

Officers' Conference

Another Officers' Conference is over, another learning experience for all who attended.

When the idea of a Conference was first thought of, and Mrs. J. R. Futcher and Mrs. John McCulloch along with the FWIO Board, presented their ideas, did anyone ever think the Conference would expand to such a degree?

It has continued to attract delegates from Kenora and Rainy River, the Lakehead, from the shores of all the Great Lakes, the lee of the lakes, through to Eastern Ontario. 666 delegates and staff came to the University of Waterloo for the twenty-sixth Conference this year. From the north, they flew in small bush planes, to catch a flight on a DC8; from the Soo, Mrs. Alex Wilding, a delegate, was responsible for all the details for this busload of delegates. This has been their method of travel for many years. For the first time Eastern Ontario delegates travelled by special bus and Mrs. Albert McKeown took on this responsibility.

To stay in a university is a unique experience, residences have a special warmth of atmosphere which surpasses hotel living. Shuttle buses were arranged, for campuses are surely designed for the young, and it's a long walk from Humanities to Village II.

Officers' Conference has grown, to the degree that mechanics are the big thing, and the Conference is dependent upon this smooth operation for its success. Mrs. Robt. B. Weber, Secretary-Treasurer, along with Mrs. Gail Hitchins, Director of Accommodation, University of Waterloo, work out the minute details. With details on paper the Conference then becomes dependent on the Registration Committee, members of Bloomingdale W.I., Mrs. Wilbur Lawrence in charge of bus details, and the Discussion Group leaders.

This year the delegates bus tour went into "Mennonite Country", the northern part of Waterloo County, to view the beautiful countryside. A one room school, a church, a blacksmith shop, the covered bridge at West Montrose, horse and buggies and wagons were evident along the way. In the evening the session was in charge of Rev. Vernon Leis, Minister of a Mennonite congregation in Elmira and Mr. Doug Snider, Secretary Treasurer of the Mennonite Central Committee. They stressed their culture and way of life, pointing out that in 1825 they fled their homeland to escape war and to this day are still "against war," and continue to assert the role of peace makers.

The theme was carried through to the programs which displayed distilfinks and a covered wagon (symbol of Waterloo County) on the front cover and the covered bridge on the back. This was designed by Mrs. Willard Gingerich Baden, a member of Haysville Branch (the same member who made the 75th Erland Lee Anniversary cake.) Inside the cover were some typical Mennonite sayings as well as a couple of recipes.

University President

At the opening session, the President of the University of Waterloo, Dr. B. C. Matthews, extended greetings to all and expressed appreciation to the Women's Institutes for holding the Conference at Waterloo, and the University was pleased to share its facilities. He commended the organization for their fine work with "people", over the years, always aware that the development of the individual is still the most important idea. The Women's Institute have good basic values and they are worth preserving.



Checking final details of Conference — Mrs. Robt. B. Weber, Secretary-Treasurer Officers' Conference, and Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, FWIO President.

Home Economics Branch

Miss Helen McKercher, Director, Home Economics Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, said how pleased she was to be at the Conference and expressed appreciation to all for the support given to their program. 57,000 women and girls were involved in the program along with 5,000 local leaders this past year. She continued by asking the question, "Why do you continue to be leaders?" (1) Because you want to be of service to your community (2) Because you learn something and are able to share that knowledge.

Nutrition is on everyone's mind this year, and the Home Economics Branch will provide day long workshops in every District for all members of the Women's Institute and women in the community. The nutritional quality of diets has declined so we have a basic right and responsibility to know what is good nutrition. We are hopeful workshops will be a step in the right direction.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Mr. Robt. Eaton, M.L.A., Parliamentary Assistant to the Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food, brought greetings on behalf of the Minister. Mr. Eaton cited the "immeasurable good" done by Women's Institutes in home and community". The Ministry is pleased to cooperate and work with Women's Institutes, and Mr. Eaton wished Women's