

Annual Meeting Provincial Board Directors

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

President Mrs. Harvey Noblitt welcomed the Directors to the 1972 Annual Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, with a special word for seven newly elected Senior Directors and the one new Director representing the Ontario Junior Women's Institutes. Mrs. Noblitt expressed her regret that Mrs. N. Sinclair who is now to represent the Rainy River Districts was unable to attend due to illness.

The President urged the Directors to express their ideas freely and take part in the discussions. She said that although the Directors represent and have the best interests of their subdivisions at heart they must now learn to think in terms of the best interests of all the Women's Institutes in Ontario.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The time since the Semi Annual Board Meeting has gone quickly. From reports coming to me the Officers' Conference was very successful. I extend my gratitude to Mrs. Weber for her efficient work as Secretary. Thanks also to Mrs. Houston for her able reporting of the Semi Annual Meeting and the Officers' Conference, and to the leaders of discussion groups and those who arranged displays.

I attended several District Annual Meetings in May. In June attended my first Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Board Meeting in Ottawa. I found enjoyable and enlightening the experience of meeting with the representatives of the other provinces, sharing an exchange of views, opinions, ideas, hearing reports and helping to form policies. The National Conveners' reports were very interesting.

In June, on behalf of F.W.I.O. I attended the funeral of Mr. Everett Small in Essex.

In July, as F.W.I.O. President, I attended the A.C.W.W. Council Meeting in London, England. I enjoyed meeting Mrs. Farquharson again and Mrs. Cauldry who arranges our International Scholarship Fund through A.C.W.W., Mrs. Gibson, editor of the Countrywoman, Mrs. Bradbury our Ontario representative in England, and the Council Members.

Mrs. Cauldry asked me if I would like hospitality in an English home and as a result my husband and I accepted an invitation from a charming and hospitable couple Mr. and Mrs. Kingston of Essex. I was taken to a lively local Women's Institute meeting, and shown through the Federation of Essex Women's Institute Building which had been purchased by the Essex members. It was a large, airy, well equipped brick structure, made up of a hall, demonstration kitchen, committee rooms, etc. I was told that they have 90,000 members in Essex and 400,000 members in England.

Starting September 19 Miss McKercher and I attended 14 Area Conventions and the convention of the Junior Women's Institutes. In many cases attendance exceeded that of other years, all were up to standard. I found all of the Conventions, without exception excellent, and well planned with a good balance of business and entertainment. Conveners' reports were good. In some areas there were mimeographed copies for the delegates. The reports were handled in different ways — panels and discussions and in one case the report material was presented by means of a skit. There were Conveners' displays, and displays of handicrafts and other items of interest.

It appears that there is a sincere effort in response to our membership drive. An estimated 85 Branches have reached their 20 per cent increase, a few have surpassed it. A few new Branches have been organized but a few have disbanded. We need an earnest and concentrated effort on the part of everyone to turn the curve on the membership increase chart upward.

I was privileged to attend, with Mrs. Pardy, the Annual Meeting Conference of the Vanier Institute of the Family in Quebec City. Here Dr. Margaret Meade was presented with the Wilder Penfield Plaque given by the Vanier Institute of the Family by Dr. Penfield himself, in recognition of her contribution to the advancement of humanity.

A highlight of the Conference was a speech by Mr. Bill Dyson, Executive Director of the Institute who expressed the thought that more emphasis should be put on learning in the homes and more consideration given to human emotions and to understanding the feeling of others.