

Special Programs and Projects

A Note to P.R.O.s

The purpose of this special Programs and Projects section is to give Public Relations Officers a spot in Home and Country where they can tell all the Institutes of the Province about anything done in their own Institute which might offer a suggestion to other branches.

As we have explained in previous issues, we cannot give space to routine reports of meetings — unless the program is so original or outstanding as to give an idea to other Institutes. A particularly good subject for a topic, discussion, debate, motto or roll call would be welcome.

Some years ago it was decided that we could not report anniversary celebrations. These are of interest mainly in the local community where the participants are known and of course P.R.O.'s will see that they get into the local papers.

And please note that to produce an illustration we require a photograph, not the negative; and that we cannot make a cut from a colored picture or from a slide.

Perhaps the best way to see the sort of material we need for this section is to look at the topics in this and previous issues. Then, as P.R.O. for your branch or district or area, if you have a story that should be told, do, please, send it along.—Editor.

Relics in an Algoma Hall

By Peggy Suddaby

AT OUR ALGOMA North Shore District Annual, our guest speaker, Mrs. R. C. Walker, Provincial Tweedsmuir History Curator, was quite intrigued by the collection of stoves used to heat the Desbarats Community Hall. This box stove is like one with which she must have had some experience. It sits near the platform and close to the door to the kitchen.

At the back of the hall and near the outside door is a large barrel type stove about four feet long and two feet in diameter. In the kitchen is a Franklin type heater with a front to open to resemble a fire place.

Fires of hardwood blocks placed in the three stoves a couple of hours prior to any

function warm the hall. However there is always a draft along the floor as each new arrival opens the door.

Such a stove and the heavy iron poker was standard equipment in the one-room rural school until just a few years ago. Some of us can remember sitting around the stove in the winter mornings.

The high chair was one of the old items on display. It is not an antique but is over fifty years old and, despite the use by some ten children, is in pretty good condition. It was given to my daughter when she was tiny by a good friend of my husband's parents. It is still in use when my youngest grandchild arrives.

The design is rather unique. By lifting lightly on the handle at the back it can be easily rolled to anywhere in the house. When set down the back legs are on the floor. It is steady and very hard to tip.

Just under the back of the seat is a piece of mechanism which can be lifted quite easily. The legs spread to front and rear and the seat sinks to about a foot above the floor. It then becomes a stroller. By catching the arms and lifting, it becomes a high chair again and locks quite securely. I have only met one person who has seen a chair like this.

People at the annual meeting thought it much better than the present high chairs that are so hard to keep clean. The seat is cane and there is no trouble from dampness. I have the tray but find it much handier to tie the youngster in the chair. Needless to say the youngest, as well as most of the other children who used it, likes it best as a stroller.

A New Local Leader Venture

SOMETIMES A WOMEN'S INSTITUTE reports that there are no young women in their organization and the women of middle age or older are not interested in learning new ways of cooking or sewing or other lines of homemaking so they do not apply for these services. Perhaps it is understandable that older women do not have either the interest or the need of information on homemaking that a young mother can put to practical use. But the older women in an Institute can help the young women to get this sort of education when it might be difficult for the young women to organize it for themselves. Here is what is being done at Heathcote:

About a year ago, Mrs. Hazel Rogers the president of Heathcote Women's Institute wrote the Home Economics Branch:

"We have organized about fifteen young mothers into a club of their own. Their chief