

WHOLE SOME FAMILY LIFE

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tions and everyone works. When the furniture is placed to suit the group, then the accessories and pictures are considered. These mean much to the appearance of the room. Perhaps more discussion will come up with these than with the furniture.

If one is blessed with too many accessories and pictures, the number necessary to create good design in the room could be used now, the rest put away to be brought into use when a change is wanted.

Light in the room is considered throughout the study of the room. For instance, if no one plays the piano, there is no need that the piano have the best lighting in the room. If a member of the family reads in the daytime, then we would plan for a place for that activity at a window.

It is not enough to make the room look beautiful, it should meet the needs of the family. So the true test of the work will be their living in it. They may find that changes will be necessary. But there will be an earnest consideration of the situation.

This first day's work is done with the Department instructor present. To follow up the idea of learning by doing, at least five other rooms are done in the community without the instructor. Later a return visit is made by her. To each hostess a questionnaire is sent. The answers to these give us a bird's eye view of the work and also give us an idea of how the work is progressing. On the other hand, it helps the woman in that she has one other form of expression.

We have made return visits in only one district as yet for this year's work—East Middlesex. To date, seventy-six percent of the hostesses have returned their questionnaires. We are indeed pleased with this, but are looking for the remainder in the near future. Not only are we pleased with the number but also with the quality of the reports. We have a right to believe that these women are recognizing that the key to a well furnished house is not money but rather knowledge and judgment.

So a home conference is really a form of study where the problem at hand is studied, not one made for the occasion.

(Contributed by Miss Esther A. Slicter, Women's Institute Branch.)

FIRE SUFFERERS AIDED

When fire swept the Fort Frances area in the Rainy River District in October last, many families found themselves suddenly homeless, but certainly not friendless.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture co-operated with the Ontario Branch of the Red Cross Society through which an appeal for help was made to Women's Institutes.

From the Women's Institute Branch, appeal was made to three convention areas through the area conveners on Relief. Funds, as well as bales of clothing and bedding, were quickly forwarded to the committee in charge of supplies at headquarters.

We gratefully acknowledge generous bales from Institutes in the London Area, the Listowel Area, the Central Area, and from the Hamilton Area.

Central Ontario Institutes contributed \$22.85; the Barrie convention area, \$25.00; individual contributions, \$6.00; making total cash receipts \$53.85.

Twenty-three Institutes and several individuals made acceptable contributions of clothing, bedding and footwear. Transportation charges on the goods forwarded in response to our request were provided by the Provincial Board.

We are pleased to pass on the expressions of gratitude to all Institutes and individuals, whether donations were made through the Women's Institute Branch or some other source.

(Contributed by Miss M. Viola Powell, Women's Institute Branch.)

News Flashes From the Institutes

Aldershot, Wentworth Co.—Follows printed programmes which are carefully planned for the entire year, and has adopted the plan of providing transportation to the meetings. This year, the membership has almost trebled due largely to this plan.

Decew Falls, Welland Co.—Concentrated on "Old Clocks". This aroused the members to the beauty and value of their old possessions which might be restored to usefulness. An address was given on 'clocks', and a review of the life of Abigail Becker. Greater respect for the pioneers of the country was induced by this review.

Kentvale, St. Joseph Island—Had a roll call when each member named a good Canadian book to read. Papers were given on books by Canadians and the value of good literature in the home. Current events and a question box furnished additional information. This Institute utilizes the travelling library service and also supports a local library through which there is an exchange of library books with other libraries.

Burwick, York Co.—Held an educational meeting on Historical Research at which there was a book display. One volume was 189 years old, and several volumes well over the century mark. Articles over 100 years old included wooden clogs, a Dutch Bible and a complete set of Robert Burns' poems. Letters dated 93 years ago were displayed. This resulted in an appreciation of their forefathers and an added respect for articles of historic significance.

Agincourt, York Co.—Is studying the historic background of Canadian cities. One city is selected each month. This is stimulating interest in Canadian history, with the result that books on the subject are being sought in public libraries and are being read with new interest.

Delhi, Norfolk Co.—Created definite interest in music by having a musical evening. Papers were given on the beginning and development of music and some compositions of the masters were played. This resulted in a deeper appreciation of good music and requests for further study of the subject.

Orkney, Wentworth Co.—Gave a practical demonstration of "good neighbours". One afternoon, instead of the regular meeting, the members helped to prepare a house for a family which had recently lost their home through fire. Baskets of fruit, quilts, and household furnishings were generously given.

Puslinch, Wellington Co.—Held its annual At Home with about seventy visitors. A guest speaker gave an address on Peace. In addition to the music and other items, the members dressed to represent people of important countries and presented music or readings of the countries represented.

Fonthill, Welland Co.—Celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1938. A resume of the accomplishments of the Institute was presented by the secretary. Eight of the charter members, the county secretary of 25 years ago and the present county officers contributed to the fine programme.

Adolphustown, Lennox Co.—Heard an address from the district president, in which she prepared the Institute for the district annual meeting by speaking of the business which would be dealt with and explaining some of the items on the agenda.

Conway, Lennox Co.—Demonstrated, in a convincing manner, the cultural value of music. Four schools were represented in a musical recital which was given in the early summer by the music instructor. The Institute financed the rental of the hall and no admission fee was charged. This recital showed the value of musical instruction in the schools. It also created much interest in the parents and some members of the school board, who, formerly, had been unsympathetic toward the work.

