

Discussion Groups

The delegates attended discussion group sessions on Branch Presidents, Resolutions, and Members at Large and another session of plenary.

The delegates in the Branch President's groups learned parliamentary procedure, duties of a president, how to handle meetings and in the Plenary session, the actual conduct of a meeting — learning to communicate with a group.

The Resolutions groups which brought in eleven Area Conveners and approximately seventy-five District Conveners as well as Branch Conveners learned the fundamentals of drafting a resolution, the proper procedure for resolutions handled at the various W.I. levels and at the Plenary session — where resolutions go if sustained at Provincial level, how to incorporate the theme of Nutrition in a resolution meeting.

The Members at Large studied about the Handbook, procedures, worked on a quiz, and learned about the more informed and knowledgeable W.I. member. The Plenary session, dealt with questions, and procedures and how to be more helpful as a branch member.

Guest speaker

Dr. C. T. M. Hadwen, Sociologist, University of Guelph spoke on: Stress in Rural Areas.

Are people in rural Ontario under any more stress than the urban dweller? Some of the changes that affect rural life; many of the local churches are closing, the loss of local institutions, regional schools have taken over, these are a few changes that have changed the life style of the rural resident. Rural folk now live in a wider circle, bigger environment, deal with strangers and personal involvement appears to be less, which leads to a loss in personal quality of life.

Farmers do not have the same feeling for change. Gone are the days when he could run his own show, run a self contained enterprise, now that farming is more specialized, he accepts the trends as something he cannot fight. He accepts it, but doesn't necessarily like it. Pressures on the farmer are great: Marketing Boards and government regulations have undermined his traditional independence; part time jobs sometimes create problems; the fact so few young people remain on the farm.

We hate to admit we are under stress, and are reluctant to talk about it. We feel we are the only person suffering from these problems, when in fact, if we would talk them out, we find we're not alone. This is no form of weakness, everyone labours under some form of stress and it is a normal reaction.

The urban romantics move into the country, they really don't want to live in a rural area; they really want a park and watch traditional country dances. They do not want the countryside to change, neither do they accept the hog lagoons, or the dead stock removal plants. The new barn built by the farmer which is more functional for his farm operation is opposed by the newcomer and can cause stress to all. There is great pressure on the need to succeed, some work harder than makes sense, and still to some, achievement of success is in dollars.

The WI's can play a role. They traditionally have worked with rural people, have a strong feeling of lo-

cal life and could improve the quality of life by bringing all together on a common ground to talk things out — relieve stress.



Members at large — L-r front row — Mrs. Geo. Reist, Mrs. Herb Maluski, Mrs. Calvin Carmichael, Chairman, Mrs. Fred Barrett. Back row — Mrs. John MacLean, Mrs. Geo. Durnford, Mrs. Stewart Anderson, Mrs. W. J. Knapp.



Branch presidents — L-r front row — Mrs. Gordon Macklin, Mrs. Everett Small, Chairman, Mrs. Fred Howe. Back row — Mrs. Ronald Curtis, Mrs. Donald Booker, Mrs. Wm. White.



Resolutions Conveners Branch, District, Area — Miss Louise Poole, Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Mrs. Austin S. Zoeller, Chairman, Mrs. Shirley Bird, Mrs. Margaret Lafromboise.

Pirates of Penzance

The Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School provided the evening entertainment with the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Ferguson, Music Director, and Mr. John Cull, Stage Director. The cast of secondary students shared their talents of fine singing and acting with an enthusiastic audience. At the close of the performance the delegates gave the students a standing ovation.

Tribute to Miss Jean Scott

On behalf of the delegates and in fact all Women's Institute members throughout the province, Mrs. Noblitt presented Miss Scott with a Royal Worcester casserole. A small token showing our appreciation for her leadership and guidance that members have enjoyed over the years. Miss Scott leaves immediately after the Conference to meet her sister Beatrice, who has completed her term as a missionary in India, in Frankfurt; together they will tour Europe and in August "Jean" will retire from the Home Economics Branch.

Sing Songs

Mrs. Wm. Stone and Mrs. Hugh Baird from Central Area provided interludes of music during the Conference. Sing songs are always enjoyed by the delegates and provide a change of pace needed to complete the Conference activities.