

District Celebration of 75th Anniversary of
Founding of W.I. of Ontario

Tuesday, April 4, 1972 was chosen as the celebration day of the founding of the first Institute at Stoney Creek, by the Oxford North District. The place for this gala event was the Tavistock Memorial Hall, Tavistock, Ontario. Over 340 women from Oxford North District were in attendance.

Upon arising that morning the ground was covered with a good thickness of snow and it was cold. However the sun came out and 18 members from Brown's Branch motored to Tavistock for this Anniversary party.

Arriving at the Memorial Hall, we first had to register and our meal ticket costing \$2.75 which had to be purchased previously, was taken by registrars, Mrs. Fred Arthur of Brown's Branch and Mrs. Archie Armour, Thamesford Branch.

Upon entering this large hall, five rows of tables with a head table at front greeted us. Upon the platform was the replica of the Erland Lee Homestead upon a revolving table.

A delicious hot turkey dinner was served at 12:30 p.m. The menu was as follows -

- Tomato juice
- Hot roast turkey & dressing
- Mashed potatoes & gravy
- Mixed Vegetables
- Relishes Cabbage salad
- Assorted Pies

Anniversary cake which had been made by Mrs. Gordon Knox, a past District president and Miss Knox was individually wrapped, tied with blue ribbon and placed at each plate. Also at each plate we found many favours - Monarch Cake Mix, pamphlet on Candy Making, package of eight sheets of Diamond Grit Sandpaper, Doodle Pad, lead pencil, rain bonnet and a shoe horn.

At head table which featured a lovely floral arrangement of yellow mums and blue carnations were seated - Mrs. Archie Armour, Mrs. O. C. Powers, Mrs. Norman Coulthard, Mrs. Noblitt president of F.W.I.O., Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Mrs. Willis Matheson, Mrs. Fred Arthur, Mrs. Charles Munro, Mrs. Fred Howe and Mrs. Gordon Knox. Head table was graciously introduced by Mrs. O. C. Powers, past district President.

Community singing was led at the noon meal while waitresses cleared tables by Mrs. Baird accompanied at piano by Mrs. John King.

Greetings were brought by our Provincial Board Director, Mrs. Norman Coulthard of Perth County and also by our area president, Mrs. Charles Munro, Embro. Music was rendered by Mrs. Gordon Weir on violin with Mrs. Gordon Calder at piano. The past presidents and past secretaries were introduced by Mrs. Gordon Knox. Past presidents were seated in a body at a table immediately in front of head table and past secretaries similarly at the table next.

A musical skit was most entertaining. This was staged by Mrs. Kenneth Chapin and Mrs. Chester Jackson of Brantford. These two ladies had prepared this number for the 75th Celebration in Royal York Hotel Toronto in February. They were engaged to perform for the District. Mrs. Chester Jackson played continually at the piano throughout the entire act while Mrs. Kenneth Chapin attired in a royal blue velvet dress and wearing various chapeaux depicted the formation, the work and growth of the W.I. starting at Stoney Creek and spreading throughout the world. These hats certainly showed great imagination in their creation.

Mrs. Noblitt, provincial president, was our guest speaker for the day and was introduced by Mrs. Diamond. Her message was brief and to the point. She said she had been asked to bring a light, happy message which she did. She had composed a poem on Institute work which she read. She also read an epilogue to her poem written by her husband.

Mrs. Fred Howe, 1st vice president of District gave courtesy remarks.