

Officers' Conference

You can't say Officers' Conference is a holiday but it surely is a lovely change of pace. Just being together on a university campus is another world, as well as the added bonus to meet members from around the province, and to discuss the work of the Women's Institute.

The whole Conference revolved around the Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Robt. B. Weber. The Committee thinks up the ideas but the planning and tying together is left to "Irene". She has strong support in actually running this three day Conference. Her own Branch, Bloomingdale, has the mechanics of registration down to the last detail and the friendly one who meets all at the door has gained the expertise of sorting out delegates and directing all to their destinations. Mrs. Wilbur Lawrence from Embro is a former Board Director and has been directing the delegates on and off buses and around the campus for the past six years.



Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. Robt. B. Weber and the Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food look at the Officers' Conference programme.

When the details of a Conference run smoothly, the delegates have a greater opportunity to get on with the main objective, "discussing". Sixty percent were there for the first time, and there's nothing to compare with the enthusiasm of a "first time" representative.

A change was implemented this year, while half were in discussion groups the remainder travelled to the Erland Lee Home at Stoney Creek. This seemed to work effectively. The Erland Lee Home has a new look, just having been newly decorated, the delegates were often heard to remark, "there surely is a difference". One of the busloads had Mrs. Roland aboard and when in the Parlour, she sat at the organ and played "Bless This House." The Officers' Conference programme featured the Lee and it will remain as a souvenir for many, a remembrance of the twenty-seventh Conference.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. Paul Fry shared his singing talents, and the KW Harmonizers provided an evening of barber shop singing in the Humanities Theatre. The delegates enjoyed the carnival atmosphere of the Barber Shop chorus and quartets in clown costumes as well as the traditional harmonizing for which the Barber Shoppers are famous.

Mrs. R. J. Winmill, song leader, and Mrs. Roland provided the "Let's Sing" at all sessions. This was their first visit to the Conference and this team added much to the sessions with their lively gestures and the delegates enjoyed these interludes immensely.



Mrs. Winmill — "Let's all sing out."

Speaks on Conference Theme

Mrs. Herbert Maluske was welcomed by the delegates at her first Officers' Conference as Provincial President. Speaking on the theme "Undertake something that is difficult, it will do you good. Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow." A quote by Ronald E. Osborn.

This growth process is a lifetime thing. There is no time in one's life when a person can say he has stopped growing. If a person continued to learn and grow and develop skills every year at the same rate as during the first year of life, the results would be of astronomical proportions.

Mrs. Maluske challenged the delegates to start mastering two things right now. The first — the art of listening. The second — make your own notes, so you can take back a good report. You will be growing by doing this.

Officers' Conference is a training session, a learning experience. You will gain much more than you give through reporting. The President continued to say, she felt understanding was the first stage in the learning process, and the second stage was — change of attitude. What is your attitude toward teenagers, to those less fortunate than yourself?

The third stage in the growing process — what is our response, our course of action? How do we achieve the necessary results? Our forbearers struggled hard to establish good moral standards. Our generation must continue to undertake to voice strong united opinions against man's inhumanity to man, violence, obscenity and the list could go on and on.

Mrs. Maluske closed with a quote "Force never changed anybody's mind, but education and understanding have won a lot of victories, even though they take longer."