



Dayton 4-H Homemaking Club entertain the members of the Dayton Women's Institute to a smorgasbord luncheon to demonstrate the club project "A World of Food in Canada". From left — Susan Baker, Carol Fahrer, Murdena Armstrong, Kathryn Whitfield, Emily Mosher, and Cathy Goodmurphy. Photo courtesy Sault Ste Marie Star.

THE 4-H HOMEMAKING CLUBS

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES of Ontario were only a few years old when some members became interested in promoting special training for their daughters and started sewing circles. The girls were encouraged to attend the meetings and it was arranged that two members of the Women's Institutes, would teach, among other things, darning, patching, making button holes; sometimes hemstitching and embroidery. Frequently the girls were able to exhibit their handwork at the fall fairs. In 1915 Port Hope Fair reported one hundred and twelve entries for sewing circle members.

In 1923 Miss Ethel Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Women's Institutes started Garment Making clubs for girls ten to eighteen years of age, with a program for first, second and third year members.

In 1924 twenty-five Women's Institutes organized Garment Making clubs and secured leaders to direct the clubs and to carry on the course as outlined in a Leaders' Manual supplied by the Women's Institute Branch.

Garden and Canning clubs were started in 1927 in York County and in the early thirties Food clubs became a part of the program.

In 1935 Miss Bess McDiarmid, Superintendent of Women's Institutes brought the clubs together with the title Homemaking Clubs and a system whereby local leaders were required to attend a one-day training school and then give the girls leadership and instruction in the projects.

The name "Homemaking", was selected at the beginning because the basic aim of the clubs is to give the members an opportunity to acquire information and to develop skills and techniques in homemaking. When Canada adopted the name "4-H" in 1956 the clubs be-

came 4-H Homemaking Clubs.

Under the direction of Miss Jean Scott, Supervisor of Junior Extension in the Home Economics Branch, the County and District Home Economists direct and supervise the projects undertaken by the clubs.

About 95% of the 4-H Homemaking Clubs are sponsored by branches of the Women's Institutes and a large number of Women's Institute members act as leaders for the clubs. Great tribute must be given to the women who act as club leaders. They give freely of their time and energy to the projects. They show a personal interest as the girls develop from shy, unskilled twelve-year-olds into competent, talented self-assured young women, able to conduct meetings, make their own clothes and prepare the family meals.

In Ontario in the year of 1967 there were 2459 clubs and there are 22 projects now available. There are girls in Ontario who have completed 21 of the projects. There are no competitions. Girls are rewarded for the efforts they put into their club work, and the attitude and interest that they show. Progress is noted and praised; encouragement is given for the girls to continually improve their work.

Miss Susan Alyea of Hillier, Ontario winner of the Prince Edward District Women's Institute Scholarship for 1967. Susan has Provincial Honours having completed fourteen 4-H Club projects. She is a talented musician and at present attending Teachers' College in Peterboro.

