

Looking Forward — The College of Family and Consumer Studies

The highlight of the Thursday afternoon conference session was an address by Dr. Kathryn E. Kopf, Department Chairman, Department of Family Studies, University of Guelph.

Describing the courses now being offered at the College of Family and Consumer Studies, Dr. Kopf asked the conference delegates to think back to the time that Macdonald Institute was first opened for students. She said, "Those to whom we are indebted developed programs of service which were right for their time and the programs at Macdonald Institute were designed to meet the needs of the day. And those 'good old days' were not as idyllic as we may think they were."

Dr. Kopf then went on to explain that tight clothing styles (tight waistbands), etc. were constrictive and therefore a health hazard. Skirts that dragged in the dusty roadways were a problem to keep clean, and there were problems of sanitation, refrigeration and nutrition. So for girls, Macdonald Institute promoted programs involving homemaking skills and health practices.

Gradually the need for broader programs made itself felt and courses were offered based on the social sciences as well as the physical and biological sciences. As interest and knowledge in the social sciences grew and students' interests varied, two major "areas" were instigated to replace the common course. The result was the establishment of the Departments of Consumer and Family Studies and the reorganized and expanded college became the College of Family and Consumer Studies. Here programs are offered that are based on the needs of people — the environmental needs of people — what does environment do to people? — what are the various kinds of families?

Dr. Kopf pointed out that the ideal family is considered to be a father, a mother, two children and a dog — but this is not always possible and society must learn to accept and understand these varied situations.

Group Discussions and Plenaries

To provide opportunities for obtaining special information and for taking an active part in the discussions, the delegates were divided into small groups according to their interests. Each group was under the leadership of a woman with special Women's Institute experience and training.

On the last day of the conference some of the groups combined for plenary sessions — Secretary Treasurers and Public Relations Officers, Members at Large, and District and Area Presidents.



Mrs. E. V. Fulton, president of The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Mrs. E. V. Fulton

Mrs. E. V. Fulton, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (elected August 1970) on a trip to Ontario for other business, was welcomed by the delegates when she paid a brief visit to the Officers' Conference. In an address, Mrs. Fulton urged Women's Institute members to get acquainted with the Report on the Status of Women. She suggested study of the short version "What's In It?" which can be purchased at \$1.50 a copy.

Mrs. Fulton said, "We will never have communication with young people unless we try to go along with some of the modern thinking. Start now, not tomorrow. The Status of Women may not concern you now but it may concern your daughter or your granddaughter."

Dr. Janet Wardlaw

The delegates were pleased to welcome Dr. Janet Wardlaw, Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Studies. In her brief address, Dr. Wardlaw referred to an earlier announcement that the 75th Anniversary Project of Ontario Women's Institute, the raising of \$50,000 for the expansion fund at Macdonald Institute was now closed. She expressed her pleasure and thanks for this generous contribution to the expansion of the facilities at the University of Guelph.