

the other colours in the room where the rug will be used. A very interesting session was devoted to dyeing fabrics to the wanted shades.

Mrs. Peters described the dyeing process in the Colonial days when plant materials were used to liven up the "sheep's Greay" that was common at that time. Sumac root, walnut hulls, willow bark, dandelion roots, apple bark, chicory flower, bramble, lamb's quarters, burdock root, all produced rich and varied colours for the pioneer housewife. Although the early homemakers did not have the advantage of the use of a colour wheel they nevertheless found by the trial and error method that green could be obtained by first steeping the material in yellow dye probably gotten from golden rod or apple bark and then combined with the blue dye from cornflowers or chicory flowers. It was also soon found that by tying tight bands of cotton around the material to be dyed, a shaded effect could be produced.

Restoration of colours was an important factor in pioneer housewives' homemaking activities. They soon learned that faded colours could be brightened by special rinses such as pearl ash to freshen up purples.

The designs of the early rugs follow Nature's inspiration, flowers, leaves and landscapes being the most popular. Today the elements in design have expanded so that mosaics, geometrics, combinations of lines, repetition of squares in several sizes, squares and diagonals, or overlapping circles may be used in pleasing arrangements. These particularly adapt themselves to hooked rug designs since it has been learned that the center of interest should be at eye level. This would eliminate landscapes, ships, etc. as rug designs, but these could be used if the finished hooked canvas were used as a wall hanging. The flat pattern is best suited for floor rugs.

Mrs. Frank Hanaghan, the Institute President, observes that the personality of each member is reflected in the free-hand design of her rug.

## Affiliation With an Arts Council

By Mrs. L. E. Harrison

LAST YEAR at our Brant County Women's Institutes' Rally we had a showing of small items of historical value as well as our Tweedsmuir Histories. A year previous we had had 93 entries in a Hobby Display including a "Dress A Doll" contest using either hand-made or manufactured dolls. I was then pressured by a small group of our members who have collections and hobbies to have a showing at the art centre, Glenhurst Gardens operated by the Brantford Arts Council.

I went to the committee with my plan to let our members visit the Gardens, have a showing and after a year take a vote to decide whether they want to continue. The Arts Council gave their approval and also approved the request that the affiliation fee be paid from June to June of 1960. This, I believe has been a real privilege, for most of our members had never been out to the Gardens before, although Mr. E. L. Cockshutt who gave the estate to the city held open house



Richmond Hill Women's Institute has the Institute crest featured with the Service Clubs on the sign board at the entrance to the town.

every year and the public had the privilege of strolling about the beautiful grounds.

We now have the privilege of holding our meetings there and of participating individually in the classes and the general programme at a reduced fee. The interests at the centre include art exhibits, music recitals, films, music club, camera club, writers' workshops and classes in art, conversational French, millinery, and et cetera.

## How Conveners Can Help

By Mrs. A. E. Lackie

IN ACCEPTING a convenueership one should realize that there is more responsibility than reading a paper once a year. Jubilee Women's Institute in South Waterloo never has a monthly meeting without the president's asking for a short report from each convenueer. This is in addition to the convenueers' each being responsible for one or two meetings during the year. So many convenueers think they have done their duty when they read a paper at the meeting of which they are in charge, or hold some kind of a contest. They then sit back with a "thank-goodness-that-is-over-for-another-year" attitude. Right there they are defeating the purpose for which these convenueerships were created. In the first place the idea is that the convenueers bring to each meeting new developments and ideas pertaining to citizenship, education, agriculture, industry and all down the line. Busy housewives haven't the time to keep up on these things but an Institute whose convenueers are on their toes can have news of them brought to each meeting.

It is certainly no hardship for a convenueer to keep an eye open for newspaper, magazine and even television stories. Just the other day I heard a newscaster speak of the proposed "cow pool," explaining only briefly what was meant. In the same day's paper the idea was explained more fully. We have members whose husbands are engaged in milk production on a large scale, being involved in bulk haulage, as well as those whose husbands have only a few cows. They would be