

Mrs. 1897 visits with Mrs. 1967.

Characters

Mrs. 1897 (dressed in old-fashioned clothes typical of the styles worn in 1897.)  
Mrs. 1967 (dressed in a modern summer dress, preferably a pinafore frock with no sleeves and low back. wears no stockings and summer sandals.)

Scene

Mrs. 1897's living room with door opening to kitchen.  
Mrs. 1967 sits in a meditative mood - probably with hand under chin.

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Mrs. 1967 - I've just been thinking - wouldn't it be fun if one of our dear departed Women's Institute members way back in -- say 1897 -- could come in this afternoon and we could have a chat about the changes in the community since that time.  
(Mrs. 1897 enters tip-toe from behind a curtain)

Mrs. 1967 - (startled rises)

Mrs. 1897 - "Your wish is granted lady, here I am to pay you a visit."  
" 1967 - "Why I didn't notice you come in. You must be the lady I was musing about. Are you Mrs. 1897?"  
" 1897 - Yes, and when I heard the Women's Institute was celebrating an Anniversary I couldn't resist the temptation to come back and see what changes have taken place since my time.  
" 1967 - I'm glad to welcome you Mrs. 1897, but how did you come?  
" 1897 - Why, old Dobbin brought me here in record time. It just took me(?) hours to drive from ----- . That's pretty fast travelling!  
" 1967 - (smiles) Ah, - yes, what changes did you see on the way?  
" 1897 - Well, fancy driving on cement pavement all the way and how fast those automobiles do go! Every time a car passed me I put up my hand to see if my hat were still on! One thing I noticed particularly was the lack of woods. Why, I could see clear across from one concession to another. But perhaps you people like the great wide-open spaces.  
" 1967 - Of course there is more land under tillage now than in your time, Mrs. 1897, but we are finding out we do need more forest areas than we have, so the Ontario Government is urging reforestation as a conservation measure. We have found that the lack of forest has not only affected the texture of the soil and caused soil erosion, it has also affected our water supply. Because of the absence of natural nesting places and protection given by thick woods, the number of our small insect and weed-eating birds have diminished. Oh, we're finding out the need of forests alright.  
" 1897 - No doubt, Mrs. 1967, but speaking of birds, what huge birds were up in the sky which seemed to make a noise like an engine? I don't remember ever seeing any like that before.  
" 1967 - Of course you wouldn't, Mrs. 1897. They are aeroplanes. Several years you would have seen war planes, but the ones you saw were on a friendly mission. I am sorry to tell you, Mrs. 1897, but  
" 1897 - since your time we have had two world wars!  
" 1897 - Two wars!! My, what wicked people there must be in the world. But don't tell me there was war in Canada?  
" 1967 - No, Mrs. 1897, not quite as bad as that - although many of our Canadian boys gave up their lives fighting in foreign lands. But let's change the subject. How do you like my new "pinafore" frock?  
" 1897 - I'd like it a lot better if it covered your knees and had sleeves in it! (stands up and turns around slowly)