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# 60th Anniversary Of Montrose United W.M.S.

—Another milestone in the history of the Montrose Auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada was recently attained, and on Tuesday evening, December 11th, 1951, a public service was held in the church to celebrate the 60th anniversary of its organization.

Presiding over the gathering was Mrs. Kenneth Gordon, president of the organization, and with her on the platform were Mrs. Curtis McRae, a charter member, and Mrs. A. C. Green, a member of the Presbyterial Executive and former missionary, who was guest speaker for the evening. Also taking part in the service were members of Alma Auxiliary which is

also connected with Montrose congregation. The offering was received by Mrs. John Clark and Miss Marion Barbour. In conducting the worship Mrs. Gordon was assisted by Mrs. Hudson Pridham, who led in prayer. "The Light of the World" was the predominant theme of the service. The choir, composed of W. M. S. members, with Mrs. Wallace Donald as organist, sang "Send Out the Light" and Mrs. Neil Barbour, rendered, "Lead Me to Calvary."

The roll of charter members of the Auxiliary was called by Mrs. Wallace Donald, who also read the minutes of the organization meeting. As already stated, one of these charter members, Mrs. McRae (nee Miss Mary Ellen Hardy) was present. Messages from the other two surviving charter members, Mrs. John Miller of Southport, P. E. I., (nee Miss Annie Murray) who was the first treasurer, and Mrs. J. H. White of Vancouver, B. C., (nee Miss Minnie Gordon), were read by Mrs. Allan Clark who also expressed the regret of Mrs. John Johnston of Summerside (nee Miss Kate Hardy), an early member, that she was unable to be present.

Mrs. Harry Pridham, secretary of the Auxiliary, called the roll of present members of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Eldon Barbour read greetings from Mrs. A. J. Reynolds, president of the Maritime Conference Branch, Mrs. Hazen Howard, president of the Prince Edward Island Presbyterial and Mrs. Heber Hardy, president of Elmsdale Auxiliary. Greetings from Alberton Auxiliary were conveyed by its president, Mrs. A. C. Green.

One of the most interesting features of the meeting was a history of the Auxiliary read by Mrs. Roy Barbour.

Mrs. Green based her address on the words of Jesus, "I am come a light into the world" (John 12:46) and "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). She reviewed some of the avenues of life into which the coming of the Saviour had brought new light and reminded her hearers that they were called to send out this light in their own communities as well as to the uttermost parts of the earth through the missionaries of the Cross.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. M. Sheen, minister of the congregation.

### HISTORY OF MONTROSE AUXILIARY

When the Montrose Auxiliary was first organized in 1891, it included members from all three sections of the congregation, Montrose, Elmsdale and Tignish. The organization meeting was held in Montrose Church with sixteen ladies present. After devotional exercises, Mrs. Stewart of Summerside explained the object for which they had met and proceeded to organize the Auxiliary. On motion, it was decided that the annual fee for married ladies be one dollar and for young ladies twenty-five cents.

Officers elected were: President — Mrs. Hugh Squarebriggs, 1st Vice-president — Mrs. Archibald McMurdo, 2nd Vice-president — Mrs. William Carruthers, Tignish, 3rd Vice-president — Miss T. McNeill, Elmsdale. Secretary — Miss Libby Hardy, Treasurer — Miss Annie Murray, Auditor — Miss Agnes Hardy.

For some reason Miss Libby Hardy was prevented from filling the office to which she was appointed and at the first regular meeting of the Auxiliary, Miss Agnes Hardy was appointed secretary in her place.

Other ladies present at the organization meeting were Mrs. John Donald, Mrs. Charles Hardy, Mrs. James Hardy, Mrs. Dan Squarebriggs, Miss Lizzie Donald, Ramsay, Miss Ella Squarebriggs

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Miss Minnie Gordon, Miss Eliza and Mrs. Mary Ellen Hardy. At the first regular meeting of the Auxiliary, held in the manse, it was decided to form a Sewing Circle in connection with the W. F. M. S. and this circle continued to be active for thirty years, sewing clothing for the Trinidad mission. Often more than fifty handmade garments were shipped in the annual box. In the early days the members had difficulty in securing sufficient funds to buy cotton for money was very scarce. As they were able, the ladies would donate a few yards of cotton, a spool of thread or a dozen buttons and often it meant real sacrifice for them. Quite often the merchant would reduce the price if a whole web were purchased.

