

June 28/972

Bus Trip to Stratford Enjoyed by WI Members

Prince Edward District Women's Institute Past Presidents' bus trip was held on June 28 to Stratford Festival in its 20th season (June 5-October 21). The drive through the beautiful country at this time of year was most enjoyable.

The Travelway bus 151 and careful driver took 41 ladies from the County and arrived in Stratford at 11 o'clock. Most had a box lunch while others got light refreshments on the beautiful grounds situated along the Avon River. Some enjoyed the scenery, some a boat ride and some visited Rothmans' Art Gallery.

Doors were opened promptly at 2 o'clock to the performance of Alfred de Musset's "Lorenzaccio" English version by John Lewin, time 1537, directed by Jean Gascon. The once free republic of Florence, Italy had come under the heel of Rome and the Emperor Charles had appointed as ruler the brutal and despotic Allessandrode Medici. His trusted friend is Lorenzode Medici, once a respected patriot but now universally reviled as the Duke's cats-paw was beautifully portrayed by talented actors in elegant wardrobes.

At 5 o'clock all were taken seven miles out of Stratford to the Women's Institute hall at Avanton, a small village where they were treated to a delicious meal. At 6.25 all were ready for the homeward journey.

It was noticed that many fields of corn and hay were no farther advanced than ours and rain had been plentiful.

After a short stop at a rest area most members arrived home at 11 o'clock. The day's outing was most enjoyable.

Mental Health, Cancer Films, Making Wills, Do's and Don'ts of Driving Habits.

So, since April 13, 1913, the women of this area have been working for "HOME and COUNTRY". During the lifespan of this Branch the coverage has broadened from home to community on to provincial then the national level and now the world.

As the group gleaned from minute books, they found the early meetings were more socially oriented (an evening out) and the presence of males was evident since the ladies were not nearly as independent (most were not able to drive) and had to be chauffeured by husbands who stayed for visiting with the man of the house.

Even the content of the meetings have undergone change. Again, from past records it was discovered

that singing, music, contests and demonstrations of home arts seemed to make up the bulk of program materials. How would you fare in a darning contest? Or put into practice the art of butter making after seeing a demonstration at last week's Institute meeting? Of course darning is nearly obsolete now in this age of permanent press pants, iron on patches and synthetic socks. How can butter be made from homogenized milk? With a great scientific and mechanical advancement women are freer to control their destinies. Homemaker's chores and tasks have become so alleviated by technology that more time is available to every woman to make use of her potentialities in all fields of endeavor.

Through education, increased mobility and greater affluence the interests of today's women are so diversified that her involvements may cover all phases of activity not only in the home but also in all levels of social work, in life abroad and even in outer space.

The Institute programs have widened to meet this challenge by presenting information to suit a myriad of topics. Resource material is easily available through radio, libraries, pamphlets, tape recordings, specialized speakers and personal experiences and therefore is used extensively to encompass the need for knowledge pertaining to any desired discussion. How enjoyable to

1973 organized April 13/1973

60 Years Of W.I. Reviewed At

Recently members of Women's Institute representing all branches of Prince Edward District attended an afternoon tea at Kingerley Hall, Consecon to help Consecon Women's Institute celebrate their 60th anniversary.

The hall was colorfully decorated in Institute colours, royal blue and gold, with a beautifully prepared anniversary cake on the tea table being the focal point. Each individual table was covered with gold cloth and held blue serviettes and a single blue-tinted 'mum.

The guests were welcomed by the newly elected president, Mrs. Vincent Tracey. Registration was handled by Mrs. Clifford Smith and Mrs. Elsie Tripp presented each lady with a name tag. Then Mrs. Robert Keene, Mrs. Fred Schwarze, Mrs. Alice Belnap escorted the guests to their tables.

Among the guests were Mrs. Evelyn Barber, Provincial Board member; Mrs. George Vincent, District President and also the following past presidents of the Branch — Mrs. Harry MacDonald, Mrs. Mabel Rattray, Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. Arthur Weir, Mrs. Ruth Elmy, Mrs. Howard Walt, Mrs. John Walt and Mrs. George Cunningham.

The theme for the afternoon was "Down Memory Lane" and so the program reminisced through 60 years of activity of the organization. Each decade was summarized by a commentator then the guests, accompanied on the piano by Mrs.

Ira Hewton, joined in singing a hit song from that period. Memories were good because songs like "Memories", "Till We Meet Again", "I'll See You in My Dreams", "Waltz You Saved For Me", "Now is the Hour", "Music, Music, Music", "Something To Sing About" were well remembered.

The Branch Curator, Mrs. Clifford Smith, spent many hours researching past minute books to come up with basic facts of the last 60 years of activity of this Institute group. This material was then capably organized and presented by three commentators, Miss Margaret MacLean 1913-1929, Mrs. Cecil Blakely 1930-1949, Mrs. George Cunningham 1950-1970.

From the information given the listeners learned that Consecon Institute has been actively involved in installing gas lights in the village, standing by local men in two World Wars; supporting community needs and activities; giving first aid kits to the local schools; helping needy persons during the depression years with eye glasses, shoes and other needs; keeping record of historical events of the community in the Tweedsmuir History Book; retaining historical artifacts of local interest within the area; demonstrating various culinary and sewing and decorating skills of interest to every homemaker.

They presented facts and information pertaining to timely topics of the day — Causes of Juvenile Delinquency, Women and the Law,

