

# A Look Ahead

*Editor's Note: This is by no means the complete text of Mrs. Skinner's address. Mrs. Skinner did not have a manuscript so the following is compiled from reporter's notes.*

**N**O MATTER what decade we live in we are always affected by change and the rate of change gathers momentum every year. Perhaps this change affects women's work more than men's because women's goals are not yet as clearly defined as men's. Anyway the pressure of change shapes us all whether we are sixteen or seventy-five; and we have to decide what to discard and what to keep of the old, what to institute of the new.

I am a housekeeper, a grandmother, a good citizen, I hope. So was my grandmother. My grandmother had very much the same potential as I have. How do our lives differ?

My grandmother, in my decade, sat in the chimney corner—literally and figuratively. I seldom sit at leisure. My grandmother knitted caps, mufflers, mittens for all her grandchildren; she

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In a comparison of styles of today and twenty-five years ago, at Dufferin County's 4-H Homemaking Club's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration, Willimene Black of Waldemar club models the dress made by Mrs. Margaret Mills in her 1935 club project "A Simple Cotton Dress." Mrs. Mills arranges the dress. Made of sparva cloth at 25 cents a yard, the dress cost \$2.23.



Lighting the 25th anniversary birthday cake. Left, Mrs. Bess McDermid Skinner who as Superintendent of the Ontario Women's Institutes Branch introduced 4-H Homemaking Clubs in Ontario and Miss Florence P. Eadie, Supervisor of Junior Extension, Home Economics Service, director of the club programme from its beginning.

also knitted for grandfather. I like to knit. But if I knit sweaters for my twin grandchildren I know that a machine could do it much faster so I am interested in knitting only something creative.

My grandmother made the best angel cake in the community. At church suppers it was a centre of admiration and gave her a sense of achievement. It took ten fresh eggs and a great deal of time to make the cake. I make an angel cake from a mix. It isn't as good as grandmother's but it's still seventy-five per cent better than the average home-made angel cake. It costs less than the ten fresh eggs in grandmother's recipe, it takes ten minutes to make it, and it has built-in maid service in the work done in the factory. I'm making use of the production line outside my home. I do not have my grandmother's sense of achievement but for me my way is practical.

What about our family life? My grandmother's family lived near her. My family are scattered. I am part of a community in which my family does not participate. My grandmother entertained her relatives; she knew them well. My husband and I rarely entertained relatives—they were too far away. We entertained business associates from all over the world and made deep friendships with people of common interests.

Where did my grandmother go? She went to church. She was driven there—a distance of one-half a mile—in a clean buggy with a shining horse and greased harness and was helped out at the entrance with dignity and decorum. And at her church she met not only her God but her