

## *With the F.W.I.C. Branches*

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada announce the appointment of Miss Ethel Stewart as Field Worker for the Northwest Territories.

Miss Stewart is an Honours B.A. Graduate of Queen's University and M.A. Queens 1955. She taught school at Fort McPherson 1949-53. Later at Aklavik, Hay River, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and a year at Teslin in Yukon. In 1953 she taught in a Maori High School in New Zealand, returning to the Northwest Territories. From 1956-59 she worked in the New Zealand Consulate in New York City. The next year was spent on a study in Ottawa of the Athapaskan Indians on a Canada Council Grant. She now has a book ready for the printers on this study which was furthered by travel in England, France and Germany in 1956 and 1966.

From 1963 to 1967 Miss Stewart was Guidance Counsellor at Skeena Agency, Prince Rupert and at Blood Reserve, Cardston, Alberta. 1967-70 she was Co-ordinator of the Guidance Program for the Blood/Peigan District, Lethbridge, Alberta.

F.W.I.C. are most fortunate to have Miss Stewart accept this position to further the program in the Northwest Territories. The Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories have given a Grant to assist with the program of the N.C.W.I. Committee.

The F.W.I.C. Northern Canada Program was started in 1957 when Mrs. Hough organized the first Institute at Haines Junction, Yukon. She then visited Settlements in N.W.T. with the co-operation of the Department of Northern Affairs. At that time Mrs. Hough stated that the Indian and Eskimo are in need of friendly assistance in their adjustment to a changing life, with outside interests, homemaking and meeting the needs of the community.

Miss Eadie and Mrs. Vear have continued the program as Field Workers since that time with the help of the local members of Women's Institutes.

At the Seminar held in Yellowknife 1969, delegates gave top priority to the need for Adult Education. A request was made for a permanent Field Worker in the North.

Miss Ethel Stewart, Field Worker for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada continues her visits to the Settlements in the Northwest Territories. She has found many changes since she taught there in the 1950s. At

Fort McPherson she renewed many old friendships. The Women's Institute members had made arrangements for her to stay in her residence of many years ago. This is now the School Principal's residence.

In all her visits she has found much interest in preserving the old handicrafts as well as learning new ones. Many have made plans to learn the old revived craft of Macrame and to enter the F.W.I.C. competition for this triennium for a tote bag to be judged at the convention in 1973 at the School of Fine Arts in Banff. This craft is done with knots, much like those used in making fish nets, an art that has been discouraged by sales of manufactured nets.

At Fort Norman Miss Stewart learned that the Women's Institute had sent samples of the water supply to be analyzed because of the bitter taste and effect on clothes. The report was that the mineral content was far above that suitable for use. As a result the government had to abandon the wells and bring in water from Bear River, which the local people claim is the purest in the world. These ladies are also helping to establish a Community Library.

Support for local libraries is high on the list of projects of Institutes.

Tuktoyaktuk W.I. has had a very busy year highlighted by a Christmas Party, a dinner for Senior Citizens and donations to Brownies, the Soccer Team and the schools for audio visual equipment. They also made a quilt and helped to open the new Library.

Miss Stewart completes her visits in October when she will meet with the Northern Canada Committee in Ottawa to assess the program, and to make plans for the winter.

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"Young Canada's Book Week," a community event, and a national event is celebrated throughout Canada November 15-22, 1971. "The Canadian Indian" is the theme of the Week. Chief Dan George is the Patron.

In his message Chief George says, "The world of books plays a very important part in the lives of people of all ages but the ways of teaching and learning among many people are different.