

You and Canada's Centennial



At Macdonald Institute, left to right Teresa Olsheskie, Renfrew; Dr. Margaret McGready, Dean; Darlene Copeland, South Simcoe; Ruthann Webster, Victoria. Photo courtesy Ontario Dept. of Agriculture and Food.

ON TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 27, 1967, two hundred girls with the average age of seventeen, representing all the counties and districts in Ontario gathered on the lovely lawns at the University of Guelph. These girls were all feeling various degrees of strangeness for many of them had never been far away from home before and most of them found themselves sharing a room with a girl whom they had never seen before. But all of these girls had a common interest. They were all members of the Ontario 4H Homemaking Clubs. They had all been chosen for their achievements in their club work and because they showed an eagerness to add to their knowledge and skills, they were gathered on the campus at the University of Guelph for the Girls' Conference for 4H Homemaking Club members.

In the give and take of games, planned by Home Economists, Miss Rosemary Clark, Miss Lera McCormick and Miss Katharine Cowbrough, the strangeness soon wore off and new friendships were developing. When it was too dark on the lawns (and the mosquitoes got too bothersome) the girls moved to the basement of Memorial Hall and were divided into groups. The ingenuity of these girls was demonstrated when they were given bathroom and facial tissue and pins, and told to make a dress for one of their groups. The giggles told of the fun the girls were having and the costumes produced, ranged from mini skirts to long elaborate wedding gowns. There were no strangers when the lights went out at 10 p.m.

On Wednesday morning Miss Jean Scott, Supervisor, Junior Extension, Home Economics Branch officially welcomed the girls to the Conference. Miss Scott told the girls that there are 13,000 4H Club girls in Ontario and 80,000 in Canada.

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The mind stretched by a new idea never returns to the same dimension.

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DR. MARGARET McCREADY, Dean of Women at Macdonald Institute welcomed the girls and invited them to tour Macdonald Institute. She explained the spring semester at the University and something of the education available there.

Part of the work of the Home Economist, Dr. McCready said, is teaching and assisting people in choosing from the vast array of products, with enticing packaging, that are on the market today.

In referring to young people and their problems Dr. McCready quoted George Bernard Shaw who said, "Youth, that old thing! It is too good to be wasted on young people." Dr. McCready continued, "Parents are puzzled as to how to deal with their growing children. Students are not slow now in voicing their approval or disapproval of anything. Lecture methods are no longer adequate, students must now be involved. All of these things are a part of our changing world."

Education is a social responsibility in Canada," concluded Dr. McCready.