



A radio from Ontario brings a forum broadcast to an Indian village.

Radios For India

By Edith M. Storr

AT THE National Farm Forum Annual Conference held at Dalvay House, Prince Edward Island in June 1960, Mrs. Jean Mutch, P.E.I. delegate to the conference suggested that Farm Forums in Canada might be interested in supplying radios to India's Farm Forums. She made this suggestion after listening to a presentation made by Bob Knowles, Supervisor C.B.C. Farm Department, on his visit to India as a delegate to the 4th Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference in January 1960.

While he was there, Bob had an opportunity to see the growth of the Farm Forum idea in India. He brought back a story of the desperate need for radios to serve the rural villages where Forums were being organized, patterned after our own program in Canada.

We were all impressed with the story but Jean did something about it. She made her proposal and it was unanimously supported by the other delegates and things began to happen. The idea, born at Dalvay House in June 1960, moved westward across Canada and as the idea went on from province to province, people wanted to help.

It is now April 1962 and so far 60 radios have been donated by Canada to India. Every day the number increases and the interest grows.

Here in Ontario we have raised funds to purchase 28 radios plus. We haven't followed

any particular pattern for our campaign. Perhaps it is sufficient to say we told the story of a country's need and people have responded.

Our radios in Ontario have come mainly from the Forums, County Federations of Agriculture and other groups.

The first cheque came from York Federation of Agriculture. Since then Peel and Middlesex County Federations have donated one radio each. A number of county and township Federations contributed towards funds started by the Forums. The County Farm Forum Committees in Halton, Peterborough and Waterloo each donated enough for one radio. Lambton County Farm Forums, with help from their county Federation of Agriculture, have purchased three radios. Oxford County Farm Forums have donated two radios plus \$23.50 towards another one, plus \$50 to come in; Grey County three and a half radios, Bruce County Farm Forums three radios, and Northumberland with eight Forums in their county have contributed four radios. From the staff and agents of Co-operator's Insurance Association in London, Ontario, one radio. This was a spontaneous gesture inspired by an editorial in the Farm Forum guide.

Farm Forums making a direct contribution to a miscellaneous fund were: Kencona in Victoria, Mount Pleasant in Perth. Goderich Township in Huron sent a donation, as did the members of Brookdale Women's Institute in Oxford County.