

A Rural Leadership Forum

REPRESENTATIVES of Women's Institutes chosen to attend the Provincial Rural Leadership Forum at Vineland have sometimes wondered how best to relay what they learned to their organization or to the community in general. Haldimand county seems to have done this very successfully in a series of sessions, held on Wednesday nights from the beginning of November to the end of February, at Kohler Youth Centre, on the same nights as the regular night school.

The six delegates from the county, three men and three women, who had attended the provincial forum, two delegates each year for the past three years, met with the County Agricultural Representative and Miss Eleanor Saracuse of Community Programmes to plan a programme for the First Haldimand County Leadership Forum.

At the first meeting, those attending were asked to fill out a questionnaire asking: "Why have you come?", "What do you want?", "What are your problems?", "What organization do you represent?" Twelve men and fifteen women answered the questions.

Subsequent meetings carried on by means of talks, discussion in buzz sessions and general sessions, and with the help of films and other aids, dealt with Programme Planning, Getting the Most Out of Meetings, Effective Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Group Discussion, Visual Communications, Written Communications, Getting and Keeping Members, Impromptu Speeches and

Miss C. J. Palmer, aged 95, active member, life member and historical convener of Vittoria Institute and life member of South Norfolk district. Formerly a school teacher, her papers and talks on historical topics are highly appreciated in her own and neighbouring Institutes. Once a year Miss Palmer entertains the Institute, the last occasion being in October '59. Miss Palmer lives alone and takes care of her home and garden. At Open House on her last birthday her Church Guild served tea and the Institute members attended in a body bringing flowers and a birthday cake.



an Impromptu Debate. (The subject of the debate was of a sort suitable for an unprepared debate, "Resolved that a tractor is more important to a farmer than a wife.") Four groups, including everyone present, took part in the debate. At the second last meeting of the series, Mr. Garvie of Community Programmes was present as consultant in dealing with problems; and at the last meeting staff and class members all took part in an evaluation of the forum in the county. (Information contributed by Mrs. Charles Watson, Haldimand.)

Highlights of Human Interest

By Mrs. Watson McCulloch

THESE HIGHLIGHTS from the latter part of our year's work in Coleridge Union Institute seemed to appeal to us especially because of their human interest.

At the Historical Research meeting we honoured the grandmothers with little gifts. The December meeting featured a Christmas pageant by the members and each member brought a little gift for a child, these gifts being given to the Salvation Army for distribution. We always pack boxes of good things for the sick and shut-ins at Christmas time and this year several of the members went out one evening singing carols and giving the shut-ins their boxes.

We always have a turkey supper in the fall with our families as guests. We divide our members into three groups, one to do the catering, the others to provide the evening's entertainment. We cater to banquets to help raise our money and this fall we catered for two weddings and held a euchre to raise our share of the scholarship fund we are setting up in Dufferin County.

At the Citizenship and Education meeting we had a panel discussion on Education with a moderator, a present day teacher, a former teacher and a parent taking part. The convener of Home Economics and Health, who is a nurse, gave a most interesting and informative talk on Cancer and showed a film "The Sword of Hope."

Miscellaneous Briefs

MRS. E. W. BRIESE writes: "As branch public relations officer I thought it might be well to mention that Ullswater Women's Institute served a free chicken supper inviting everyone in the community, whether Institute members or not. They also recently held an old-time box social, which was something new to most young people as there had not been one in the community for years."

In a Newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society, the Editor, Mrs. Verna B. Taylor, R.R. 5, Galt, reminds us that records of a great many Ontario municipalities may be consulted at the Ontario Archives, Queen's Park, Toronto. For example, the Archives recently borrowed and placed on microfilm the District Council Minutes of Niagara District 1847-49 and the Minutes of