

Browns W.I. branch celebrates 60th anniversary

meal was catered by Janice Mitchell and assisted by Marian Poel.

Anniversary cake

The anniversary cake was cut by charter members Annie Uren and Joyce Burgess, assisted by president Evelyn Arthur. President Evelyn welcomed everyone, and Carol Miller introduced the head table and special guests.

Greetings were brought by Donna MacPherson from Oxford North Districts and by the Rev. Rienk Vlietstra, minister of Browns Church. Margaret Arthur read the minutes of the first meeting, with the first slate of officers.

The branch was first of all the Real Pals Sunday School Class, who wanted a mid-week activity and they invited all the women of the community to this first meeting. They used to have crokinole and euchre parties in the Orange Hall in Lakeside and invited the Uniondale and Lakeside Branches to join with them.

Nov. 13, 1955 was the first W.I. church service which included the branches in this corner of the district.

They sent 1,738 squares to Zambia this past year. In 1980, they helped with the meals in the W.I. tent at the plowing match at Woodstock. The money earned put

the new washroom in the Browns School.

Each year a spring luncheon and euchre party raises money for many health projects including cancer, heart and stroke, diabetes, alzheimer, schizophrenic to name a few, a total of \$9,441.75 has been raised since this event was started.

Many community things happened as well, getting mail delivery to the gate and stop signs at railway crossings, white line in the middle of the road to name but a few accomplishments.

'Basket of apples'

Rev. Vlietstra sang a couple of songs, including Danny Boy, and was accompanied by Annie Uren. Margaret Arthur introduced the guest speaker, Dolores Shapton, who is past president of London Area W.I.

Dolores has a special speech she gave as president of London Area, she was asked to use it at this meeting and she did. It is a wonderful idea as she compared the Women's Institute members to a basket of apples, all different in looks and taste, but all wonderful, when the skin is removed they are all the same underneath. Dolores was thanked by Sheila Greason.

The Memorial Service was conducted by Susan Towle, as departed

members from over the years were remembered and celebrated.

Over at the school were many displays of activities undertaken by the branch, through short courses, pass it on and other work shops that the branch participated in.

Also were quilts, wall hangings that had been displayed at the Agricultural Museum, wedding dresses of many of the members, including wedding pictures and often a write up, these were very interesting. Pictures of these pictures and often a write-up, these were very interesting.

Pictures of these dresses have been put together for the Tweedsmuir History, which was also on display. It was a great day of celebration.

Browns Women's Institute branch celebrated their 60th anniversary on Wed., May 6 which was exactly 60 years to the day, of the first meeting.

Donna MacPherson, president and Ruth Skillings, secretary-treasurer of Oxford North District, were invited guests. A most delicious

60th anniversary

It was a pleasure to have Margaret Arthur of St. Marys call me last week to come and take pictures at the 60th anniversary of Browns Women's Institute last Wed., May 6 at Browns Church.

Upon entering the church was surprised I knew so many of the Institute members and also the guest speaker Dolores Shapton, past-president London Area W.I. Compliment president Evelyn Arthur for capably conducting the programme. Enjoyed Rev. Rienk Vlietstra for his solo.

Also thank Carol Miller for showing me all the displays from bygone days across the road in Browns School. There were quilts, wedding dresses, ladies hats, wall hangings, fancy dishes, etc. all brought by members to make a colourful display.

Dandy wallhanging

At right, at Browns WI's 60th anniversary, a wallhanging featuring farm scenes was hanging in Brown's School. It piqued the interest of this lifetime farmer so Carol Miller agreed to pose with it for a photo.

