

A Letter From Mrs. Dutt

Dear Friends

It was a memorable journey for me from sea to sea in your beautiful country during August to October, 1968. On the 5th August I flew to Halifax and then my tour of Eastern Canada began. I visited Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ottawa, and then went to attend ACWW 12th Triennial Conference at East Lansing, Michigan. At the end of the Conference I continued my Canadian tour and this time went to Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. On the 13th October, I took the plane from Vancouver and arrived home on the 15th, after losing a day on the way by crossing the international date line.

In this journey in Canada, I have met hundreds of W.I. members all over Canada and members of Farm Union and Farm Women's Union in Western Canada. I have travelled hundreds of miles through changing scenic beauty. The changing colours of leaves of autumn is something so beautiful and unforgettable. I have lived in many of your homes and the hospitality and friendship I have received in every Province, is just as beautiful and rich as the beauty of Nature. I wish I could write to each one of you and tell you how much I have valued all that you have done for me and the honour you have shown to our beloved ACWW by showing your interest in its worldwide work.

Dear Friends, do accept this letter as a personal one. I want all of you to know that my journey through the ten Provinces of Canada, is an experience I shall never forget, and shall always remember with great happiness and love. I want to thank each one of you for that.

With my best wishes to all members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in **all** the Provinces.

Yours in friendship

AROTI DUTT

(Mrs. Aroti Dutt)

President

Associated Country Women of the World

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In the field of social service, our role may be compared to a lamplighter who works in the forlorn roads of villages in the eastern hemisphere. His duty is to light the lamp so that others can walk in safety, saved from darkness and pitfalls. Those who walk may never see the lamplighter, but that does not minimize the greatness of the service. We have to give our service for what it is worth and not in expectation of any reward."

Aroti Dutt



Mrs. H. P. Van Wagner

"I never thought of such a thing," said Mrs. H. P. Van Wagner when asked if she ever thought that she would live to be one hundred years old. "You just go on from day to day."

On December 30th Mrs. Van Wagner, a charter member of the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, celebrated her one hundredth birthday. The only other living charter member is Mrs. Van Wagner's sister, Mrs. McKinley Morden of Hamilton.

Mrs. Van Wagner was born in Hamilton and her maiden name was Christy Ann McFarlane. She married Lieut.-Col. Henry Picton Van Wagner who died in 1940. Col. Van Wagner was a co-founder of the first Farmer's Institute and Mrs. Van Wagner was an active member of the Stoney Creek Women's Institute as long as she was able to take part.

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"Treat all men alike, give them all the same law; give them all a chance to live and grow. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it. Let me be a free man; free to travel, free to stop, free to work, and free to choose my own teachers; free to follow the religion of my fathers; free to think and to act for myself; and I will obey every law and submit to every penalty."

From Bill of Rights—set down by Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians nearly 100 years ago. Quoted from *The Drum*.

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