

husband or a male escort to take care of the horse so they let their monthly meeting coincide with the meeting of the local Masonic Lodge.

The records of those early meetings invariably begin, "The Women's Institute met in their rooms on this date " or sometimes it was "in their Hall". The rooms or hall referred to was a small building belonging to the Presbyterian Church originally the home of two elderly ladies. It was rented for the amount of one dollar per month, paid six months in advance. Heating and sanitary arrangements left much to be desired so in the spring of 1922 " grateful thanks were tendered to the Presbyterian Board" and the W.I. hall was purchased by Mr. Herman Alyea. A team of horses dragged it to the corner of Stinson Block Road where it served the new owner as the local butcher shop.

Henceforth the Institute ladies met in the homes of the members. At those parlour meetings husbands were welcome, but were delegated to the warmth of the kitchen to enjoy a social evening with the man of the house, and, of course, share in the lunch prior to setting out with the horse and cutter or team and sleigh to take a load of ladies to their homes.

Then it was August 1914 ---the outbreak of World War I. The newly formed branch organized but a year ago was suddenly plunged into the war effort. They were aided by the ladies of the three local churches who felt that war service was not altogether the mission of a Christian organization, but they offered to support the Institute in all efforts of war service. Together they met to roll bandages, make quilts and clothing, knit socks and sweaters, or pack the 18 boxes sent monthly to Consecon boys overseas and to the Red Cross War Prisoners' comfort.

The war ended in 1918 and by March 1919 our boys were coming home. A special supper was arranged and the community gave them a heartwarming welcome. Each soldier was presented with a gold signet ring. A small sum of money was left from the war effort, so, in memory of those boys who sleep in Flanders Fields it was used to furnish a room in the County hospital which was being built at the time.

There was still work to be done as a result of the war years-- The destitute in war torn Europe needed medicine, quilts, blankets, socks, mittens, underwear, layettes, anything and everything. And Institute members were not found wanting. In short, Consecon W.I. born during the war years, had kept the HOME FIRES Burning and would continue to do so as long as there was a need.

Now with the war years behind them, Consecon Women's Institute turned their attention to pressing needs in the community. The local cemetery was in a sad state of neglect so the