

1959

By Pasteurizing Farm Women Said Too Lazy To Guard Against Disease

Star Staff Special
RICHARDS LANDING—A home economist from the Ontario Department of Agriculture says farm women are too lazy to pasteurize the milk they feed their families.
Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Service, Toronto, told delegates to the Area Convention of the North Central Women's Institute, that very few women on Ontario farms take the time to pasteurize the family milk.
"A home pasteurizer only costs \$25," Miss McKercher pointed out, "and yet in our homemaker's survey only one home in all of Ontario had one. We can afford electric stoves, vacuum cleaners, TV, refrigerators and all the modern conveniences, but apparently our rural women do not believe in pasteurizing milk."

She cited many diseases milk pasteurization has eliminated. She said due to the scientific handling of milk, cases of typhoid, undulant fever, bovine TB and several others attributed to germs in raw milk have practically disappeared where pasteurization of milk is compulsory.
"I am truly ashamed of you as Women's Institute members to learn that you do not practise what you preach," said the home economist. "If I were a homemaker and re-

sponsible for the health and food of a family I would be sure that the food I served them was safe."
Miss McKercher gave a resume of an Associated Countrywomen of the World convention she attended in Edinburgh.
She commended 4-H Homemaking Club leaders and said membership has climbed to an alltime high in these clubs. Algoma especially has shown a marked increase in this work but less than half the

branches sponsor clubs, Miss McKercher said.
She said there are many services available to WI members free for the asking and her department is always interested in promoting courses for the education of rural people.
"Our program is designed to help people help themselves," Miss McKercher reminded delegates. "We are always glad to have any suggestions for improvements in these homemaking services."

She outlined all types of courses which her department offers and urged the members to take advantage of as many as they could.
"There are 20 branches in the district which have never asked for any type of course and surely we have something to offer which would be of interest to them."
She closed her address by reminding the members that the home economics service is part of the free educational program offered by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and that the Women's Institute is primarily an educational organization.