

Goodwill Tour of Quebec Province

By *Blanche Irwin*

A PUBLIC RELATIONS project began last May at the FWAO Spring Board Meeting when the Provincial President, Mrs. Leonard Tivers suggested that the Board Directors "link" with Quebec.

Mrs. Maurice Irwin, Provincial Board Director of Subdivision 23, Kent and Essex, immediately contacted Miss Norma Holmes, Provincial Secretary of Quebec Institute at Macdonald College, near Montreal and plans were made during the summer months which led to eighty-two Women's Institute members from Kent and Essex, leaving Chatham, on Sunday October 3rd for an eight day tour to meet and get better acquainted with their Women's Institute sisters of Quebec Province; also to view the beautiful autumn colors.

We toured through New York State to Albany and then North through Vermont, arriving at the Quebec border at Rock Island on Monday evening where we were met by Mrs. George Hatch, first Vice President of Stanstead County, and were taken to our destination at Ayres Cliff where Mrs. Rixford Knight, County President greeted us at Ripple Cove Inn. We were then treated to a hot dinner at the Buelah United Church of Ayres Cliff. Greetings were extended from South Western Ontario to Stanstead county members. Some of the executive were presented with a spoon with the Ontario Crest. A Petit Point pin was presented to Mrs. R. Knight, County President.

The following morning we were taken on a conducted tour by Mrs. R. Knight and Mrs.

Nelson Pierce, Secretary of Stanstead County, stopping first at the little Red School House built in 1819. Inside the front door was the Union Jack with Queen Elizabeth's and Prince Phillip's pictures beneath the flag. Also there were pictures of royalty dating back to Queen Victoria. The seats were wooden benches, hewn out of the native trees. The Women's Institute hold their meetings during the summer months at this little Red School House. This is now a museum and our Ontario Spoon with the Ontario crest which was presented to Mrs. Hatch the previous evening, is being placed in the school, as a memento of our visit to Stanstead County.

We were then taken to Rock Island where we were greeted by His Worship, Mayor Struthers and Miss Viola Moranville, Home Economist of Stanstead County. Mayor Struthers explained that in 3000 miles of boundary between Canada and the United States, Rock Island is the only place where a complete community has grown up astride the International frontier houses. A factory and a granite plant are built right over the line, half being in the United States and half in Canada. The Haskell Free Library and Opera House has an international reputation. On the first floor the books are shelved in Canada while the only entrance to them is through the United States door. Upstairs the theatre stage is in Canada while two thirds of the audience is seated in the U.S. Many of the citizens live in one country and work in the other.

A Civic Reception with a luncheon was held at East Angus Town Hall where we were greeted most graciously by Mrs. Wells Coates, W. I. National Convener of Agriculture and by His Worship Mayor Herve Mallais and his charming wife, also two councillors. Ontario ladies were seated among the East Angus members where they could get acquainted. Ontario spoons with the crest were presented to some of the officers of East Angus and Petit Point picture to Mrs. John Ossington and Petit Point pin to Mrs. Wells Coates which were made by Mrs. Walter Adams, a member of the Irwin W. I. Branch, Kent. Each lady present was presented with a large cake of Maple Sugar made by the Compton County President Mrs. Sterling Batley. Mrs. Ossington in her remarks stated that, in spite of rumors, the Quebec ladies stand together for Home and Country and she invited the Ontario ladies to return in 1967.

On our arrival at Quebec City Madame Claude La Laberte on behalf of the Cercles de Fermières welcomed the visitors. We were also welcomed by the Home Economist Miss Suzanne Auger and Mr. Roland Barette, agronomist and Director of Handicrafts. There is a



This coverlet, woven of wool and cotton, Mrs. N. Cormack of Shakespeare reports, was used to wrap the first baby, Nancy Fryfogel, born in Perth County in 1830. Nancy's father Sebastian, established Fryfogel's Inn where a plaque was erected by the Historic Sites Board this year.