

gave the season a richer and more purposeful meaning," reports Mrs. A. George Wakelin. "The glitter of the beautifully decorated community tree shone a message of 'Light to the World' as it twinkled its lights throughout the holiday week.

"This was truly a co-operative enterprise. Men of the community supervised having the tree trucked to its site and erected. Everyone was stirred to help with the tree decorations. The children in the local school contributed almost one hundred items; members of the United Church Explorers devoted several meetings to making tree trimmings; Institute members made their fanciest decorations from tinfoil, paper cups, empty cardboard milk cartons and other kitchen findings.

The civic Christmas tree was only part of the three-fold Women's Institute Christmas when the Reeve of the Township flipped the switch to light the tree. Before the tree was lighted a Christmas Cavalcade toured the village to see the especially decorated doorways of almost all the homes, and as the cars wound their way through the village streets there was an air of wonderment as the tiny village doffed its ordinary appearance and assumed its enchanting festive holiday garb. The Women's Institute gave a prize for the most attractively decorated doorway as selected by the president of the Kingston Horticultural Society, and the carol singers were invited to the United Church Hall for hot coffee and doughnuts."

(The editor is sorry to have to omit the names of all the local individuals who had a part in this project. Local names are rather lost on the readers of a paper with a province-wide circulation.)

Highlights of the Year

Mrs. Watson McCulloch, Public Relations Representative of Coleridge Union, reports that their

first president donated funds for a competition for girls in ironing a man's shirt. This made an interesting programme feature at an Institute meeting. The winner of the competition, Donna Horsley, had completed twelve 4-H Homemaking Club units. For the past two years this Institute has given prizes for public speaking to Grade VIII students in the four public schools represented in the branch. The winner this year was June Korchynski, a thirteen year old girl whose parents are Canadian born, of Polish ancestry. June also won the county speaking contest and went on to the larger area competition in Guelph. She is a 4-H Homemaking Club girl.

Other highlights of Coleridge Union's year were a bus trip to Midland and Simcoe's Quilt and Rug Fair and the annual turkey supper for the members' families in the fall. When a member was injured in a motor accident, a mother of six small children, whose husband is in Sunnybrook Hospital, the Institute donated \$100 to help them.

The Public Relations Representative of Conn Institute, Mrs. Cyril Hudson, reports as highlights of their year's programme: a bus trip to the local TV station, a display of old-time school books at a meeting, readings from the books and a discussion about them; a meeting when the girls' 4-H Homemaking Club put on an exhibit of the pyjamas, night dresses and housecoats made in their club project and also provided the musical programme; a paper on the motto: "Be kind to the aged—they have come a long way. Be good to the young for they have a long way to go." Other happy events of the year were a pot luck dinner for the members and a "men's night."

Hillview considers one of its highlights of the year a presentation and turkey dinner, given in honour of a member and her husband on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

A Plea for Letter Friends

THE LETTER FRIEND SECRETARY for the Associated Country Women of the World, Miss Sybil Lessey, has written our Home Economics Service Loan Library where addresses of letter friends have been arranged on request for some time back. This is Miss Lessey's letter:

"I have a long waiting list of Women's Institute members from England and Wales, and also of members of many of our societies in the United States, all most anxious to write to an 'opposite member' in your country; and I would be most grateful if you could launch a drive to encourage your members to put pen to paper. By sharing thoughts and 'wildest dreams' with a friend across the seas, so much can be learned which is of immense value towards bringing about understanding and goodwill between people living many thousands of miles apart, and whose ways and customs are sometimes very different from those with which we are familiar.

"I like to have as much information as possible about each applicant as I use a great deal of thought and care in ensuring that everyone has an opportunity of building a really successful pen friendship. Details I welcome are approximate

age, number and ages of children of those applicants who are married, hobbies and interests and also, perhaps, husband's work or profession. Our ladies, especially from this country, (England) write long, detailed, chatty letters of application, telling me all about their families and their hobbies. Some of the hobbies that women throughout the world enjoy include handcrafts of many kinds, knitting, dress-making, child care, psychology, physical training, old people's welfare, young people's organizations, gardening, reading, photography, house decoration, painting and sketching, fruit preserving, some branch of farming, learning a foreign language, collecting such things as salt and pepper shakers, s'amps, post cards, and coins.

"I hope some of your Ontario members will want to have a pen friend in England or Wales or the United States."

A letter has been sent to branch secretaries with a sample form to be filled by a member who would like to start a letter friendship. Extra copies of the form may be had by writing The Loan Library, Home Economics Service, 20 Spadina Road, Toronto.