

80th anniversary for Burgessville WI

The Burgessville Women's Institute celebrated its 80th anniversary on February 10 with 33 members and friends enjoying a luncheon at the *Buchaneer Restaurant* in Burgessville.

The program for the afternoon was held in the banquet room of the *Buchaneer* with members and guests numbering 64. The Ode was sung followed by the *Mary Stewart Collect* being repeated. Mrs. R.E. Johnson of Burgessville Women's Institute was chairperson for the program calling on Ruby Buckrell, president of the Burgessville W.I., to give the welcome. The roll call was answered by members telling of some historical event concerning Burgessville.

The In Memoriam for the meeting was given by Ada Morley and Mrs. Fred Newton, with a reading and the lighting of candles, followed by prayer.

Evelyn Waring of Otterville delighted the audience with her whistling of "Down by the Old Mill Stream" and "Daisy, Daisy".

The song leader for the afternoon, Ruth McMillen,

led in a sing-song but also favored members with harmonica selections in keeping with the theme.

Mrs. Johnson called upon Mrs. A.E. Dale, president of Oxford South District W.I., Mrs. R. Longworth, president of Zenda W.I., Mrs. William Hague, president of East Oxford W.I. and Elma Haight, president of Norwich W.I., to bring greetings. Some members and visitors came in costumes of other years, including centennial dresses and a bridal couple from Curries. Jean Edwards, dressed in the bridal dress worn by Lucy Barnard in 1906, was escorted by Marion Carter, wearing a suit owned by Mert Kenny and bought in 1894.

A slide presentation and commentary, prepared by Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Buckrell of Burgessville was shown with material obtained from the Norwich District Archives, scrapbooks of people in the community and the W.I. Tweedsmuir History Book which is kept in the library.

This well presented W.I. story of Burgessville started in February 1903 when Mrs. Justus Cohoe and helper May Emigh

(Mrs. West) formed the first Institute. The slides showed the four main corners beginning with the schools, churches, stores, apple packing plant, North Norwich Telephone System, garages, Grand Trunk Railway, the mail delivery, followed by a fashion show of clothing worn then and some types of homes.

The Zenda Women's Institute brought a rendition of "Ode to Burgessville W.I." with the nine ladies in costume.

One of the faithful members of the Burgessville W.I., Ruth Austin was invited to cut the 80th anniversary cake which was made and donated by Mrs. Philip Ficht of Burgessville, decorated with the W.I. crest in blue and gold.

Mrs. Jack McCreedy graciously gave the courtesy remarks, especially to all the people who helped to make the day such a special occasion.

The Queen was sung followed by the W.I. grace. The staff of the *Buchaneer Restaurant* capably served the anniversary cake, ice cream and coffee to round off a wonderful afternoon for the Burgessville W.I.



Dressed for the occasion

These four ladies were among the many members of the Burgessville Women's Institute who donned old-fashioned attire to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the local institute at a special dinner Thursday afternoon. Posing for the camera were: (left to right) Ila Orth, Ruth McMillen, Ruby Buckrell, president and Rita Dickson. (NG Photo)



Celebrating 50 years

The Zenda Women's Institute celebrated its 50th anniversary with a luncheon and special program last Wednesday afternoon in Salford. Shown with the anniversary cake are (left to right) the charter president of the group, Nellie Burrill of Mitchell, the only remaining charter member active in the Zenda W.I. Olive Harrison, of Zenda, and the current president of the Zenda W.I. Georgina Longworth. (NG Photo)

May 1983



Oxford South executive

The Oxford South District Women's Institute held its 80th annual luncheon meeting Wednesday at the First Baptist Church on Bidwell Street. This year's theme was "Pride in W.I.". The 1983 executive is sitting: Grace Campbell (left), provincial board director and President Margaret Dale. Second row are Betty Johnson (left), second vice-president and Ilene Chesterman, first vice-president. Back row are Linda Hammond, third vice-president and Jean Dennis, secretary-treasurer. Missing from the picture is public relations officer Adelle Irwin. (TN Photo)