

KETTLEBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
HAS 50th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Cars filled the churchyard and lined the Kettleby main street last Saturday afternoon, January 21, 1961, when Christ Church parish hall was filled to capacity with over 250 Women's Institute members who came to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Kettleby branch.

This happy event recalled the day, exactly 50 years ago on January 23, 1911, when 21 women from the hamlet and farms of Kettleby gathered in Sons of Temperance Hall to form the W.I. branch which has functioned ever since, through two wars, a depression and a hurricane disaster, as well as through happier days and whose motto at all times is "For Home and Country".

"It was a day like this, cold with maybe more snow", remembered Mrs. E. Clarkson of Newmarket, a charter member, who returned to take part in this celebration with another charter member, Mrs. A. Marshall of Kettleby. Both ladies wore golden corsages, and similar corsages were sent to two other charter members, Mrs. A. Hilborn and Mrs. William Robertson, who were unable to be present.

Looking at the women who represented the local branch, and five representatives of the other 12 W.I. branches of Centre York District, presidents and secretaries of four York Districts, and former members who returned for this occasion, it was inspiring to observe their interest in the proceedings and to note the fashionable attire of all present. The thought must have been with some of the older members that this was a more gaily dressed group than the small gathering at Kettleby 50 years ago. Hats on this day in January were more colorful than on a cold day in 1911, and to be sure, skirts were inches shorter than were worn when the ladies arrived in their horse drawn sleighs on January 21, 1911.

President, Mrs. Harry Burns, wearing a black silk suit and jaunty black hat, presided and introduced the two charter members and regretted the absence of two charter members. She also introduced life members, Mrs. E. West, Mrs. A. Farren, Mrs. R. Carson, and Mrs. L. Blackburn, also Mrs. Robert Graham, who is a life member of the Stayner branch. All wore corsages of yellow mums. Mrs. Burns also introduced

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Mrs. C Hooper, Vice-President York East District; Mrs. H. Wood and Mrs. M. Roden, President and Secretary West York District, Mrs. Ross Armitage and Mrs. G. Smith, President and Secretary Centre York District.

Past President, Mrs. Albert Farren, former provincial board director and former regional vice president of Ontario FWIO, was convener of the program and read letters of regret from 15 invited guests who included provincial president Mrs. Lila Lymburner of Port Colborne, chairman of Central Area, Mrs. Carl Moynes of Oakwood, provincial secretary treasurer, Mrs. Ida Holder of Mona Road, and a former member Mrs. Phyllis Davis of Vancouver.

Mrs. Farren also introduced Mrs. Elton Armstrong, provincial board director, who is also a member of York Centre. In bringing greetings from the 33 members who sit at the provincial table, Mrs. Armstrong added that the provincial level is just like a regular W. I. Meeting "Some say too much and some just sit". She congratulated this branch, first in the area honored when a member, Mrs. Farren, was elected to the provincial board.

Mrs. Farren also introduced Mrs. J. Hermanson, Vice Chairman, Central Area and secretary of radio committee, who brought greetings from the Toronto area.

First speaker of the afternoon was Reeve William Hodgson, who added his congratulations to the township's thanks for the many times ~~that~~ this branch has aided the community, especially at the time of Hurricane Hazel. A beautiful basket of yellow flowers was the gift from the township.

Final speaker was Mrs. Wm. Hodgson, who made a graceful courtesy speech of thanks to all who contributed to the program, not forgetting Sharyn Beatty who danced the Charleston in a handsome beaded gown, complete with swinging beads, of the early 20's and Nancy Greensides who played the piano during the guests arrival. Also, Mrs. M. Hunt of Bobleton, who was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Albert Hill, when she sang "Road to the Isles"; "Home Sweet Home" and two Negro Spirituals.

Names of all past presidents were read by Mrs. William Gillham and "As at all happy family gatherings there are empty seats

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Mrs. Robert Graham conducted a memorial service, "with love and affection for the 42 members who shared in the forming and building of this W.I. who are no longer here". As the names were read a moment of silence was observed.

No anniversary would be complete without reminscences, and some of the highlights of this branch were read from the Tweedsmuir Book by Mrs. Norman Greensides. This began with the first meeting when 18 women of the 21 present became charter members, and Mrs. Levi Watson was elected president, to the Christmas party that was held at the home of Mrs. John Davis at the end of last year.

First hostess was Mrs. Artemus Hambleton. First fees were .25¢ and lunch was not served during the first year. Vocal solos provided entertainment with sometimes gramophone records added for novelty. Debates were popular, one debate "That fashions were more detrimental to the community than tobacco" cost fashion the vote. One meeting discussed "How to spend winter evenings".

In 1912 a pie social was held, admission price being .10¢. When the branch provided not noon dinner for King Township council the roast beef cost \$1.37 says the records.

