

Tailoring



Mrs. Mildred Mulligan, Home Economics instructor, displays an autographed cushion which was made from linings at a tailoring course in Maple Grove, Durham County.

A course offered to Women's Institutes through the Clothing specialists of the Home Economics Branch is in great demand according to Mrs. Sharon Gouge, Supervisor.

Among the specialists working on her staff is Mrs. Mildred Mulligan. Many will remember Mrs. Mulligan and her marvelous flare for hat making. More women in Ontario were wearing hats as a result of the Millinery course than from any other single source. When hats went out of style, the demand naturally decreased, although as Mrs. Mulligan said "hats are in again". She was busily looking at Millinery styles preparing to make a new summer chapeau for herself.

She just returned from a course and we asked, "What does it take to participate in a tailoring

course?" Mrs. Mulligan thinks patience and drive are essential, but probably top priority is "one must like hand sewing". Over 60% of the work is hand sewing, only the construction seams are done on the machine.

It was really Miss McKercher's idea that this course be given, she felt there was a need for the women to have the advantage of this in-depth course. A manual was written by Mrs. F. Bowen (Lampman) with drawings by Mrs. Mulligan and a pilot course was held. We've learned much from the evaluation sheets which the participants fill out individually, the feedback is good and the course has benefited from both criticisms and commendations.

The material must be all wool because wool will shrink and takes the shape. One of the strong points is the special method of making the lapels — this does make the difference between a home made look and professional.

Another important feature is measuring. The suits are almost moulded for the individual figure. A proper measure means a good fitting jacket. If time and patience is taken to measure, it is almost a foregone conclusion the jacket will look good and feel right when worn.

Good lighting and table space is essential and participants must be prepared to work hard not only at the course but at home as well. The jackets are not always finished in the eight days but mostly the women are far enough along to finish it on their own.

At the course in Durham County, Mrs. Sylvia Trull completely finished her suit (the skirt too) and modelled it the last day. At the end of the course the ladies showed their ingenuity by presenting Mrs. Mulligan with a cushion made from the linings of all the suits and autographed each block.

Mrs. Mulligan retires in June and looks forward to growing indoor plants in her apartment and catching up on all the things she would like to do.



Historical Plaque Honours Arkell Pioneers

Plaque unveiled honouring pioneers. Many of the descendents of the pioneers gathered for the dedication service. The project sponsored by the Women's In-

stitute shows L-R at the unveiling Richard Starkey, Mrs. W. A. Watson, Miss A. May Cook, Mrs. G. S. Ray, Miss Ella Tolton, Mrs. Stewart Hume, J. R. Gordon, Rev. R. Finley.