



The President's Corner

Mrs. Austin S. Zoeller, President, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

To settle back into routine after the summer always seems difficult. A change of season means a change of pace. Women's Institute meetings are back to normal. Probably many of you have enjoyed bus trips and in many cases a month off from regular meetings.

Many of our women will have attended 4H Homemaking Club training schools and are well into club work. This has come to be one important part of our way of community help. Our leaders do give a great deal of their time, however it is a learning experience, not only for our youth, but for the leaders too. This keeps us abreast of newer and more modern methods of sewing and cooking as well as the opportunity to work with the youth of our community. This helps us to understand our youth and perhaps avoid some of the generation gap we hear so much about.

Do we take time to know our youth? One of our Women's Institute objectives is "to help develop a more abundant life in our communities and a deeper appreciation of the things near at hand."

As the older generation in our community are we too quick to try to force our ways on the younger set? Are we setting ourselves on a pedestal? Do we try to mould our aims into the life of a younger generation? Are we selfish in our own attitude — that of trying too hard to make those children into something that we want them to be?

This is the age of electronics — computers and space travel make this era special, one that is new, stimulating and needing much imagination. Are we able to project our thinking to these times? We hear it said over and over that this is the age of youth but our generation is still here and we are still considered a part of the overall picture.

In this age of change, communications are all important. As a homemaker where there seems to be many demands on our time, perhaps the most important task is really a simple

one — that of taking time to talk with our children. The simple methods are doubtless still the best, taking time to talk, discuss, advise and not forgetting to listen to our children. Which is more important, to quickly clear the table to do the dishes or to have a chat about the day's activities? If we do not take this opportunity we might find that all too soon the children sense we are too busy and they turn to someone else. Every parent has experienced a genuine joy in listening to the tales of their child while in school and if we are good listeners we find an openness and confidence expressed by them. A confidence that mother and dad will understand and mother and dad feel that their advice is being sought, that the young people are truly anxious to have a strong family tie.

As your Provincial President, time never is heavy on my hands and many days seem all too short. I was able to attend the Council meeting in London of the Associated Country Women of the World. It was a thrill to meet and chat with those officers carrying on this fine work.

The excitement of attending my first convention with Miss McKercher and meeting the women from various parts of Ontario has given me the opportunity to understand the work being carried on. I realize how much work and time and imagination have been put forth. The Cochrane Temiskaming Convention Area took time to involve the young people in poster-making carrying out their theme, "Traveling Through the Years." The walls of the meeting room were covered with original designs of travel throughout the years — imagination galore! At the banquet our tables were adorned with horses, buses, cars, trains, and planes, making most interesting table conversation. It's amazing how a simple idea can transform a meeting from an ordinary one into a very special category. Most important there is that age old feeling of satisfaction of a job well done.

The beauty of Northern Ontario dressed in her autumn finery makes one aware that our Province is second to none. I experienced the thrill of seeing the Northern Lights really dance and skimmer much more so than we ever see in Southern Ontario. Austin and I had a holiday in Europe this summer and the beauty of the Swiss Alps and many lakes was something we'll always remember but when Miss McKercher and I drove through the beautiful woods and lakes of Northern Ontario with the coloured trees mirrored on those lakes it was indeed a thrilling sight, and I had second thoughts as to which was more beautiful.

Within the last few days we have been able