

cooked in the large ovens at the Peel Memorial Hospital, the Peel Manor and the Ontario Training Centre; also, the gravy was made ready for use in these kitchens by their cooks.

Four kitchens were set up by the Consumers' Gas Company. Each branch had its own kitchen, but pooled the food. Two gas hot water heaters were set up at the central point on each side of the hall and were run at a temperature sufficient to make all the tea and coffee (Instant).

It took two full days to set up tables and chairs and cover the banquet. The 4-H girls came in and served the meal which had to be served and cleared away in 55 minutes. This was accomplished.

As chairman of this committee, may I say that I have never had a greater challenge, but co-operation and co-ordination reigned supreme and we felt it was a great accomplishment for our Women's Institutes.

Financially, each of these four branches realized \$600 for their work. This proved to be enough for a year's earnings, and many felt it was enough catering for the year, too.

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Following the banquet, Mrs. Dixon received a letter from Mayor Prouse of Brampton in which he wrote:

"I am writing to compliment you personally and your Women's Institutes generally for the manner in which the Brampton banquet was tendered to the ploughmen and other visitors.

"Let me say that I have had nothing but complimentary remarks extended to me as Mayor of the Municipality for the tremendous display of efficiency linked with good food served warm and tasty. Dr. Feuerlein, President of the World Ploughmen's Association has asked me to express these remarks to you as has Col. Con Smythe who indicated that he had attended banquets the world over and wanted me specifically to tell you that he felt this was the best handled banquet he had ever attended."

AMATEUR ORCHESTRA

By Mrs. George Holt

IN 1955 WHEN Mrs. W. W. Campbell of Stroud was District President of South Simcoe, she and her executive, after consulting all branches, decided to have a Variety Night Concert to raise the district's financial status which had become alarmingly low. When the decision of the twenty branches became unanimous, with each branch contributing a number not more than ten minutes in length, a committee was appointed to plan Thornton's participation in the program. This committee met and after some deliberation decided to have a Novelty Band, Mock Orchestra, Hill-

billy Group, or whatever name would be the most suitable.

Mrs. Willis Smith was the pianist and leader of the group, and so "The Smithettes" seemed an appropriate name. As one member could do a little "calling off" we decided to have enough in the group so that we could finish off with a square dance. We had comb and kazoo players, a washboard, cymbals (saucepan lids), a ukelele, a guitar, and bells on a broom head. Half of us dressed as cowgirls, while the other half were garbed as cowboys, thus in the square dance we could assume our proper positions. For the dance, the music consisted of the pianist and one assistant, while the other eight danced. Our rehearsals were held in the homes and we enjoyed every minute of them.

Our first public appearance, if we might call it that, was in Cookstown Town Hall in January 1956 when we were honored by being put on the program as the first item, and each performance was repeated to the overflow audience in the basement of the hall. The whole "Variety Night Concert" was taken to other villages in the district, Stroud and Bondhead, later that spring, because of the popularity of the idea.

In September 1956 our local group, the Thornton Smithettes, entertained at Simcoe Manor at Beeton with the same cast. In 1962 when it was our turn to visit the elderly citizens again, we decided to re-cast our Smithettes, as we felt, after six years, repetition would be acceptable. This time, the washboard and combs were replaced by triangles. Our first performance was for our own Institute's Annual Family Night, in January, followed by our Simcoe Manor visit the same month and then again in November at a local community presentation for newlyweds. Who knows what the future holds?

ADELAIDE HOODLESS — HER MESSAGE FOR TODAY

By Aldene Rowe

The following article is taken from a paper given at an Institute meeting by Mrs. Lloyd Rowe, Public Relations Officer for the District of Thunder Bay North.—Editor.

HOW OFTEN DO we day-dream about what might be? What if—? I wonder how it would be if—? I have been indulging in this pastime and wondering how Adelaide Hoodless would feel if she were to come back today as president of our Women's Institute which she founded sixty-five years ago. Would she pick up the reins and continue on the path already laid by our present day leaders? Would she be satisfied with the progress that has been made since her day? Would she suggest any changes?