

# THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RURAL EXTENSION



## HONOURARY LIFE MEMBER

Miss Helen McKercher was awarded a life membership in the Canadian Society of Rural Extension during their annual meeting in Brandon earlier this year.

Mr. N. O. Watson, the C.S.R.E. secretary, is seen presenting the certificate to Miss McKercher.

The Canadian Society of Rural Extension was formed in 1960 as a full fledged affiliated society of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. It serves the special needs and interests of persons in extension, adult education and advisory work, as well as representing the extension profession.

## Citation

Miss McKercher is presently Director of the Home Economics Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food. Under her direction, the Branch has developed and maintained a strong educational outreach in Home Economics in rural Ontario, through Women's programmes and 4-H Homemaking Club programmes.

## Frysinger Fellowship Exchange Visitor

Mrs. Parker Rockwell, Troy, Michigan represented the National Farm and Garden Association Incorporated as an Awardee to Canada in June; Mrs. C. L. Alexander of Alberta will visit the United States in September, as a reciprocal part of the exchange.

The objective and purpose of the Frysinger International Fellowship exchange is to increase international understanding and good will between members of the Associated Country Women of the World, located in many parts of the globe, and members of Woman's National Farm and Garden Association in the United States of America. Through this fellowship, two selected members are given an opportunity to learn of the objectives, programmes and procedures of the Society, or Association, in the nation visited and are then able to provide helpful and interesting information upon their return to their native lands.

Miss Frysinger supported the rural exchange idea from the beginning but suggested it bear the name of Lady Aberdeen. However, many of her co-workers disagreed and unanimously endorsed the name of Grace E. Frysinger International Fellowship.

She has been instrumental in developing an appreciation of high ideals and standards for successful home and family living; has assisted women in their personal growth and development and has instilled in others her belief that development of leadership abilities is most important in training rural women and girls.

Local leaders' training schools have been steadily promoted by Miss McKercher. Those who attend receive sound leadership training and, in turn, teach others. Many of these women, because of their new-found leadership abilities, become involved in, and make meaningful contributions to, the lives of their communities. Training schools are, indeed, a means of reaching more women than would be possible through short courses and workshops only.

She has never deviated from her philosophy of "people and programmes — that's what extension work is all about." She has provided leadership to the educational programme in extension and to the Women's Institutes, not only within Ontario, but throughout other provinces and countries, at national and international meetings.

She has never hesitated to speak her mind, which contains a wealth of common sense and innovative ideas. Because her background is rural, she knows the scene well and is able to apply both practical and theoretical knowledge of extension education. To thousands of women in Ontario, she is a good friend, as she meets and talks with them, and her high ideals and original and stimulating ideas have inspired many to attempt to improve their skills as organization members, leaders, home-makers and citizens. She has the ability to instill in her staff the feeling of working "with" her rather than "for" her — a feeling which ensures that all programmes of the Home Economics Branch are carried out in the best interests of those it serves.

The Fellowship is open to a United States member of the National Farm and Garden Association and a member of a constituent society in the ACWW. The candidates must be adult and mature women interested in rural and urban life, well acquainted with the work of the organization of which she is a representative, an outgoing personality, express herself well and must be in good health and able to keep up with a busy schedule.

While in Ontario, Mrs. Rockwell visited the Brant North District Tweedsmuir Tea in the St. George hall, and had an opportunity to see Branch and District Tweedsmuir books; and while in Brant South was entertained by the Six Nations Indian children at the Brantford Museum.

An opportunity was provided to see the Home owned by FWIC, the birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless. Dinner was served in the dining room by the Hostess, Mrs. Owen Loveless in an antique setting, complete with beautiful old china and lovely table appointments. Mrs. Rockwell also toured the Erland Lee Home, property of the FWIO, with the hostess Mrs.