

South Wellington District we had a lively "Washboard Band," an original skit and humorous readings by Mrs. Wm. Ballentine; from Tec-We-Gwill branch in South Simcoe, a clever revue, the lyrics and arrangement by Mrs. Roy Brown. Perhaps this program was planned by the conference committee partly as an illustration of the possibilities of home talent entertainment and the need of discovering and encouraging it in other communities.

A highlight of the conference was a piano and organ recital by Ralph and Edith Kidd, of the University, on the theme of "Music for Weddings." Because a marriage service is

a religious service, Mr. Kidd said that wedding music should be sacred music. He recommended something stirring for a voluntary such as "Praise my soul the King of Heaven" or "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." About what to sing at a wedding he advised "Let the words come from the Bible or the Prayer Book—this will bar out a lot of undesirables." Following the recital Mrs. Trivers commented, "We can see how the numbers played would add to the dignity and levelness of a wedding." Then, because the Kidds are all-round musicians with a sense of humor, they played a lively number from "My Fair Lady" — "Get Me to the Church On Time."

Reindeer Day in the North

From Mrs. Thomas

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"REINDEER DAY" was, in fact, spread over two days, Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28, to give as many people as possible a chance to view the 2,000 reindeer. The remaining two thirds of the Canadian Reindeer Herd were left grazing a few miles away, as 7,000-7,500 would be too many animals to handle on the lake. In addition, fawning begins in April, so it was better not to excite too many of the deer. Sven Johansson, the station manager and five herders set up camp near a large lake eight miles from Inuvik.

Early on Saturday morning the herder set out on skis, armed with walkie talkies to find the Reindeer Herd which had moved off the lake to feed during the night. When a herder spotted the deer he contacted his colleague on the walkie talkie to give him the location; then, using herd dogs (collies) they rounded the reindeer up and brought them back to feed near the lake. At 11 o'clock they drove the reindeer onto the frozen lake where they bunched together into a large circle and kept moving in a counter clockwise direction. This is referred to as a "wheel."

By noon, people began to arrive, some in large cars, taxis, trucks, on skis; some scouts walked across the lake, having come most of the way by dog team; and the bank manager brought a load of boys from the Roman Catholic hostel on an open wagon pulled by a tractor—brave man to face zero temperatures on an open tractor!!

Children and adults enjoyed the dog team rides at the cost of a quarter "per person per trip". The reindeer soup made of reindeer meat and bones, rice, onions and carrots sold well. It was very rich and perfect for a cold

day. Then there were the souvenirs the visitors could buy. The women of the Reindeer Station Women's Institute had been busy working every Wednesday evening making reindeer horn buttons, zip toggles and pendants, and "Gofuk", the reindeer doll. The doll was designed by Mrs. Johansson, president of the Women's Institute, and is made of reindeer fur with two little reindeer horn feet. It was a great success with everyone. One of the herders, Buster Kailek, made butter knives from reindeer bone and these sold very quickly, as did the variety of fur mitts, shoes, snow birds and ice worms made by some of the women at the station. Reindeer racks were popular, too.

We enjoyed camping for a night with the Johannsons. The temperature was around zero and an icy wind was blowing but we were all warm in the double tent with the stove throwing out lots of heat. Our children were very pleased when we went for a dog team ride. Halfway round the herd we stopped the dogs so that we could view the reindeer at close quarters and could hear the clicking of their hooves—as if a thousand knitting needles were hard at work. The reindeer are quite small and were fairly tame by Sunday afternoon.

All too soon the weekend was over and we had to think of going home. Most of the families returned by bombadier which made two trips on Sunday—sometimes carrying the driver, six adults and nine children! Then two plane loads took the remainder home. The herders came home by dog team on Monday.

Operation Reindeer Day was completed. Everything went very well and the Reindeer Station Women's Institute and Community Centre now have a good fund in the bank.