



Mrs. Maluske — continued

standing of the concerns of the members of the Women's Institutes whether at the farm gate or from the consumer viewpoint.

Mrs. Maluske has two married daughters, Mrs. James Rouse, Islington and Mrs. Warren McDougall, Elmwood.

Where Have All the Systems Gone

That Is, Independent Telephone Systems

In the early days of the telephone business, while Bell Canada provided service to the larger cities and towns in Ontario, service to smaller towns and villages and to rural customers, was often provided by an "Independent" company, financed and run by local people. By 1921 there were more than 650 independent telephone systems operating in the Province and these served 115,000 customers or approximately 25% of all subscribers.

Fewer Independent Systems

Due to lack of funds during the depression years and lack of materials during World War II, many of these systems found it difficult to keep up their standard of service. With the introduction of automatic dialing, which required a very heavy capital investment, most of the smaller independent systems sold out to Mother Bell or to a larger neighbouring Independent. Today there are only 40 independent telephone systems left in Ontario but these have expanded greatly and serve almost twice as many customers as the 650 systems did in 1921.

Research

The Provincial Government feels that the story of these systems which have passed into history is one

Mrs. Morden — continued

Of course that isn't all that happens during the weekend, there's a bonfire at night and dancing for the young or young at heart. The teenagers come prepared to put up tents for the night, while the mothers bed down the little folk upstairs in the house. Some of the nearby cousins take home some overflow guests but everybody comes back in the morning for breakfast. The city cousins have a chance to gather eggs, see the pigs, visit the milking parlour and best of all ride the pony.

A warm and enthusiastic lady, Mrs. Morden said she hoped to be able to take back the feeling and enthusiasm from Board and communicate to all levels. Believe it or not Hilde really said "Come and see me Institute members, when passing by."

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Algoma District

Kathy Wheeler, Blind River.

Northumberland West

Sherry Lynn McKenzie, Grafton.

Prince Edward

Jane Rowe, Carrying Place.

Northumberland East

No winner.

Bruce

Bonnie Gunn, Tara.

The Dorothy Fitcher Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship

Kathy Westerman, Dorion.

The Florence P. Eadie Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship

Penny Barber, Belleville.

that should not go unrecorded. As its contribution to the observance of the 100th anniversary of the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell, it is compiling a history of the independent telephone industry in Ontario. Staff of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission is collecting all the information possible on the more than 1,000 independent systems which operated in the Province at one time or another down through the years.

Tweedsmuir Curators

Many of the Women's Institute members who have researched the "Independent Telephone" story of early days in their community might have information on local telephone systems such as photographs, records etc. The Ontario Telephone Service Commission would like to share information. The Commission have much basic data, founding dates etc., which might assist curators.

Mr. Tom Grindley would be pleased to hear from Curators who have information and could arrange a visit to see your books if necessary. In any event if you have anything that might help the Commission in its research, drop a line to Mr. Tom Grindley, Ontario Telephone Service Commission, 3625 Dufferin St., Downsview M3K 1Z2.