

Pickardville W. I. Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Fifty ladies attended a tea in the Westlock United Church hall on Friday afternoon, January 12, 1973 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Pickardville W.I.

The tea tables were beautifully decorated in A.W.I. colors of deep blue and white and accented with gold candles. The head table was backed with a large gold "50" under which were the letters Pickardville Women's Institute in blue on white and flanked by blue streamers. This table was centered with a lovely large cake decorated by Fanny Sterling behind which was a lovely floral bouquet sent by the Westlock W.I. flanked by white candles accented with small blue and white flowers.

Also set up in the hall was a table with backdrop containing historical material and greetings received from various people and organizations. Of particular interest was the life membership pin and picture of the late Mrs. T. H. Gower an extremely active member of this group for 35 years.

Visitors were greeted at the door by Mrs. J. Pollard who was in charge of the guest book.

The program began with the signing of O'Canada, followed by the Institute Creed. M.C. for the afternoon was President Peggy Brown who then gave a few words of welcome and tribute to the early members, seven of whom were able to attend, namely Mrs. A. Adam, Mrs. Annie Glebe, Mrs. Lawley, Mrs. J. Halwa, Mrs. Della Craddock, Mrs. Charlotte Gower and Mrs. S. Yeomans. These ladies were brought forward introduced and asked to say a few words. Corsages, made by Phyllis Chapotelle in deep blue and white, were pinned on each one by Audrey Lang. Then everyone sang the Institute Rally Song accompanied by Mrs. Tom McMillan at the piano.

This club disbanded in 1949 but was re-organized in 1953. Four of the reorganizing members were present who were then brought up to the front, introduced and each said a few words. These members were Mrs. Rose Victoor, Mr. Irene Marshall, Mrs. Florence Lambert and Mrs. Charolette Gower. Another song, titled Alberta was sung by all present.

Then the present members were brought forward and introduced. They were: Secretary Audrey Lang, Treasurer Judy Stefan, Historian Margaret Hanlan (member 16 years), Mrs. J. Pollard (member 12 years), Mary Pollard (12 years), Katharina Stefan (11 yrs) Phyllis Chapotelle and President Peggy Brown. Absentees also mentioned were Arline Allers (11 years) Judy McCarthur and club reporter Ruth Pollard.

Margaret Hanlan then gave the history of Pickardville W.I. In the early days it was a very active group, preparing baby bundles, Christmas hampers and helping physically and financially in the community wherever it was needed. During World War II they prepared parcels for our servicemen overseas, stipulating that everything in them (including candy) must be homemade, and also purchased cartons of cigarettes to include in each parcel. Their spare hours at that time were spent knitting for the servicemen and they contributed greatly to this worthwhile cause. After reorganizing, the group continued to be active in the community. Besides doing things previously mentioned, they furnished the kitchen in the Pickardville Curling Rink and donated a curling trophy for many years. They also spearheaded a drive for a piano and library in Pembina Lodge and donated a bookcase for this project. One of the many things they did to raise money was running the food booth in the Triple 'J' Auction Mart. The present group raises money through doll clothes sales, selling cotton wiping rags and cards. Any donations of rags would be gratefully accepted by any of the members: In 1971 they raised money to buy a special type hearing aid for a W.I. member.

Next on the program were two dances done by Peggy Brown and Jenny Sterling, attired in old fashioned clothing.

Past and present constituency convenors were then introduced by Mary Pollard. Past convenors Mrs. Mary Squair, Esther Brown and Gladys Doherty said a few words, followed by present constituency convenor Mrs. Florence Cameron bringing greetings from the Pembina Constituency. Later in the afternoon, another past convenor, Mrs. Ida McMillan arrived and was honored also.

Mrs. Nellie Whitson of Edmonton, Provincial 2nd vice-president then gave a timely message in which she stated the present group

had picked up the torch and carried it well.

A poem titled "How Are You" was then read by Judy Stefan, followed by everyone singing Prairie Rose, the song written by Mary Mercier and dedicated to the A.W.I. and senior citizens of our province.

Peggy Brown then introduced the guest speaker Dan Hollands M.P. who gave a timely message enjoyed by all. His talk included recognition of the many good works the A.W.I. have achieved and suggested we seek more publicity on local endeavours. We were very pleased to have Dan and his wife Dorothy with us. Margaret Hanlan extended our thanks and presented Mr. and Mrs. Hollands with "The Story of A.W.I."

Mrs. Kay McMillan, provincial secretary-treasurer, presented a Golden Anniversary certificate to

the Pickardville W.I. and Mrs. K. Arlow, on behalf of the Independence W.I. presented an engraved gavel.

Courtesies for the day were then given by Audrey Lang.

Each of the present members was a hostess at a tea table. At this point of the program they lit the candles at their tables and everyone sang the Club Ode followed by the W.I. grace.

Tea and a lovely lunch was then served. Pouring at the head table were Mrs. Katharina Stefan representing the present members and Mrs. Charlotte Gower representing the early members. The anniversary cake was cut by the earliest member present, Mrs. A. Adam, and enjoyed by all.

A pleasant afternoon was had by everyone present, and the Pickardville W.I. wish to take this opportunity to thank all who supported our function.