

Institutes in the Territories

By Florence P. Eadie

Editor's Note: Since her return from her tour of the North West Territories last summer, Miss Florence Eadie has prepared for F.W.I.C. a comprehensive report of her visits to Women's Institutes of the area, her observations of the country and its people and her recommendations for an Institute program. Perhaps the full report will be made available for study by Institutes especially interested in the far North. We have here excerpts dealing specifically with the work of the Institutes now active in the Territories.

THERE ARE TWELVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES in the North, eleven along the Mackenzie in the Northwest Territories and one in the Yukon. One new Institute was organized this summer at Reindeer Station, an Eskimo centre north of the Arctic Circle.

Ten of the Institutes have in their membership Indian, Metis, Eskimo and Whites: Tuktoyaktuk and Reindeer Station, Eskimo and Whites; Aklavik and Delta (Inuvik), Indian, Metis, Eskimo and Whites; Capnoweta (Fort Smith), Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Fort Norman, Fort Providence and Fort Simpson, Indian, Metis and Whites; Discovery W.I., at a gold mining centre out from Yellowknife, and the Destruction Bay W.I. in the Yukon, at a Department of Transport centre along the Alaska Highway, follow the pattern of many Institutes throughout Canada as they have an entirely white membership.

This is what is happening—what I saw and felt this year. At workshops and program planning discussions, groups and individuals were more verbal and seemed to have a sense of the direction they wished to go. There is a trend toward planning meetings in advance on a stated topic, maybe with roll call, discussion and demonstration. Work meetings are scheduled with members helping each other with sewing, crafts, etc. Showing others something

in which they excel is a great morale booster.

It was gratifying, too, to hear some of their specific plans for 1964-65. For early fall meetings they were turning to members who had been "outside" during the summer to hear about their travels and what they saw. They were calling in the teacher to learn more about the needs of their children, whether these concerned more sleep, breakfast before school, parent interest in what they were doing, or just personal cleanliness. All were looking forward to a health meeting with the nurse speaking on Family Health, and any health project being specially featured this year.

Several Institutes will have a food meeting with a demonstration. A well-organized demonstration with good working procedures can be expected to encourage improved work habits. Pick-up, Clean-up Campaigns will be undertaken by all groups, I expect, as their first step in lining up with the F.W.I.C. on their 1967 project, "Make Canada Lovelier." Accident Prevention and First Aid are included in some programs. An extensive Water Safety Project is coming up during the year. This project, recommended by Tuktoyaktuk W.I. is timely, with water being a means of transportation and livelihood, as well as recreation.

Some Institutes are making a start on assembling material for a Tweedsmuir History. Older residents are being interviewed, church and Hudson Bay records searched, and historical happenings in the community are coming alive as they hear about them anew. Not *all* these things are happening with *all* groups, but *some* are happening in *all* groups.

THE INSTITUTES

Capnoweta. This group has grown up and now boasts a past president. They might well take pride in their accomplishments and plans for this year. The craft project, which they developed and promoted with Indians and



Smoking and drying fish at Fort Franklin. The women take a major part in this work.