At one time there was just \$2.08 in the treasury at the end of the year, and another year a donation was given so that there would be a bank balance. In 1931 a speaker dealt with a new term "communism". Although frightening, this subject seemed too remote for Kettleby ladies. In 1935 Kettleby branch paid \$1.50 towards their delegate's expenses at the annual convention.

At the 25th anniversary, Mrs. Charles Doane, who conducted the first meeting, returned to cut the anniversary cake. There were 35 ladies and 7 children present at that occasion.

During the first war Kettleby branch formed a Red Cross group. In the second war they adopted a W. I. branch at Horsel, Surrey, and an English family and sent parcels of comforts regularly. Mrs. Young of Horsel was their visitor in 1951 when WIFO met in Toronto and she continues their friend. These were some of Mrs. Greensides' notes.

53th BIRTHDAY PARTY

On this afternoon it was noticed that three generations of one family, all members, were present. They were Mrs. E. West, her daughter, Mrs. Farren, and her granddaughter Mrs. Robert Warlow. There were also about a dozen mothers and daughters all members of this branch, also former members from a distance, among them Mrs. Mary Corns of Toronto, Mrs. Ernest Fry of Streetsville, Mrs. Ernest Blatchford, Willowdale, Mrs. Wesley Sabin, Painswick. Mrs. James Archibald, formerly Olive Watson, daughter of Mrs. L. T. Watson, the first president, who brought Greetings from Elora W. I. and Mrs. Russell Hunter of London.

A most pleasant hour was spent when delicious dainties were served by daughters of W. I. members, under the direction of Mrs. Herbert Webster who was in charge of the refreshment committee. Two sets of twins, Elizabeth and Margaret Black and Gertrude and Roberta Hunt were assistants and Pauline Schmidt and Sylvia Greensides attended the head table.

Mrs. E. Clarkson and Mrs. A. Marshall, as charter members, and Mrs. Leo Blackburn as oldest Life member and secretary for 25 years, poured tea at a table that was covered with a beautiful embroidered cloth, and decorated with a handsome three tier anniversary cake that was made by Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. George Heacock and cut by Mrs. Clarkson, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Crane, oldest member in years.

Two bouquets of yellow and blue flowers, the colors of the institute, which were the gift of Mrs. W. E. Armstrong, also graced the table and golden candles in silver holders carried out the golden theme of the anniversary party.

KETTLEBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

NOTE: The Committee on Historical Research feel that the history of our Institute can best be portrayed through the notes and research prepared and given by Mrs. Norman Greensides (nee Kathleen Black) at our Fiftieth Anniversary.

"Madam President, Honoured Guests and Fellow Members:

To-day we are celebrating our fiftieth birthday, so, of course, it is only fitting that we should have a review of the high lights of those years. This is not an easy task, you will agree, for any member or ex-member knows that branches cannot be kept going by the more exciting events that go into history; but rather by the slow methodical procedure that is the custom of Women's Institute organizations.

Also, in preparing a history one has to avoid statistics as much as possible; then, too, one must use names sparingly for in mentioning some; others are left out. I do hope that you will find this next fifteen minutes interesting and adequate.

The first Women's Institute in Ontario was formed in 1897 (fourteen years before our own) by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Stoney Creek, who felt that rural women should meet together and learn from one another. She had just lost her infant child and all because she was not aware that the milk she was feeding it was unboiled and dangerous.

Our branch here at Kettleby had its beginning at a meeting held in the Sons of Temperance Hall (which is just down the street from here) on the afternoon of January 23rd, 1911. Mrs. Charles Doan of Armitage was on hand to organize the gathering and the minutes written by Miss Mary Elliott (now Mrs. E. Clarkson of Aurora) are as follows:

"A Women's Institute was organized in Kettleby Temperance Hall on January 23rd by Mrs. Charles Doan of Armitage and the following officers were elected:

President	Mrs. Levi Watson
1st Vice-Pres.	Mrs. Bert Hilborn
Secretary-Treasurer	Miss Mary Elliott
Directors	Mrs. Spragge
	Mrs. Arthur Marshall
	Mrs. Rankin Hughey
Auditors	Mrs. Jas. Ramsden and Mrs. Jesse Tatton
District Director	Mrs. Levi Watson

First meeting to be held at the home of Mrs.
Artemus Hambleton.

Signed - Mrs. L. Watson, Pres.
Miss M. Elliott, Sec. Treas.

At the February meeting the opening hymn was "Blest be the Tie that Binds" and of the 21 ladies present 18 joined; and five more later in the year. Fees at this time were .25¢ per member and W. I. pins .15¢. Lunch was dispensed with for the first year.

