wide thing of the WI took place at Stoney Creek, Ontario, and the FWIO have purchased the homes of Mrs. Hoodless and Mrs. Lee as lasting tributes to their memory.

Displays depicting the history of Elgin WI's and the areas which they represent were inspected by the many who attended the event. A great deal of work went into these displays, with most of them containing precious memorabilia whose history is entwined with that of the community they represent.

Rev. L. J. Coates, pastor of Grace Church, welcomed the assemblage and told how he had admired and respected

their accomplishments and helping to build good citizens.

"The WI is something to be admired," he said. "This year it is 75 years young. We really need what the WI stands for in these times, for it is always so alert and alive.

Greetings from the Provincial Board were brought by Mrs. Lorne Daniels, FWIO Board director, and from London Area by Mrs. Wallace Laidlaw, second vice-president of the area.

A. V. Langton, Elgin County's representative for the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, conveyed his good wishes and those of his department. He introduced Elgin's new home economist, Miss Lois Ferguson, who arrived in St. Thomas on Thursday, to begin her duties. She extended good wishes on behalf of Mrs. D. G. Marcou, who has been acting home economist.

A paper, prepared by Mrs. J. Robinson Fulcher, titled A Few Highlights of My WI Experiences, was read by Mrs. Herb Jackson, who also presented highlights of Elgin County Rally. The history of East Elgin was given by Mrs. J. Gowan Young, and that of West Elgin by Mrs. Vermont Pow.

A skit, The Women's Institute Story, was much enjoyed, and its presentation was given by Mrs. Roy McNeil and Mrs. Young.



ARRANGING DISPLAY — Highlights of the marking of the 75th anniversary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario by Elgin County WI's, were the many displays depicting the history of the various branches and the communities which they represent. Here, Mrs. Edward Johnston, display convener (left) and Mrs. Earl Morden, convener of education and cultural affairs, look over the display which they arranged for their branch, the Clachan Women's Institute. (—J. Photo).



THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE — Mrs. Keith Heipleh, chairman of Elgin County Women's Institute Rally, had the happy task of cutting the 75th anniversary cake last evening, when WI members from all points in Elgin County, gathered to mark the founding of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. (—J. Photo).