The "Grierson Mission Band" was organized on May 21st, 1898, at a meeting of the W. F. M. S., held at the home of Mrs. David Marchbank. Its first officers were: President — Miss Minnie Gordon, Vice-President — Mrs. James Hardy, Secretary — Mrs. Archibald McMurdo, Treasurer — Mrs. A. D. MacDonald.

Later it was found that the Mission Band was giving its money to help send Mr. A. F. Robb to Korea.

What may have been a forerunner of modern W. M. S. rallies was a gathering of Auxiliaries from different parts of the congregation at the manse in Montrose on August 17th, 1916. There they were welcomed by Rev. and Mrs. E. Lockhart. Reports were given by Mrs. Dodd from Campbellton, Mrs. C. Currie and Miss T. McNeill from Elmsdale, Miss Eliza Ramsay from Montrose, and Tignish was represented by Mrs. Alex McLeod.

Guest speakers were Rev. and Mrs. George Millar of Alberton and Mrs. Benjamin Rogers, Honorary President of the Presbyterial. In 1918, a similar gathering was held on the Montrose Church grounds with over fifty persons present. Among the guests were Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Murray, parents of Dr. Florence Murray of Korea, and Mrs. A. J. Matheson and Mrs. George Sheen of O'Leary.

In minutes of August 1st, 1900, it is stated a special meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Henry Gordon to pray that all the women of the congregation would become members of the W. F. M. S. In time their prayers were answered and the Auxiliary grew in numbers until it was thought best to organize a separate Auxiliary in Alma. This was done in 1924.

It is worthy of note that Mrs. H. S. Crockett who had been secretary of the Montrose Auxiliary for five years, was appointed to the same office in the new Alma Auxiliary where she continued to serve in this capacity for twenty-four years. She is still a valued member of the Auxiliary. In 1916 Montrose Auxiliary observed its 25th anniversary with a special service in the church being conducted by the minister, Rev. E. Lockhart. Rev. Mr. McLeod, a missionary from Korea, gave a very fine address on the mission work being done there. A pleasing part of this service was the presentation of Life Membership certificates to two charter members of the Auxiliary, Mrs. James Hardy and Mrs. Archibald McMurdo, in appreciation of their twenty-five years of faithful work in the W. M. S.

—B. LONDON—(CP)—William Cranmer deserted his wife 27 years ago. Then he won a newspaper crossword-puzzle contest. His wife saw his name, made some inquiries—and now claims maintenance arrears totalling £164.

### AFTER 27 YEARS

LONDON—(CP)—William Cranmer deserted his wife 27 years ago. Then he won a newspaper crossword-puzzle contest. His wife saw his name, made some inquiries—and now claims maintenance arrears totalling £164.



### FAREWELL PARTY AT SOUTH FREETOWN

—On Friday evening, Nov. 30th, a large number of friends and relatives gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Stetson, South Freetown, to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Drummond and family, who are leaving the community.

After the crowd had assembled, the meeting was brought to order by Mr. Leslie Reeves who, in his usual jovial and capable manner, briefly outlined the purpose of the gathering.

He then called on Mrs. Wilbert Drummond, who on behalf of the community read a very fitting address, after which gifts consisting of an Aladdin lamp, studio couch and rocking chair were presented by Mrs. Leslie Reeves, Mr. Wilbert Drummond and Mr. Clifford Francis.

An address on behalf of the Home and School Association was read by Mrs. Elmer Gauthier and a gift of china was presented by Mrs. Fred Stetson and Mrs. Elmer Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Drummond both thanked their many friends for the lovely gifts and both expressed the hope that everyone present would visit them in their new home.

After bouncing Harold, all joined in singing "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows". Lunch was then served by the hostess assisted by several of the ladies present.

The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing and singing, after which all departed wishing Mr. and Mrs. Drummond and family much happiness in their new home.

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Signed  
Coleen White,  
Emerald, P. E. I.

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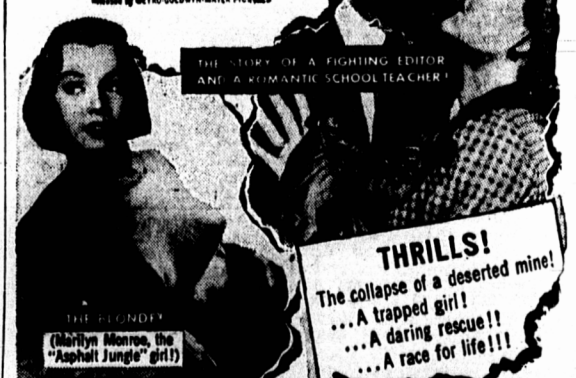
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