Here are the subjects on which papers were given: "Cool dishes for summer" by Mrs. Frank Davis; "Different methods of Preparing Eggs" by Mrs. Rankin Hughey; "How to spend the Winter Evenings" by Mrs. W. Tribble; "Preparation of Salads" by Mrs. Jesse Tatton; "Poultry Raising" by Mrs. James Ramsden; "Value of Cheerfulness" by Mrs. Bert Hilborn; and a roll call "Best Months to Pack Butter and the Making of it".

Despite the fact that members travelled by horse and buggy we find that they had speakers from a distance and .50¢ was paid for their board and lodging. For many meetings gramophone selections were used for entertainment as well as piano selections and readings.

It is interesting to find that in these early years the roll call was set up in alphabetical order and then during the year they went down the list to the different members for a program committee.

A pie social with an admission fee of .10¢; ice cream 5¢ was held in 1912 while Mrs. J. A. Marshall was President.

A debate on the subject "Resolved that fashion is more detrimental to a community than tobacco" resulted in the decision that fashion was the worst offender; this was a February meeting in the Temperance Hall with an attendance of 24 ladies - the hall rent was \$1.50.

There is mention in the minutes of flowers being sent to the sick and of prizes given to the children at the School Fair.

During the years of the First World War the members worked for the Red Cross at their meetings. In October 1914 the minutes read that the President, Miss Mary Lemon, tendered her resignation but that it wasn't accepted by the meeting; the next sentence reveals that she was appointed to the Area Convention in Toronto. There seems to have been no meeting for three months

and then a motion in these records that - "the meetings be continued". The summer following a picnic was held at Bond Lake.

It is regrettable that we must now skip to 1926 because the records for the intervening ten years are missing. At this time Miss Ella Hilborn was President and Miss Aileen Marshall (Mrs. J. MacDonald) the Secretary Treasurer; Mrs. E. B. West the delegate to Area Convention and it was here that she won second prize and \$2.00 in a home-made hat competition.

Now, if you will pardon two personal happenings; it was here that my sisters and I entertained the W. I. while teenagers at home on the farm. The attendance was small - all the members could be brought with the President, Miss Hilborn, in her car. The cash on hand at the end of the year was \$2.08, and a motion in the minutes reads "that we try to carry on for another year".

The District Annual was held in Schomberg in 1931 and a car load of members were driven over by Mr. George Paxton (you will notice that we were not as efficient transportation-wise as the ladies of to-day). I can remember that the speaker's subject dealt with Communism and being a teenager (there I have practically told my age, and they say that a woman who will tell her age will tell anything), I am afraid that I had not heard the term 'communistic countries' before and thought that the speaker was frightening us about something that was very remote; exactly thirty years later and how wrong was he?

That same day there was a public speaking contest and because there were only two contestants entered I managed to win a book donated as a prize by Mrs. Charles of Aurora, entitled "Purple Springs" by Nellie McClung.

These years, of course, were the lean thirties and at the close of one year's work, the treasurer reports that a slight amount had to be donated to end the year in the black. The delegate to the Area Convention attended at her own expense. But now we have reached 1935 and the delegate was Mrs. Ernest Fry as we allowed her \$1.50 for her expenses.

It was in January 1936 that we celebrated our Twenty-fifth Anniversary and at the home of one of our hard-working and faithful members, Mrs. S. J. Heacock. Miss Annie Harmon was the President at the time and Mrs. Leo Blackburn the Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Charles Doan, who was on hand at the first meeting, cut the cake and Mrs. Charles was present to address the meeting. There were 35 ladies present and seven children; the hostess read letters from members who were unable to be present. The program consisted of a reading "Growing old, Growing Lovely" by Mrs. P. W. Ball, also a solo by Miss Bethel Black (Mrs. R. Marchant) accompanied by

Miss Laura Black (Mrs. Robert Carson) on the piano; current events by Mrs. E. Hollingshead.

A W. I. picnic was held at Bayview Beach and a dollar was taken from the funds for prizes; then several years later a picnic at Preston's Lake with an attendance of 10 members and a number of children. It is amusing to note that at one picnic the members donated prizes for a fat lady's race and a thin lady's race; also that the ladies were to be at a certain place to meet the truck that was to gather them up. One meeting place was "Tory Corner" - how many in this group know where that is?

It was in the thirties too that we served a hot noon meal to King Township Council and the meat for the meal was purchased for \$1.87.

First Aid Kits for the four local schools were supplied by our W.I. and kept filled; now, of course, these schools have been closed and supplies are still sent to the new Kettleby Area School.

We have now reached the time of the outbreak of the Second World War and our W. I. were again busy sending parcels to our boys overseas and working with the Salvation Army and Red Cross. We also had an adopted Institute in England and an adopted family to which we sent tea, clothing and other things. When the boys returned from overseas the W. I. along with the Community Club presented them each with a pen and pencil set. The names of two boys who did not return were engraved on the monument at the cemetery.

