

### Halton Federation reporter attends workshop on writing

"A press council to control the press" was a suggestion made at a Writers' Workshop in Aurora. Mrs. Denzil Lawrence of Milton, press reporter for Halton Federation of Agriculture, attended the workshop.

The speaker, Ted Schrader, well-known journalist and director of the Journalism Course, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, was outlining the history of the printed word for public reading. Since its beginning the public press has suffered from high officials, kings and queens, who tried to mold the press to their way of thinking. A hundred years ago, the pendulum swung the other way, when the press was teared for vicious attacks on private citizens. Today, libel suits hold reporters in check but there is still a great need for a press council, such as is found in England, to protect the individual's private rights.

Mr. Schrader instructed the 30 students on writing for the press, how to avoid libel, the meaning of copyright and how to use it.

Lloyd Lockhart and Monroe Johnson, both journalists and instructors at Ryerson, also spoke on writing for the press. The students were shown the correct writing facts for reports, how to interview people, what is news and how generally to be good reporters and writers. Mr. Lockhart gave them his code for better writing.

"Time is of prime importance for radio and television. 'You can't waste the listener's time,'" said George Atkins, C.B.C. commentator, giving instruction on reporting for TV and radio. "Learn to write as you speak, even talking to yourself as you write" he continued. "Be natural and friendly. If interviewing, pay attention to what your guest is saying to pick up clues for your next question." Mr. Atkins also gave help in using tape recorders.

Arrangement of action in a picture to catch the reader's eye and yet not waste space in the newspaper, was advice given by James Garner, Farm Features editor, Rural Co-Operator, who gave the instruction on photography for the press.

Thirty students attended the workshop from all over Ontario, with a special guest being present from Nova Scotia. She was observing the workshop with

hopes of achieving a similar project for Nova Scotia.

The workshop was organized to improve farm reports and articles sent into farm magazines and newspapers, to encourage new writers among farm people, and perhaps to improve the farmers' image in the eye of the consumer public.

Art Musgrave, Chairman of Rural Learning Association and former president of O.F.A., was workshop co-ordinator. Mrs. Edith Storr, executive director, gave continuous assistance throughout.

#### ST. JOHN ON JOB

Local members of St. John Ambulance Brigade travelled with 800 high school and college students on a fund-raising walk-athon Saturday. The students walked from Toronto to Peter's Corners, and the Milton brigade accompanied them on the Palermo to Clappison section of the 39-mile jaunt.

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