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Around Castleton...

with
Joyce Buchegger
344-7870

Nov 12/80

The most newsworthy happenings of the past week were the following meetings which we hereby report:

CASTLETON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE—75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Castleton Women's Institute celebrated its 75th anniversary with a tea at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 4 and over 125 members, friends and district officers gathered for the happy occasion. The ladies were seated at tables adorned with blue tablecloths, gold serviettes and centre pieces of yellow daisies. Castleton members wore crochet and ribbon corsages of the same colours made by Mrs. Wm. Turney.

The President, Mrs. Muriel White welcomed the ladies and the Ode was sung and Mary Stewart Collect repeated in unison. Mrs. White acknowledged the presence of seven former presidents: Miss Harriet Bowditch, Mrs. J. Blakely, Mrs. G. Carr, Mrs. D. Ducie, Mrs. H. Harnden, Mrs. W.J. Tait, and Mrs. W. Turney.

A resume of the past 75 years of the Castleton W.I. was presented by Mrs. Pat Haynes in which she listed some of the many ways the Institute has lived up to its motto of devotion to home and country. Members did knitting for the soldiers of the first and second World Wars, raised money to build the cenotaph, purchased the piano for the Town Hall, and started the school library in 1930. They have presented short courses on sewing, quilting and cooking and have entered displays in the Warkworth Fair for the past 22 years as well as sponsoring the 4-H club.

Former presidents, Mrs. Beth Carr and Mrs. Hazel Harnden, both members for 60 years, brought recollections of earlier days and paid tribute to past and present members.

Mrs. Maude Harrison entertained the ladies with some humorous anecdotes and sang a tribute to the Institute, the words of which were written by her sister, Miss Laural Arkils.

Past President, Mrs. Myrtle Ducie, then introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Emmie Oddie, President of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. Mrs. Oddie expressed pleasure in being able to be present for this anniversary and

mentioned that her home province of Saskatchewan is celebrating its 75th year as a province.

Mrs. Oddie explained that the Federation was formed in 1919 to coordinate Institutes across Canada, to initiate programs, and to react to matters of national importance. She cited examples of diversity between Provincial units while at the same time maintaining unity through belief in the importance of the family unit, Canadian unity, as well as their capacity for work and getting things done.

The W.I. has assisted in international projects such as well digging in Kenya, and the provision of a Landrover in Lesoto. Funds raised by W.I. are matched 3-1 by CIDA.

Mrs. Oddie concluded by saying "We have had many changes since 1905...the knowledge explosion, advances in transportation and communication, changes in life styles, the entry of women into the labour force...but through them all the Women's Institute remains a haven of caring, sharing women with concern for their home, community and international events."

Following the speech, Mrs. N. Usher, oldest member of the Castleton W.I., thanked the speaker and presented her with a gift.

After the singing of grace, Mrs. White and Miss Bowditch cut the beautifully decorated cake, made by Mrs. Helen Clarke, and cake and ice cream were served to the ladies. Tea was poured by Mrs. Beth Carr and Mrs. Hzael Harnden, and so concluded a very delightful and special afternoon.

TIME
HRS 1/10