

HAMR Hears Report On Conference

The Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded had their monthly meeting at the Workshop on May 1 at 8 p.m.

Mrs. William Huffman, the new secretary, read the minutes of the last month. Mrs. Ray Arnold, treasurer, gave her report.

Parents with children, five years and under interested in the nursery school for September are reminded to get in touch with Mrs. George Baldwin, chairman of family services. Call 772-6938.

Mernie Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ullman attended the newly formed Regional Niagara Association for the Mentally Retarded, Region 3, at Hawthorne Lodge, Port Colborne as delegates. The full report will be given next month.

Mrs. Ross Deagle, manager and W. Brooks, assistant for the workshop attended the 19th OAMR annual meeting and conference in Ottawa. The following is Mrs. Deagle's report.

When the 500 delegates of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded met in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa this month, it may seem that they are dealing with the needs of a rather specialized segment of our population. On examin-

ation however, it is evident that the issues confronting them play a part in the life of every Ontario community.

The theme of this year's conference is The Challenge of Change. What sort of change? Change, certainly in public attitudes toward the mentally retarded; underlining this is the estimate that of the OAMR's 20,000 members, fewer than 40 per cent are parents of a mentally retarded person.

That mental retardation is beginning to be accepted as a community, not just a personal or governmental area of concern, is due in no small part to the association's efforts.

Change is evident, too, in the need for facilities for mentally retarded citizens, both children and adults. We have come a long way from the days of neglect and inhumanity. How far we still have to go is highlighted by the rec-

ently published Williston Report, submitted last August to Ontario's minister of health.

It is generally agreed that the best environment for the growth of any child, except the most profoundly retarded, is his own home. Family ties, love and emotional warmth are important to all human beings, whether normal or handicapped.

But the problems facing the parents of a handicapped child are difficult and complex. How is he to be educated? Who will be his friends? What of the other members of the family, who also need love and attention? And perhaps most worrisome of all - what will become of him when his parents die, or are no longer able to care for him?

When the Williston Report was issued, its first recommendation

was the phasing down of the traditional large institutions for the mentally retarded. Their drawbacks are many. Because of their size and understaffing, emphasis has necessarily been on custodial care rather than of training and rehabilitation.

Because of their isolation, contacts with the community and with the patient's own family are painfully rare. And because they must treat and have hospital facilities for people with varying degrees of handicaps, they are in the long run decidedly uneconomical. Even by conservative estimates, it costs \$500,000 to maintain a patient in a large institution for life.

Smaller facilities, located near hospitals, university research centres and employment opportunities, can provide much better care at far less cost to the taxpayer.

'Dairy Business' Seen By OIA Group

The 'dairy business' was the theme for the May meeting of the Ontario Institute of Agrology, Hamilton Branch, Monday May 8.

The meeting took the form of a tour and included a visit to the Ontario Milk Marketing Board Offices at Waterdown, a call to Agro Acres, Waterdown, and a tour of Stoney Creek Dairy, Stoney Creek.

Branch President Ken Best, presented a gift to Past-President and Provincial Councillor Harold Buck, who leaves Wentworth County after more than 10 years as agricultural representative.

meet the demand and avoid surplus.

At Agro Acres, which is well known around the world for its outstanding Holstein breeding stock, OIA members were given a chance to inspect many of the famous Holstein dams and sires.

At the Stoney Creek Dairy, members were given a tour of the milk packaging and cream processing plant.

Branch President Ken Best, presented a gift to Past-President and Provincial Councillor Harold Buck, who leaves Wentworth County after more than 10 years as agricultural representative.

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Mark O'Brien, 15, of R.R. 4 Hagersville, flashes a peace sign from the coffin auctioned at the Hagersville Arena last Friday. Mark bought the coffin for \$15 after the sale.

Lambs Corners WI

thirteen members five visitors from Lambs Corners W.I. held their May meeting at the home of Mrs. Marion Emery, York, Ont. Mrs. Clayton Emery, president, presided over the opening exercises and business.

The roll call, Name Mothers favourite ever, was answered. The report of the standing committee was received and correspondence dealt with. Delegates appointed to attend the West District annual on May 26, 10 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church Calumet were Mrs. Wilma Lamb, Mrs. Clayton Weaver and Mrs. Clifton MacLean. An appeal was received from Grandview Lodge, Dunnville, for assistance in various ways from our membership. Mrs. Harold Finch and Mrs. Clifton MacLean consented to comply with this request.

Mrs. George Hedges, public relations officer, Mrs. Freeman Mel, historical research convener, were appointed to co-operate in the Selkirk W.I. plan for the opening of the season and fifth Anniversary the Wilson MacLeod Memorial Museum.

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