



Frontenac District Women's Institute's booth at the Kingston Industrial Exhibition.

## Show Window At a Fair

FROM Mrs. H. Baker, Secretary of Frontenac District Women's Institutes, we have a report showing how an exhibit at a fair can give the public a picture of Women's Institute work and interests. Mrs. Baker wrote:

"As a means of marking the Sixtieth Anniversary of Women's Institutes and at the same time sparking more interest in their work, the Frontenac District Women's Institutes sponsored a booth at the Kingston Industrial Exhibition."

A committee appointed to make arrangements secured from the Fair Board fifty feet of space for a booth. This was decorated as a background for exhibits from the sixteen Institutes in the district, and the new district banner with the Institute crest in blue and gold on white satin was hung in the centre of the wall space. At one end of the booth a chesterfield and chairs provided a spot "where tired women could rest and chat a while."

Each Institute in the district provided an exhibit in keeping with its special interests and women to take a turn in manning the booth. The exhibits included educational toys and art and craft exhibits made at an institution, a collection of jams to be donated to a local school for retarded children, a first aid kit to be given to a public school, a description of a scholarship to be awarded to a high school student, a display of fancy work, a layette, quilts, rugs, tooled copper, etched aluminum, leather work and paintings—most of these represented skills acquired through the enterprise of the Women's Institutes. There were hats made in millinery courses and clothing work done through girls' 4-H Homemaking Clubs. (One Institute reported having sponsored these clubs for the past twenty-one years.) The exhibit of one branch was a doll in a handmade crib with a doll's complete wardrobe hung on a rack—all to be given to some welfare cause. The doll had been donated by a local merchant and the Institute held a sewing bee to make the clothes. There were cups on display for

public speaking and drama competitions. And the array of Tweedsmuir histories attracted a great deal of attention.

During the exhibition Institute members gave demonstrations in hooking rugs and making stuffed toys, felt flowers and pine-needle baskets.

Bulletins available from the Home Economics Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture were on display with a register where passersby could leave their addresses requesting bulletins to be mailed to them from the Department.

And to publicize the work of the Institutes in Frontenac district, the women had compiled a brief "story" giving the objectives of Women's Institutes, the name of each Institute in the district, the date of its organization and its major project or interest. The story was printed in rather large type on sheets of tinted paper and the sheets were handed out to visitors at the booth.

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### THE OLD SAMPLER

Dear little girl of Long Ago, so sweetly docile, quiet and prim, making, laboriously and slow, your silken prayer to Him — did your child-heart beat eager wings beneath the bones of your stiff dress, like some caged bird that sweetly sings, longing for freedom's happiness? It must have been a day in June when with a gleaming, scarlet thread, you worked the livelong afternoon, "Give us this day our daily bread." For look! Just where a line begins your needle strayed a square too high; quite crooked are the words "our sins." Oh! were you gazing at the sky? Or did the daisies on your lawn begin to wink and blink at you? Perhaps you spied a leprechaun just where your mother's roses grew? I think God smiled at that mistake, dear little girl so fair and prim, and blessed those hands that failed to make — a perfect gift for Him.

Wilhelmina Stitch.

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