

BURGESSVILLE W. I. CELEBRATES ITS 60th ANNIVERSARY

The 60th Anniversary of the Burgessville Branch of the Women's Institute was celebrated as a "Birthday Party" on February 14th, 1963 in Holbrook Community Hall with the Holbrook ladies catering for the birthday dinner at the noon hour. The tables were attractively decorated with the birthday cake having the place of honour. Institute colours of blue and gold were reflected in yellow roses and blue tapers.

Following the delicious dinner, W.I. president, Mrs. J. McCready, conducted the meeting, which opened in the usual way with singing the "Ode" and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect. The roll call was "How long have you been a member of the Institute?". The answers revealed that Mrs. Frank Griffin had been a member for almost 59 years and was the oldest person present. She was presented with an orchid corsage. Mrs. Griffin also had the honour of cutting the birthday cake. Mrs. Vernon Dennis, who had been a member and active worker for 45 years, was presented with a bouquet of red roses. Mrs. Dennis for many years has arranged the annual bus trips for the W.I.

The secretary, Mrs. W. Morley, read several letters of greetings from former members who were unable to be present.

Mrs. Charles Kelly presided for the program, welcoming guests and members, and paying tribute to four active members over 80 years of age. District president, Mrs. L. Treffry of Otterville, brought greetings and good wishes from South Oxford district. Mrs. Morley read a historical account of our Institute branch, as prepared by Mrs. E. Chant. A brief "Flashback" was given of earlier years when the organization was formed under the leadership of the late Mrs. Justus Cohoe in 1903. At that time they met at the same time as the "Farmers Institute". Mrs. Wesley West of Woodstock, the former Miss May Emigh, was the first secretary. Presidents names through the years include:

Mrs. Elias Snyder, Mrs. William Pollard, Mrs. Milton Reid, Mrs. Ernest Kneggs, Mrs. A. Colquhoun, Mrs. Plewes, Mrs. Dr. Johnston, Mrs. Ernest Moore, Miss Rossie Burgess, Mrs. V. G. Mollins, Mrs. Harry Morgan, Mrs. John Jaques, Mrs. J. R. McLees, Mrs. C. Kelly, (two terms); Mrs. Vernon Dennis, Mrs. H. Rockett, Mrs. J. A. Dickinson, Mrs. R.W. Burton, Mrs. Glen Warboys, Mrs. Fred Newton, Mrs. Charles Austin, Mrs. D. Hoover and Mrs. J. McCready.

The past ten years since the 50th celebration, was reviewed as a picture viewed from different angles, such as finances, activities, programs, officers, and social adventures. Ten members have passed away in this period of time: Mrs. D. French, Mrs. John Jaques, Mrs. J. S. Stevens, Mrs. Jean Pearson, Mrs. H. Rockett, Mrs. W. Howell, Mrs. G. Kelly, Mrs. A. Rushworth, Mrs. M. J. Orth and Mrs. W. Hendershott.

The guest speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. R. W. Burton of Woodstock, former member and officer. Mrs. Kelly mentioned the Anniversary project of a donation for our Public Library. The Library was formed by initiation of the Burgessville W. I. and they have consistently supported it with interest and donations.

Other program items included a happy sing song under the leadership of Mrs. George McNeal with Mrs. H. Hughes at the piano. Mrs. McNeal also contributed music on the harmonica. Mrs. H. Carroll expressed thanks to the Holbrook ladies for the turkey dinner and Mrs. A. Dickinson spoke in appreciation of the program numbers and extended thanks to the committee responsible for planning the anniversary celebration: Mrs. F. Newton, Mrs. H. Carroll, Mrs. C. Kelly and Mrs. McCready.

Among the guests was Mrs. Howard Clayton, who was taking the place of her mother, Mrs. Charles Walker, a life member, who was unable to be present.

The meeting closed with the singing of God Save the Queen and the rest of the afternoon was enjoyed socially in playing Court Whist.

Typed by Mrs. W. Morley - October 3rd 1964.



Mrs. L. Treffry, Mrs. R. Allen, Sec. for S. Oxford; Mr. H. Clayton, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. McCready.



Mrs. McCready pinning the corsage on Mrs. Griffin.