

Delegates have been sent to conventions and we have always been faithful in exhibiting at the NRAS. We have conducted many canvasses throughout the community for organizations. For many years we sponsored an underprivileged child in Greece and we have held fire showers for burned out families. We stand behind the Legion each year with a donation and placing a wreath. Short courses and training schools have always been popular with the ladies of the community and our members.

In the 60's the treasury was swelled by catering twice monthly to the Lion's Club. This was a big task and many, many meals were served in the old town hall, much unlike our modern new one, under very crowded conditions and lacking any facilities but it was all done with willing hands. I'm sure most of you ladies here have gone through similar conditions. We sponsor 4H homemaking and are very proud of our large group of 4Her's presently numbering 25. We also have donated a trophy to the 4H Agricultural Club. Our Tweedsmuir book was started in 1958 and we have won the Davis Cup several times. We have given several times to the new arena and we enjoy an exchange of visit with our WI neighbours. Our membership stands today at 19 members.

While these are some of the activities that I have just touched lightly upon, much has been accomplished through the years under many different presidents and there has always been that splendid spirit of co-operation to carry out our motto "For Home and Country". It has enlarged the outlook of the women and given them self assurance which had been somewhat lacking in the early years. During these years we have had many happy gatherings combining business with pleasure while keenly interested in the welfare of the community.

Here it is 1980, the year of the WI, it is so appropriate to be celebrating a meaningful birthday party. As we reminisce, we think of the activities that have resulted in the betterment of our community. Now the next chapter must be planned wisely and priorities set for the 80's. We have a few obstacles in our way, such as declining membership, we all know how hard it is to get new members and keep them. We shall continue to do the human things that the WI was organized to do, adapting to the concerns of our ever changing times. The light, so kindled at Stoney Creek and which spread its beams all over the world, shall not fade in Westmeath.

Compiled and submitted by
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October, 1980