

Special Programs and Projects

A note to P.R.O.'s: The purpose of this section is to carry special reports or news stories that may offer suggestions or inspirations from one Institute to another. So if your Institute has had some special program or carried out some special project that meant a great deal either to the members or to the community, do write and tell us about it.

And please note these points:

To reproduce a photograph we require a glossy print, not a negative.

We cannot make a cut from a coloured picture or from a slide.

We cannot give space to reports of anniversary celebrations or other local meetings; but the title for a particularly good topic, roll call, "motto", debate or panel would be welcome because it might be taken up by other branches.

—Editor.

Women's Institute Founder Remembered

By Lottie M. Jones

ON SUNDAY, May 28th, 1961 a plaque inserted in a rugged boulder, honouring the Women's Institute Founder, Mr. Erland Lee and Mrs. Lee, was unveiled in front of the Lee Homestead, Ridge Road, Stoney Creek by Mrs. W. J. McEvoy of Woodburn who instigated the plan for the boulder and Miss Alison Lee, granddaughter of the Women's Institute founder. The South Wentworth District of the Women's Institute bore the expense of this plaque and boulder. The plaque bears this inscription —

In honour of
ERLAND LEE AND HIS WIFE JANET
who pioneered the first Women's Institute
— Now world wide —

at Stoney Creek, Feb. 19th, 1897 —
and to commemorate their home with table
on which the Constitution was drawn up.

Erected by the District of
South Wentworth Women's Institute.

Mr. Frank Lee, son of the late Mr. Erland Lee, who presently resides with his family in the Lee Homestead, expressed his appreciation to the South Wentworth District Women's Institute for their tribute to his parents. Mr. Lee said it was the power and ability of women that has spread the Women's Institutes to the



Canon John L. Anderson officiating at the dedication of the plaque in honour of Erland Lee, founder of Women's Institutes, and his wife Janet: The plaque is set in a boulder on the Lee property. At the right of the picture is Mrs. Ernest Wood, President South Wentworth District Women's Institutes.

four corners of the world in a relatively short time.

Mrs. Gordon Conant of Oshawa, daughter of Senator and Mrs. E. D. Smith who was the first president of the Women's Institute, spoke to the many who gathered to witness this ceremony. We quote a few of her words:

"From the beginning the Women's Institute has flourished and expanded and benefits have accrued for the good of mankind around the world. There might never have been a Women's Institute had not the energetic, public-spirited secretary-treasurer of the South Wentworth Farmers' Institute, Mr. Erland Lee, journeyed to the Agricultural College, Guelph to attend a meeting in the autumn of 1896. It was at this meeting Mr. Lee met Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and heard her speak on the need to educate girls for the sphere of life for which they were destined — homemaking. When Mrs. Hoodless later addressed a Farmers' Institute meeting at which Mr. Lee was chairman, he asked how many women would like to form an organization similar to the men's group."

There being no telephones, Mr. and Mrs. Lee took it upon themselves, though cold the weather, to visit women throughout the town-