Odessa, Lennox Co.—Devoted its agricultural meeting to the study of honey. The roll call was answered by giving a way to use honey. An informative paper on bees and their product was given by one of the members who is engaged in the honey industry. A demonstration of interest was a honey sandwich spread. This spread was used for the luncheon hour refreshments.

Islington, York Co.—Enlisted the services of a local lawyer to outline some points relative to women's property rights and joint ownership of property. The subject was so ably presented that definite interest was aroused and the members decided to devote a period of time each month to some phase of legislation. The representative of the legal profession generously agreed to direct their study as far as possible.

Trent River, Peterborough Co.—Is contributing to a better community life through its work on beautification, installation of street lights and road signs for safety. Sports and recreation are also given Institute support by the upkeep of the rinks for Community Night celebrations. Contributions are also made to the hockey teams and a community get-together each month.

Havelock, Peterborough Co.—Shows interest in Child Welfare by providing milk for 22 school children who are in need of additional nourishment.

Westwood, Peterborough Co.—Listened to a well prepared paper on the control of ragweed, which gave practical helps for the elimination of this weed.

Amherst Island, Lennox Co.—Had a splendid response to the school programme meeting. The teachers of four schools directed their pupils in presenting the programme emphasizing health rules. The large attendance of parents was an indication of their interest.

Maple Leaf, Lennox Co.—Studied community needs from a carefully prepared paper by one of the members. This resulted in the Institute applying for a travelling library as a means of meeting a felt need for the young people.

New Dundee, Waterloo Co.—Became interested in legislation in an unusual way. Following a paper which dealt with laws, especially affecting women and children, the members listened to an address on "What is expected of the wife of an M.P. and how she occupies herself while Parliament is in session".

Haysville, Waterloo Co.—Conducted a patriotic sing song in connection with the Peace Education Programme. The singing of the members was in recognition of King, country, flag and home. An address was given on the topic, Let's Know Our Country.

Maple Grove, Waterloo Co.—Observed the Yuletide month with gift exchange and donations for cheer baskets. The story of Christmas and its significance was told and carols were sung.

Mill Creek, Waterloo Co.—Devoted one meeting to Home Economics with a discussion on housewives and separate allowances. An unusual feature of the programme was the preparation and calculation of the cost of materials for a supper dish. Six members took part in this demonstration and the finished dish formed a part of the refreshments at the tea hour.

Gordon Lake, Algoma District—Learned, at the annual meeting, many interesting things about the people, climate, customs and animals of British South Africa.

Bar River, Algoma District—Profited by a home nursing course under a Departmental instructor.

Burk's Falls, Parry Sound District—Elected two women to the township council for 1939, one of whom headed the polls over the councillors. It is of interest to know that this councillor is the president of the Parry Sound South District Women's Institute.

COMMUNITY LIFE INSTITUTE HAD BUSY YEAR

The Ontario Association for Adult Education (O.A.A.E.) represents the Adult Section of the Ontario Educational Association, and is composed of representatives of various organizations with adult educational interests, which have no separate sections within the O.E.A. The purpose of the Association is to shoulder responsibility for providing continued education for young people who have left school early. Its aims are stated as:

"1. To stimulate interest in and development of Adult Education.

2. To foster Adult Education research.

3. To co-ordinate Adult Education locally, provincially and nationally."

One of its three major problems is Rural Adult Education.

The Women's Institutes of Ontario have a representative in this Association, Mrs. Wm. Elliott of Galt.

Mrs. Elliott is also a member of the advisory council of the Community Life Training Institute.

The purpose of this Institute is to enrich the cultural and recreational life of rural Ontario. In April, a meeting was held in Hamilton, when a name was chosen, a constitution drawn up and an Executive and an Advisory Committee formed. The secretary has reported that during the summer seven playgrounds for children had been organized and carried on—six of them in Oxford County where nearly 400 school children took part. The activities included instruction in arts and crafts, puppets, music and games. Before starting the school, a training school for volunteer leaders was most successfully carried on in Woodstock, with an attendance of 40 young people.

During the summer months, a Creative Leisure Institute was held in Alma College, St. Thomas, with an attendance of 36 pupils. Instruction was given in recreation, dramatics, folk dancing, glove making, weaving, puppets and making musical instruments.

During the past fall, County Recreation Schools were held in Perth County and in Oxford County. These are leadership schools designed to train leaders for the home groups. The schools run for five weeks, with a meeting one evening each week and include singing, folk dancing, wood carving, lino cutting, making musical instruments and dramatics. One of the most important values of these schools lies in the fact that they are carried on as community projects, which means that the young people are using the larger units of organization and learning how much more may be done by co-operation than could possibly be achieved by individual effort.

In Simcoe County, a county drama league has been formed. Instruction will be given in Midland, Barrie, Coldwater and Orillia. A drama festival in February or March on a county basis will conclude this season's activities.

They have also organized five three-day schools in Kent, Oxford and Wellington Counties. These schools are expected to lay the ground work for a supervised winter study programme. The courses of study are community organization, co-operative economics, and recreation.

A bulletin for leaders called "Community Recreation" has been issued. The first two issues deal with the facilities provided by the Travelling Libraries and the Art Gallery of Toronto. A radio list which is called Listening Guide, giving worthwhile programmes, is also issued.

There seems much scope for the work of the Community Life Training Institute which is being carried on so well.