

## HISTORY OF THE WATERS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In the afternoon of November 4, 1936 a group of interested ladies congregated in the little old white school house down by the spot where the mail box now stands, to listen to Mrs. Weller of Minnow Lake, then District President, assisted by Mrs. Eiler of Falconbridge, then District Secretary, and there a new link was added to the chain of Women's Institutes.

No doubt the Waters W.I. owes much of its early success to its first president, Mrs. Ida Moxam and to its first secretary Mrs. Anna Diebel for they managed to keep the ship afloat until members, most of whom were unexperienced, saw the light. Since then we have been piloted by Mrs. Mevlyn Moxam, Mrs. Herman Punkari, Mrs. Victor Lahti, Mrs. Hugh Glynn, and Mrs. Dave Ritari. As the secretary must be a very reliable hard-working soul with the good of the organization at heart, our branch has been most fortunate in having Mrs. Marshall Moxam, Mrs. Esko Rauhala, Mrs. Hugh Glynn, Mrs. Karl McIntosh, Mrs. J. Puddy, Mrs. Ben Moxam, and Mrs. Onni Seppala.

The spirit of the members is also very important for without members there could be no branch. During the last two decades the Waters ladies have shown themselves to be true "Blue and Gold" for no matter how discouraging the outlook they have carried the load. Not once in that time have they refused a request for help from the schools. Ever since inauguration the Waters W.I. has played the roll of "Home and School" and to supplant it with any other would show a decided lack of appreciation for years of service.

This service has been in many forms such as financial and physical support given to fairs, parties, picnics, sports days, oratorical contests, spelling bees, quilting bees, Christmas concerts, hot lunches, dinners, school equipment, and war-time activities, as well as innumerable kind and generous acts long since forgotten by the well-doers. Nor has any except the Principal involved, any conception of what a comfort it was to know that the good old W.I. was always in the background with a helping hand outstretched. From it one was always certain of not only financial aid but also of good sound advice.

Nor were the pupils and teachers the only beneficiaries for meetings at home and school added much to the social life of the times. Now and then husbands were included in the "Order of Good Times". Courses in various Homemaking subjects as health, nursing, food, cooking, sewing, knitting, dressmaking, and home decorating have been given free, from time to time. In a number of these, clubs for the girls