

A.C.W.W. Postage Stamp

By Ethel McCandless

On Wednesday, May 13th the Canadian Government honoured the Associated Country Women of the World with the issue of a new Five Cent Commemorative Postage Stamp.

The Federated Women's Institute of Canada arranged for the sale of 10,000 First Day Covers specially designed, featuring the F.W.I.C. badge "For Home and Country" and "La Terre et le Foyer" at the top, and underneath the badge "Commemorating the Associated Women of the World".

Members of the Women's Institutes all over Canada, philatelists and many others had the opportunity of purchasing these covers from the National Office before May 1st. Before that date the issue was completely sold out and more covers had to be obtained. The covers were all addressed at the National Office to people all over the world.

To the little town of Stoney Creek, Ontario, went the honour of the mailing of the First Covers, it being the place where the first Women's Institute was organized by the late Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and the late Erland Lee.

After many days and nights addressing these covers they were brought by car from Ottawa by Mrs. H. G. Taylor, National Secretary, to the home of Mrs. C. G. Hopkins, secretary-treasurer of the Stoney Creek W.I. Mrs. Angus B. Jackson, president of the Stoney Creek W.I. and Mrs. C. G. Hopkins were in charge of the tremendous job of seeing to it that the 10,000 First Day Covers and 1,000 more that arrived by other means were stamped and sent to the Stoney Creek Post Office on the day of mailing.



Members of the processing committee — Left to right: Master of Ceremonies, Mrs. Angus B. Jackson, President of Stoney Creek Women's Institute; Mrs. P. Y. McCandless, F.W.I.O. Public Relations Representative; Mrs. C. C. Hopkins, Secretary Stoney Creek Institute; Mrs. Geo. Wilson, F.W.I.C. Public Relations Representative.



Design used for the postage stamp issued by the Canadian Government on May 13, 1959 in honour of the Women's Institutes, the Cercles des Fermiers and other organizations in the A.C.W.W., also to honour the Canadian women Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Mrs. Alfred Watt, founders of the Women's Institutes and the A.C.W.W. The stamp designed by a Toronto woman, Mrs. Helen Bacon — known in art circles by her maiden name, Helen Fitzgerald — symbolizes growth as cultivated by Country Women of individual organizations into the world association as represented by the globe. The woman and the globe are outlined in black and the tree and border are green.

History was surely made over again in this historic little town with its monument to the Battle of Stoney Creek in the War of 1812, and the beginning of the Women's Institute in 1897, when at 12.01 a.m. May 13th the post office opened its door to commence the sale of stamps. Many were in line at this early hour of the day to be among the first to purchase these stamps, including Mrs. George Wilson, Public Relations Officer, F.W.I.C., Mrs. Angus Jackson, Mrs. C. G. Hopkins, and Mrs. P. Y. McCandless, Public Relations Representative, F.W.I.O. who were the members of the processing committee.

Sharp at 7.30 a.m. on May 13th Mrs. Wilson appeared at the post office wicket at Stoney Creek and handed the F.W.I.O. cheque to the postmaster who released the first 10,000 stamps for the First Day Covers. Assembled at the Stoney Creek United Church Christian Education Building were 30 women, members of the Stoney Creek, Saltfleet and Community Beach Women's Institutes who tackled the big job of sticking the stamps onto all the envelopes. The job went along splendidly and all mail, nearly 11,000 pieces was cleared to the post office before 5 p.m.

Mr. Lewis Diehl, Public Relations Director, Hamilton Postal District who had spent considerable time with the committee, and Mr. Arnold Morris, District Superintendent, were in attendance all day and were of considerable help to the workers.

The green, black and white stamp shows a symbolic female figure kneeling beside a tree over which a globe is poised. The words Associated Country Women of the World in English and French along the borders. The design symbolizes growth, as cultivated by country women of individual country organizations, into the world asso-