

June 25 - 1970

United Co-operative premises offer new expanded facilities

The re-location of the premises of the Oxford branch of the United Co-operatives of Ontario is one of the largest in the province, according to Leonard Harman, general Manager of UCO.

Last night marked the official opening ceremony of the new location of the Oxford branch on Highway 2. Mr. Harman said the cost of the land, the grain elevator, the fertilizer facilities and the new building amounted to approximately \$500,000.

The guest speaker of the evening was Robert McKercher of Dublin, Ontario, president

of UCO. Mr. McKercher said the Oxford Co-operative was the first in the province to merge with UCO, back in 1965. June 25 marks the anniversary of the local co-op's merger.

Mr. McKercher said the Oxford branch began making plans for progress a few years ago when they purchased the 20 acres of land on Highway 2.

He said, "The Oxford Co-operative set the pattern for the merger program which has not been seriously changed or challenged since that time. Since then, approximately 58 co-operatives across the province have merged with UCO."

Mr. McKercher said the co-operative can thrive and give the best possible service only through the support of the membership. He said most people like to participate in a program that effects their daily lives, as the UCO affects the farmer. He said the UCO was first established to combat high prices and poor service in farm products.

The new expansion marks phase two of a three-stage program resulting in a new 10,608 foot store, warehouse, administrative offices and feed mill. The construction of the grain

elevator and fertilizer service was phase one with phase three involving the expansion of the warehouse and store area.

Mervin Cuthbert of RR 2 Ingersoll, chairman of the Oxford Co-op Council, was the chairman of the program. Also assisting in the program was Ken Peers, reeve of East Oxford Township.

Mr. Harman presented the keys to the new building to Frank Winnacott, recently appointed manager of the Oxford County branch. Approximately 500 people attended the opening ceremonies.



THE NEW \$500,000 United Co-Operative of Ontario warehouse, store and grain storage complex was officially

opened on Friday by UCO Woodstock president Robert McKercher. Shown with him at the ribbon cutting cere-

mony are (left to right) Mr. Frank Winnacott, manager of the UCO Oxford group, Leonard Harman, UCO General

Manager for Ontario, and Mervin Cuthbert, chairman of the UCO Oxford Council.