

GIRLS' CONFERENCE '77

Supervisor

Mrs. Margaret Woof, Supervisor of Junior Extension welcomed the 187 delegates. Eleven County Home Economists, and regional supervisors assisted during the four day Conference. Mrs. Woof said "you will be making some crucial decisions within the next few years especially in the areas of education and marriage." Look at your own signposts, then take stock, clarify and redefine your goals.

She challenged all to never lose the enthusiasm, idealism, creativity and freshness, grasping every opportunity as it presents itself.

This is an opportunity to meet with girls of similar interests going the same way.

Chairman, Family Studies

Dr. Richard Barnham, Chairman Department of Family Studies, College of Family and Consumer Studies, University of Guelph welcomed all to the campus.

This University feels quite a special relationship with people and the land. We as a University owe much to the people of Ontario especially the history of O.A.C., the Veterinary College and Macdonald Institute. The newly named College of Family and Consumer Studies feel our interests cross your interests, much attention is focused on family life. If you really look around there is no question family life is alive and ticking, if there is a change in circumstances it doesn't mean it's disintegrating.

From a survey "What people admire and aspire to be" it revealed women who had family life plus a career were admired. Some would have us believe women are no longer interested in family life—not so!

Director

Miss Molly McGhee, Director of the Home Economics Branch speaking to the group about Signposts for the Future said she had no crystal ball to point the way to the future.

The Seventies has seen a series of crises erupting on the world scene: Crises in population, food, energy and water resources, as well as inflation and unemployment. Things may not be so easy in the future and your generation will have to learn to cope with a very changing world, much more than your parents and grandparents.

Firstly, I would like to talk about some of the changes you may see in your lifetime, then discuss their consequences, their effect on personal life, and suggest the role that you, as enthusiastic 4-H members might play in the years ahead.

Certainly, we will see the merger of the family farm into a large enterprise; and the farmer of tomorrow may work for a company rather than for himself.

Bionic men and women are closer to becoming a reality. Modern medicine can already replace many parts of the body—kidney transplants, liver transplants, eye-socket replacements, joint replacements—to mention only a few.

In the world of communications and computers,

rapid changes are taking place. We are told that the cashless society is not too far away. The technological change that will allow us to live in a cashless society is called EPS or the Electronic Payments System. This system will permit the transfer of money by using Electronic signals, instead of by cash, cheques or charge slips.

It is very important that in issues where the benefits appear to be potentially great, that we do all we can to determine whether the risks can be contained. For example, there is a need to control population growth. Yet, if people live longer because of great advances in modern medicine, what additional stresses and strains may this put on world food consumption.

Living in this changing world will be the family, itself changed, bombarded by many problems. No matter the claims of the Women's Liberation Movement, it is the achievements of scientists and technologists that have released women from domestic bondage in the developed countries. Very few of us would want to give up these labour-saving devices. Yet, in the future, unless we really conserve energy we may well have to do this.

The choice of career, will become increasingly difficult. Many of you here are already wondering what opportunities the job market holds for you. Research all the avenues open to you before you make your final career choice and make sure you have an opportunity to up-grade your skills or learn new skills along the way.

However, the main key to the future lies in the youth of this country. As 4-H club members, that you are well-qualified to play an important role for the betterment of mankind in the years ahead. Each time you make your pledge, you commit yourself to clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and better living through the use of your head, your heart, your hands and your health for the good of your club, your community and your world.



Conference delegates L-R. Miss Susan Waite, Wallaceport; Mrs. Margaret Woof Supervisor; Miss Gail Zavitz, Dorchester; Dr. W. C. Watson, London; Miss Molly McGhee, Director Home Economics Branch.