



Members of the Women's Institute panel, "Safety Sense for the Sixties." Left to right: Mrs. P. Y. McCandless,

Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, Mrs. James Haggerty, Chairman, and Mrs. E. V. Thompson.

out of a child's reach. "Some adult smokers are careless with matches too," said Mrs. Thompson. "Smokers have a special responsibility to see that matches and cigarette butts are safely disposed of and never to smoke in bed. One way that we can help is to have plenty of good, substantial ash trays around."

Mrs. Thompson also spoke of the dangers of accidental poisoning. Every home, she said, should have a First Aid Kit and a medicine cabinet with a list of poison antidotes on the inside of the door. If medicines are removed from the original container to another container, this should be plainly labelled. Among the poisons that have been accidentally taken by children, Mrs. Thompson named drugs and medicine in bottles, pills, aspirin, sleeping pills, nail polish remover, hair lotion; household cleaners such as lye, ammonia, strong acids, furniture polish, metal cleaners, turpentine, moth balls, laundry bleaches, disinfectants. All of these should be kept in cupboards securely locked. Veterinary supplies, whether they are kept in the house or the barn should be under lock and key if there are children around.

Mrs. Thompson concluded: "If we would only remember the slogan 'Accidents do not happen; they are caused,' we would be alert to the causes of accidents and would take all possible measures to prevent them."

Other Hazards in the Home

Mrs. P. Y. McCandless, F.W.I.O. Public Relations Officer, said that while the greatest number of accidents in the home occur in the kitchen and the most common home accidents come from falls, the most dangerous place for falls seems to be on the stairs to the basement. The most practical precautions are to have the stairway well lighted, and equipped with a handrail, or if this is impossible to have a strong cord stretched along the wall. Paint the bottom step white, a white strip on the top stair will help too. If the ceiling at the top of the stairway is not quite high enough for the tallest person in the house, it is a good idea to paint black and white strips across the top. Broken steps should be repaired immediately. As a safeguard against going up and down stairs with both hands carrying things,

make it a practice to use a shopping bag or a market basket, and to hold onto the hand rail. Mrs. McCandless reported a case of a woman falling on a stair with a broken step and no handrail, having a hip broken, and three months in hospital, costing altogether \$3,610. Fortunately a considerable part of this was paid by insurance, Mrs. McCandless explained, and she added: "The basement stairs were repaired right away."

Another expensive fall had been caused by stairs being highly waxed and polished with a skidding scatter rug at the foot. "Stairs should be only lightly waxed and the wax should be well rubbed in," Mrs. McCandless said, "and scatter rugs can be anchored so that they won't slip by sewing or glueing rubber jar rings on the underside at each corner, or by brushing on a non-skid backing. When buying a new scatter rug, get one with a non-skid backing."

Precautionary measures were suggested to prevent accidents in the bathroom: Place a rubber mat in the bottom of the tub especially if there are elderly people in the house. For elderly people a hand rail should be provided as a help in getting in and out of the tub. Portable heaters and radios should never be taken into the bathroom—flimsy garments might catch fire from the heater, and to insert electric plugs, while in the water in the tub might cause electrocution. Never leave a small child in the tub for even one minute—he may turn on the hot water and get scalded or slip down in the tub and drown.

Other home safety measures given by Mrs. McCandless included: Where there are children, window screens should be securely fastened, so that a child cannot fall out when the window is open. If an elderly or lame person in the home uses a cane, see that it has a vacuum cap on the tip to prevent slipping. Electric cords should not pass under rugs. If extension cords are used they should be fastened along the baseboard with insulated staples. Make it a rule of the house that no one shall smoke in bed. Many houses have been burned and many lives have been lost because a smoking cigarette dropped into the bedding and smouldered unnoticed until the whole place caught fire. Keep plastic bags out of the reach of children—the plastic is so thin that it is