Almost every year from the beginning our branch has been represented at the Area Convention, and it is interesting to notice the gradual increase in the allowance that was necessary, until now it is about twenty times the original amount.

In 1946 Mrs. E. B. West was made our first Life member and presented with address and pin by the President, Miss Laura Black (Mrs. Robert Carson). Mrs. West has served many years on war work and has taken a special interest in the War Memorial at the cemetery.

The Branch has assisted with the chest x-ray unit, given a cup and saucer to members who have moved away, donated to the Salvation Army, Retarded Children, Adelaide Hoodless Fund, the Blind and many more worthy organizations which are too numerous to mention here.

Many visits have been made to the Ontario Hospital for Boys with treats; also to York Manor, particularly at Christmas when a number of our ladies give a small concert - there is always a question in their minds - they are never sure who gets the most enjoyment from the day, the entertainers or the entertained.

For the past few years our meetings have been held in the evenings, the reason being that the husbands and fathers make such fine built-in baby sitters; then too, we have had to hold our meetings in either of the two local halls because our membership has become so large that very few of the members' homes will accommodate us.

Our Branch was represented at the Guelph Conference and among the ideas our members brought back was the one where those who do not answer the roll call have to say "Dead Duck" instead. At the end of the meeting all the "dead ducks" must stand and be laughed at - the idea being, of course, that these members will make sure they are live ducks at the next meeting.

During the years we have had so many wonderful speakers and papers by the members; any number of our ladies who thought they just couldn't stand up before a meeting and speak have become very much at ease. In the past few years Mrs. Elton Armstrong gave us a day course on having to speak in public. You have, no doubt, read the comment of the Toronto T. V. columnist who wrote that Marg. Osborne, who sings with Don Messer and his Islanders, reminded him of a typical Women's Institute member. The most of us would be happy to look as pleasing as Mrs. Osborne, and we will assume that he meant the remark as a compliment.

In the year 1953 Mrs. Robert Carson was made a Life member in recognition of her many years of service both as President for a number of years and for her musical talents. Mrs. Carson has always been willing to help with whatever was asked of her.

Now we reach 1954 when Mrs. Albert Farren was elected Federation Representative for Centre York. Two years later our Branch honoured her with a Life membership and pin presented by Mrs. Norman Blatchford. In 1959 Mrs. Farren had the honour of being elected to the Provincial Board for a three year term as Regional Vice-President of Federated Women's Institute of Ontario. It was at our Christmas meeting this same year that the President, Mrs. Burns, presented Mrs. Farren with a corsage as a token of our pride in her recent appointment.

Our Branch is unique we feel in having as members a great grandmother, grandmother and mother in the same family - these ladies are Mrs. E. B. West, Mrs. Albert Farren and Mrs. Robert Warlow.

At one meeting we had Miss Burrows of King who built her own pink mud house. It was most interesting to hear of her trials and tribulations in the building period and her complete satisfaction when it was finished.

It was in the fifties that we had the pleasure of a visit from the President of Horsell Institute in England, our adopted Women's Institute of the war years. Mrs. Young attended the Area Convention along with two of our members.

A number of our members gained pen-pals as a result of having sent an aprong to the A.C.W.W. Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland.

We are proud of our new area school here at Kettleby and the W. I. has helped to make the grounds more attractive by donating several trees and the planting of flowers and bulbs.

It was during our enjoyable Christmas meeting in 1959 that we acquired another Life member, namely, Mrs. Leo Blackburn, who served many years as secretary-treasurer some years ago. Mrs. Blackburn has always helped our Branch in whatever way she could, and even though she now lives in Newmarket we still have her with us at almost every meeting. Our Branch now has four Charter Members and four Life Members.

We have had so many educational slides, travelogues, demonstrations, bus trips, and our members have helped in the Tuck Shop at York County Hospital, served as representatives from the Branch to the Cemetery Board, Hospital Auxiliary, Aurora Horse Show, Federation of Agriculture, it is a shame we have to mention them so briefly.

The only woman on our Area School Board, Mrs. Geert Tienkamp, is also a W. I. member.

This past year the Historical Reasearch group provided the meeting with an amusing fashion parade; in each of the following attires a member and in most cases her daughter appeared in street wear of the present and the past, also as a housewife, go-to-church wear, beach, wedding, party, sports and sleep-wear. Mrs. Howard Proctor (Carol) kept up a running commentary and the result was much laughter.

Then, of course, in December of this year we had our annual Christmas party. This is an event that we look forward to very much and Mrs. John Davis entertained us at her home with a tree and all the trimmings.