

Officers' Conference 1967

Women's Institute members who have completed terms as executive officers of F.W.I.O. return to celebrate the 70th Anniversary at the Officers' Conference 1967. Left to right: Mrs. Leonard Trivers, past president; Mrs. Gerald Holder, past secretary; Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, past president; Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, past president; Mrs. J. McCullagh, past secretary. Photo — courtesy Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.



MEN AND WOMEN of the past paid the price for what we have and are today."

With these words Mrs. Everett Small, President of the Federated Women's Institutes opened the Centennial Year Conference for Officers of the F.W.I.O. at the University of Guelph on May third and fourth. This nineteenth annual conference was for branch presidents, branch and district conveners, branch and district Historical Research and Current Events conveners. Nearly five hundred women attended the two-day sessions. The theme was "Out of the Past the Future Grows."

Dr. J. D. McLaughlin welcomed the delegates to the campus of the University of Guelph. Dr. McLaughlin retired as President of the University of Guelph on June first, 1967 and in his address of welcome reminisced about his associations with the Women's Institutes during the 19 years he has been president. Dr. McLaughlin reminded the women that Macdonald Institute, the Ontario College of Agriculture and the Ontario Veterinary College, the three founding colleges at the University of Guelph, have over the years been dedicated to training young people for service in rural areas. "The excellence of the program of these colleges would be maintained," Dr. McLaughlin said. He also said that for the next year and a half he and Mrs. McLaughlin would be doing some work in rural education in Jamaica.

Miss Helen McKercher, Director of the Home Economics Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Food, brought greetings from her department. Miss McKercher pointed out that all provincial presidents have had

special projects, all of which have been achieved, but Mrs. Small's special project to increase membership in the Women's Institute requires no money. It does require a friendly welcome and an attractive program. Miss McKercher emphasized the need for excellence in Women's Institute undertakings. She said "Each detail of a Women's Institute program should be planned to make it excellent, and this excellence should not only be in the program itself but in the place of meeting, and even in the cup of tea served after the meeting."

Pensioners of The Past

For her address to the five hundred delegates to the annual Officers' Conference, Dr. Ethel Chapman chose the topic, "Pensioners of The Past." She said, "We are all pensioners of the past in that we have reaped so many benefits from the untiring labours and the rugged living of our forefathers. 'One man builds on the foundations laid by another.' This fine Ontario countryside was wrested from the forest by our great-great-grandfathers, who, if they were privileged to come back, would never recognize the scenes of this unceasing toil. The common tragedies of a hundred years ago are almost wiped out completely now because one researcher after another worked his life out trying to do something about them. But as we think about what we owe to those who have gone before us, we are pretty sure to ask ourselves what are we doing to make things better for those who come after us?"

"The founders of the Women's Institutes had an almost uncanny vision when they set as their objective the betterment of the home