



Prince Edward District Ontario Women's Institute's first scholarship is presented to Miss Donna Spencer (centre). Left to right: Mrs. Earl Onderdonks, District President; Donna Spencer; Mrs. Sherman Foster, Secretary of the scholarship committee and a former provincial board member.

the men out; we have new suits, etc. for them, too. In all our times at the hospital we have been so well received; the patients seem so happy to talk to us that I think this is one of the most worthwhile projects I have helped with.

A Program On Today's Indians

By Mrs. Ross Frances

WE HAVE TODAY two areas in Canada in need of improved public relations. These are the French Canadians and our native Indians living on Reserves," said Mrs. George Wilson, speaking at a meeting of Kirkton Women's Institute. Mrs. Wilson continued with these observations of the problems of Indians:

At the annual conference of the Indian-Eskimo Association, Citizenship Minister Rene Tremblay announced a three-year plan to lift the living standards on Indian Reserves. This is a self-help program for Canada's 200,000 registered Indians. By this method it is hoped to develop the skills and resources of the Indians themselves. \$3,551,000 will provide training for the officers to teach this self-help program and carry it on for the three-year term. By means of these sources it is hoped the Indians will take an increasing part in the management of their Band affairs including development.

The Friendship Centres established in larger cities have done much to assist young Indians who have left the Reserves to find work in urban centres. One of the most successful is the Winnipeg Friendship Centre—Manitoba has the largest Indian population, province-wise. At this Centre there is a full recreation program and craft salesroom. A paper, *The Prairie Call*, is issued.

The National Community Development plan will be patterned after successful programs at Grand Rapids, Norway House and Berens River in Manitoba.

In one area of British Columbia the Women's Institute assisted the Indian women to set up a laundry centre and bath-house.

Coming to Ontario, we may wonder what we can do in Perth County since we have no Reserves. We can visit the closest Reserves at Port Elgin, Sarnia, Oneida, Muncey, and others. We could attend the Indian Fairs at Oneida and Ohsweken. It was a thrill to visit the Oneida Fair and see the improved exhibits and the well-dressed Indians running their own program. They had a young Indian maidens' beauty contest, a baby contest with white mothers displaying healthy, dark-eyed babies; the Indian dance contests and the colorful Indian crafts. A public turkey supper was served at the home of this Band's Chief.

You would find Jessie Beattie's "The Split in the Sky" which tells the story of a young Indian who returned to the Reserve for a visit most interesting.

The Indian Branch of the Department of Citizenship at Ottawa provides "The Indian News" to inform us that young Indians are attending universities, studying music, graduating as teachers, nurses, engineers and stenographers. One grandmother has returned to complete her business course after her children were raised.

At this meeting, Kirkton Institute donated \$10.00 to the Save the Children Fund and \$25.00 to the International Scholarship Fund. Our Institute members collected \$223.00 for the March of Dimes.

A film, "The Longhouse People" was shown. It shows the new and old way of living on the Six Nations Reserve, Brantford.

Mrs. Wm. Heron, Secretary Ontario South Women's Institute District and Chairman of Ontario County Women's Institute Ethel Chapman Scholarship, presents the 1964 scholarship to Patricia Harden at right. At the left is Mildred Martyn, winner of the scholarship in 1963. Patricia is attending Teachers' College in Toronto; and Mildred is a nurse-in training, also in Toronto.

