

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KINTORE W. I.

AND STORY OF ITS GROWTH DURING THE PAST FIFTY YEARS

The fiftieth Anniversary of the Kintore W. I. was celebrated on 24th Sept. 1953 in the basement of the Kintore United Church.

The Kintore W. I. members had as their guests all the ladies of the community as well as the President, Secretary and District Director from seven of our neighboring W. I's., the President, Secretary of the District of North Oxford and the County, also any former residents of Kintore now living in Thamesford.

The basement had been decorated with the W. I. colors. The tea table at one side of the room looked lovely with its dark yellow gladiolas, golden candles and so on.

The President Mrs. John Garlick was in the chair and Mrs. Oliver McGee the Sect'y. Treas. took the minutes. The meeting opened with the usual procedure, the singing of O Canada followed by the Ode then all repeated the Mary Stewart Collect.

After business had been dealt with briefly, the President handed over the meeting to Mrs. Max Lindsay and Miss Hannah McLeod, the Historical Convenors, who had charge of the program.

To set the mood for the meeting and for entertainment a debate was held. "Resolved that the good old days were the good old days". The affirmative side was taken by Mrs. Harvey Irvine and Mrs. L. C. White. The negative side was taken by Mrs. Hubert Alderson and Mrs. Wallace Heron. It was left to each person to decide for themselves the winner.

The main part of the program was divided into five 10 year periods, each period consisting of three parts, (The Historical detail, Honoring past Presidents, and musical numbers of that period. Miss McLeod and Mrs. Lindsay read the Historical detail for each period.

1903 - 1913 We are told by our Charter Members that for a term Mrs. Switzer was our first President, with Mrs. Chalmers (then Agnes Henderson) as Secretary. According to any information we can gather this organization meeting took place in the old Methodist Church. Miss Bella Miller from the department in Toronto was the organizer. This meeting took place in the fall of 1903. Mrs. Alex McCallum soon followed Mrs. Switzer as President. We have recently heard from Mrs. McCallum's daughters, Gretta and Jean. They both recall very well their mother's term of office. Gretta mentions that she still has the gold head umbrella that was presented to Mrs. McCallum by the Institute when she left Kintore. Jean recalls the time when she and her mother drove to the station to meet Miss Rose, then on the staff of the O. A. C., who was coming to speak to the meeting. Both of the ladies wished that it had been possible for them to be present at this 50th Anniversary meeting. However since this was impossible they have sent this beautiful basket of flowers as a tribute to their mother, Mrs. Alex McCallum who was president of our Institute in its early days.

The aims of the Institute in 1903 we find were much the same as today. Although perhaps we felt that the women in those early days appreciated their privilege to belong to an Institute a little more than we do today.