



From left — Mrs. Leonard Trivers who has presented Mrs. Farquharson with a copy of the "Ontario Women's Institute Story", The Honourable Wm. A. Stewart, Mrs. Austin Zoeller, Miss Helen McKercher.

The Celebration

Over 1,600 enthusiastic members, guests and friends from all parts of Ontario gathered at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on February 12, 1972 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institutes at Stoney Creek, Wentworth County on February 19, 1897.

Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, Ottawa, President of Ontario Women's Institutes was chairman and extended a warm welcome to all present. A toast was proposed to Her Majesty the Queen followed by the Women's Institute Grace.

This was an historic occasion with head table guests including Mrs. Olive Lanyon Farquharson of England, President of the Associated Country Women of the World; Mrs. E. V. Fulton of Manitoba, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada; Deputy World President for A.C.W.W. Dr. Irene Spry of Ottawa; Area Vice President for Canada Mrs. J. Philip Matheson of Prince Edward Island; as well as Miss Marjorie Lee of Stoney Creek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erland Lee. Mrs. Farquharson, Mrs. Fulton and Mrs. D. H. Rogers representing the Stoney Creek Women's Institute, assisted Ontario President Mrs. Noblitt in cutting the birthday cake, a beautiful authentic replica of the Erland Lee Homestead, made by Mrs. Willard Gingerich of Baden, Ontario.

All attending the celebration received booklets illustrating the over one hundred greetings

and letters of congratulation that have been received on this occasion. Among them were messages from Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Prime Minister of Ontario William G. Davis, The Honourable Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food in Ontario, and many from Constituent Societies in A.C.W.W.

"How could the weather do otherwise than favour such a gathering?" said the Honourable William A. Stewart addressing the assembly. "It is impossible," continued Mr. Stewart "to measure the influence the Women's Institutes have had on the history of the people of Canada in elevating standards of homemaking, in their contribution to farm organizations, in their work with the 4-H Homemaking Club programs, and in so many other activities. So, from the people of Ontario we thank you and congratulate you on past achievements and wish you continued success."

Mrs. Fulton, Dr. Spry and Mrs. Matheson all spoke briefly and presented congratulations from the Societies which they represented. Mrs. Austin Zoeller, past F.W.I.O. President introduced guest speaker Mrs. Olive Lanyon Farquharson, O.B.E., President of the Associated Country Women of the World.

The world president brought greetings from the A.C.W.W. Constituent Societies, likening the founding of the Women's Institute to the

light from a tiny candle whose glow has spread friendship and practical help all around the world.

Mrs. Farquharson said that it was most gratifying to her that Ontario would want the world president to attend this celebration and urged all members to remember with thankfulness the women whose vision made the organization possible.

"The impact of the Women's Institutes in various countries is as different as the names by which it is known around the world. We help the women of developing countries with practical knowledge and they are further encouraged by a sense of friendship and understanding which membership brings to them. We help them through their own efforts to develop a fuller life in family and community," Mrs. Farquharson said.

The world president related some of her experiences in a trip ten days before coming to Ontario in West Africa and congratulated Ontario on their support of the Turkish girl to become a trained midwife.

Mrs. Farquharson said, "You should not rest on your laurels with an aura of self satisfaction around you . . . but use your 75th anniversary as a spur to greater activity in the future." She refuted the notion that there is no longer need for our kind of work in well established countries, saying that there is great need for women to make intelligent use of hands and minds to overcome the problems of using leisure time wisely and to avoid boredom.

Concluding her address Mrs. Farquharson presented the book "To Every Man There Is a Season" to the Ontario Women's Institutes.

Mrs. Leonard Trivers, Thessalon, a past F.W.I.O. president, expressed the appreciation of the gathering to Mrs. Farquharson and presented her with a copy of the new, "Ontario Women's Institute Story." Appreciation was expressed to the committee who had done so much to arrange the birthday celebration and to Miss McKercher and the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. Mrs. Trivers also pledged Ontario's support to all national and international projects.

Mrs. Kenneth Chapin of Brant County, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Chester Jackson also of Brant presented a musical story of the history of the founding of the Women's Institutes. Wearing several lovely and original hats, Mrs. Chapin, representing Adelaide Hoodless delighted the crowd and traced the history till February 12, 1972.

The script for this delightful presentation was written and prepared by Mrs. R. C. Walker of St. George and Mrs. Austin Zoeller of New Hamburg.



Guests at the 75th Anniversary Celebration — from left — clockwise — Dr. Ethel Chapman, Mr. Sidney Harvey, Miss Jeanne Armour, Miss Frances Hucks, Mrs. Mary Dawson, Mrs. W. Ewen, Miss Florence Eady, Dr. Janet Wardlaw, Dr. Helen Abell, Mrs. Gordon Conant.



Mrs. Chapin wearing the birthday hat.

Mrs. Roy Brooks attended this lovely event from our Institute