

"World food supplies and needs have always been a great struggle for mankind," Mr. Lantz said, he continued, the world has always experienced famine in one part and surplus in another. Five years ago during the green revolution, yields were up because of good growing conditions but during the last two years world harvests fell because of poor weather. As a result world reserves are at a 22 year low but still there is a population increase.

Family farms are not becoming obsolete, there is a need for the family partnership and this will continue to be the backbone of Canadian Agriculture. It was heartening that 20% of OAC graduates are engaged in Agriculture. It reflects a buoyancy and confidence among young people, and is an encouraging factor.



L-r Mrs. Mary Riley, Mrs. Dick Beattie stop to chat with Miss Helen McKercher and Mrs. J. C. Ayers during Officers' Conference.

Minister of Agriculture and Food The Hon. Wm. A. Stewart

The Women's Institutes over the years have made a wise use of time, their power and ability to invest time so as to derive the most health, happiness and success through their endeavours. Their ability to evaluate today so to continue to plan ahead, typically characterizes Women's Institutes. He challenged all to exert influence so to continue accomplishments.

He commended the Home Economics Branch and Women's Institutes for helping to raise nutrition standards through Nutrition Workshops. There is much to be done in the nutrition field, "as there is growing emphasis on food, we must place more emphasis on nutrition." Since the days of Adelaide Hoodless we've come a long way. The one room school has given way to a modern system, however organizations such as the Women's Institutes have been successful in getting the basics of education back, emphasizing the 3 Rs. There is a difference in communities today, the rural church is experiencing change, the advent of the combine and forage harvester has changed rural life. Gone are the days of the threshing and silo bees, and how often do we visit our neighbours now?

W.I.s have accomplished much through resolutions. Two years ago a resolution was sustained provincially condemning TV violence and concern about the standards of programmes. Now Ontario has established a Commission headed by Judy LaMarsh; your members should write expressing your views, and voice your opinions. Public hearings will be held in various parts of Ontario beginning in September, from submissions presented, recommendations will be proposed.

Agricultural Museum

R. W. Carbert — General Manager, Ontario Agricultural Museum, told about the establishment of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's newest project. He pointed out, this project is not intended to be another pioneer village but instead an effort to depict the history of Agriculture and rural living. Everything began on the land, agriculture is our most basic industry and the whole story is worth preserving.

The location in Halton County, south of 401 near Milton, is within a thirty mile radius of 3½ million people. Situated on the Bruce Trail (incidentally so is the Erland Lee Home) this 92 acre site will eventually have an Exhibition Hall for theme exhibits, library and conference room, a workshop and demonstration area. The farmstead park, which might cover 45 acres, with houses and barns, a crossroad community containing a blacksmith shop, church, Women's Institute Hall are all in the planning stage.

Mr. Carbert said there was an Act passed in 1868 to preserve, display and demonstrate the unique and traditional methods of farming in pioneer Ontario. Sometimes implementation is slow, and so 107 years and 19 Ministers of Agriculture later "we're finally getting around to it." Visitors could drop in now, however, the first building, the Exhibition Hall probably will be ready next Spring or Summer.

The land was purchased in 1966 and has a development period of ten years. Approximately 15,000 artifacts were acquired by the government from the late Charles Matthews, a house mover who collected things — all things — everything from steam engines to small tools. The Lucas Farmstead was donated by Stelco, the house has been moved to the site and the barn stockpiled.

Mr. Carbert projected the possibility of demonstrations, an example, tile drainage. Old magazines and catalogues are also being sought. Some of the old books relating to Agriculture have been moved from the Erland Lee Home and will be preserved at the Museum. Speaking about a W.I. Hall, Mr. Carbert said if one could be found and could be moved to the site it would be used to demonstrate crafts, a showcase for Tweedsmuir Histories and quilts.

If individuals have artifacts to offer, contact The Museum, Box 38, Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3. A receipt is available for income tax deduction for articles that have a substantial value.

Mr. Carbert concluded by saying, the Museum will be a place to learn about the early days, a place for the young people to wonder and learn, for the old to reminisce.

Displays

The quilt blocks were on display from the Erland Lee Home and gave the delegates the opportunity to see the blocks assembled into quilt walls. Mrs. Wm. G. Miller was responsible for this display as well as heading the supply booth, assisted by Helena Feasby Branch.

Mrs. Archie Armour, Thamesford displayed Women's Institute material depicting the work of the Women's Institutes in all Provinces. Other displays projected the life and culture of foreign countries which included dolls in native costumes, crafts, towels and literature. Mrs. Armour's display created a great deal of interest for the delegates.