

1917-1936 by Doris Humphries, Castleford W.I.

As representative of Castleford W.I. it is my duty to present a brief summary of activities in South Renfrew branches in the years from 1917 to 1936.

In 1917 and 1918 the war effort was still the main thrust in the Institutes. Members knit socks, scarves and afghans to send overseas. Boxes of treats were packed and sent overseas for the boys serving. Castleford W.I. bought a web of butter cloth, which was 121 yards of fine cotton. The cost was \$5.45. Two hundred and forty-five hemmed handkerchiefs were made and taken to Renfrew Red Cross Headquarters to be sent to soldiers.

In Castleford when a soldier of the community was killed the members of W.I. wore a pin called "The Motto Pin" to which they attached a piece of purple and white ribbon. The cost of the pin and ribbon was 17 cents.

Money was donated to the Red Cross, War Charities Fund, Sugar Fund, Canadian War Service Fund, Mobile Kitchen Fund and Seeds for Britain.

Returned men were generally given a signet ring from the community, with the W.I. organizing the gathering.

A fund raiser in Pine Grove W.I. was the making of an autograph quilt.

In one community the W.I. had a special telephone ring known as a quick way of sending a message, whether good or bad.

In 1922 the charities mentioned were the American Relief Fund and the fire sufferers in Northern Ontario.

From 1924 to 1928 North Horton raised \$1000.00 and donated it to the committee in charge of building the Community Hall.

Burnstown noted a keen interest in authors and poets. Roll calls were often answered with a quotation from Scott, Burns, Wordsworth, Longfellow, Cooper and Shakespeare. Importance was made of upcoming Canadian authors.

The 1930's were the depression years. Neighbours had to help each other with the trade of work and the generous donation of food and clothing. The W.I. members did not forget to be kind when a need was made known.