



Four generations of Women's Institute members, left, standing — Mrs. Chapman, president of the Clute Branch, Miss Shirley Chapman, Mrs. A. G. Stiles, Charter Member and Life Member, Clute Branch — seated, Mrs. E. M. Cowan (90 years old) Charter Member and Life Member of Clute Branch.

★ ★ ★

I sought to hear the voice of God  
And climbed the topmost steeple.

But God declared: "Go down again,  
I dwell among the people."

—Louis I. Newman

★ ★ ★

### Conservation Council of Ontario

The program of the Conservation Council of Ontario is carried out chiefly through committees appointed to specific studies and projects. The Council presented a brief to Premier Robarts asking for consideration of effective land use. A brief was also presented to the Ministers of Highways, Lands and Forests, and Tourism and Information in which proposals on roadside appearance were presented. Council was asked to make a submission on the recreational potential of the Rideau waterway. On December 4-6 a conference is being held on "Pollution" when specialists will discuss problems. An important part of Council's program is to provide public information and education through the news media, and to provide the public with accurate data on the main issues of Conservation in Ontario. An historical account of events leading to formation of a Conservation Council is being prepared for publication.

Note: During business, Board Directors approved a motion that a letter be written to the Conservation Council supporting F.W.I.O.'s original decision to not join the Council.

### Conference on Rural Community Life

Mrs. Small and Mrs. Diamond represented F.W.I.O. at the conference on "Rural Community Life" called by Hon. W. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario. Following luncheon, Mr. Stewart explained the reason for the assembly of 22 representatives from senior farm organizations, Junior Farmers, Women's Institute and clergy. Concern over problems has brought about changes affecting rural life in Ontario. Discussion ensued on need for emphasis on environment in development of human beings; the basic economic factor coupled with the exodus of young people from farms to cities; the importance of rural women's part in farm management decisions; the lack of action to keep young girls in rural communities; and difficulties of rural pastorates. Previous O.A.C. summer courses for clergy were acclaimed as an excellent opportunity for clergy to get a clearer understanding of rural problems. The group approved a suggestion for re-institution of schools for rural clergy by Department of Agriculture and Food at the regional agricultural schools.

### Rural Learning Association

The Rural Learning Association was formed to enable rural people to participate in developing knowledge of themselves, their community, country, and their business by training courses at regional and provincial level. During the past year conferences and folk schools have been held, and an interprovincial youth travel project carried out. A conference, "Design for Tomorrow" was held in Aurora November 21st for young farmers. At the September Board Meeting, Peter Hannam, Guelph was elected president following the resignation of Donald Sanderson. At the November 13th meeting a provincial training course in 1968 was planned at a probable cost of \$65 per person, subject matter to include parliamentary procedure, social action skill or economic awareness. Information will be forthcoming. R.L.A. membership is down this year. Individual membership is \$2., group \$5.

Mrs. N. Jamieson reported on the Annual Meeting, the theme of which was "Looking at the Past, Present and Future in Rural Adult Education."

The objectives of the Association are (1) to promote, develop and improve a comprehensive adult education program (2) to co-operate with adult education organizations and serve as a clearing house for information and (3) to secure and accept donations for furthering the above ends.

★ ★ ★

*Problem* — to keep the family's yearnings within the family's earnings.