



QUILT IN ROMAN STRIPE PATTERN (ORIGINAL WITH ONTARIO SETTLERS)

displayed at area WI convention by Cold Springs Institute, it is admired by Provincial board director Mrs. Rex Rollins of Madoc

## Entertainments Space Reports

# Women's Institute Convention Lively Affair

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Examiner Women's Editor

Let no one think that a women's Institute convention is a series of such long and tailed reports that everyone finally gets tired of listening. They're not—at least not the 41st annual program for the Kent Valley convention area which opened a two-day and at Club Aragon Thursday morning.

There are lengthy reports, they're long because they're full of information, counting of good deeds and good thoughts, and just about everybody listens.

For this program there were two speakers—the president of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario, Mrs. Everett Small of Essex, who sells real estate in her hometown, and the director of the home economics branch, Department of Agriculture of Ontario, Miss Helen McKercher of Toronto. Both spoke well, gave information, and they used all the time allotted her.

What helps to make this convention an affair that even a newspaper representative enjoys is spicy entertain-

ment cleverly introduced at times when interest usually begins to lag and chairs feel too uncomfortable.

### GRAND PARADE

Original ideas for entertaining, like the PC-convention-type "kitchen band" parade led by the "chef" from East Northumberland district midway in the morning session, certainly pepped up proceedings and paved the way for Miss McKercher's address.

More than 100 of the 221 women registered for the opening session were in centennial costumes. Others brought costumes with them but waited to wear them at the evening banquet, although by so doing they missed being in the grand parade of centennial dresses breaking up a series of reports.

All the area executive members were in centennial dress and each was presented with a corsage, a yellow 'mum in royal blue ribbon to carry out institute colors.

Presidents of the seven districts in the area—three in Hastings, two in Northumberland and one each in Prince Edward and Peterborough counties—all in centennial dress too, replied to roll call

by listing the centennial activities that took place in their district.

And when area president Mrs. Harry Shearer of Lakefield asked the delegates to sing O Canada to open the convention, the Canadian flag and the Union Jack were presented by area second vice president Mrs. Clifford Barber and citizenship convener Mrs. Edward Phillips, both from Belleville.

### BANNER DEDICATED

Climax of the day was the presentation and dedication of the area centennial project—a new area banner,—during the evening session over which Mrs. Barber presided.

The new banner was unfurled by provincial president Mrs. Small, assisted by immediate past president of the area Mrs. S. R. Beatty of Madoc.

Because of centennial year the report of area curator Mrs. Ralph Sills of RR 1, Holloway was particularly interesting. She noted that "the local curator is a key woman in your community."

Curators have had many calls this year from people

who come back to their home district and want to look up relatives or get information for their own family histories. (Mrs. Sills advised that curators get a lot of their information from headstones in the local cemeteries.)

Finding that only 15 branch curators were present, although there are 80 branches in the area, Mrs. Sills asked: "Why didn't you show your curator appreciation for her special efforts this year preparing your Tweedsmuir history, etc, and make her a delegate to convention—providing her with bus fare or the price off her banquet ticket?"

She added a fact well known to newspaper editors: "I guess curators are like the public relations officers, they're very often forgotten." (And where would any organization be without either one?)

### QUIET DISPLAY

Women's Institute members do a lot of quilt making, and they've been especially busy at it since the centennial fever started. On display was the Peterbor-

ough district's quilt of 18 blocks worked and monogrammed by the branches around a descriptive centre panel which is to be given to the Lang museum.

But the centennial quilt display was highlighted by a floral quilt more than 100 years old brought from Rednersville, and a quilt in the Roman stripe pattern originated by Canada's early settler's made by Cold Springs Institute.

First entertainment period of the afternoon was by Hastings West district, "Just some of those grand and memorable songs of the past" and the pianist and two centennial-costumed singers sang some old favorite and led the singing of others, all tuned to "love and transportation" and ranging from "Bicycle built for two" to their original "Zoom, zoom zoom in a spaceship to the moon, moon, moon."

As incoming president Mrs. T. M. Gresham of Colborne said as she conducted the afternoon session: "I think we Women's Institute women are really wonderful when it comes to having fun."