

REPORT — EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Lowell C. Eller, Convener

Education — We are more aware of education today than ever before according to the reports received. Programs have featured speakers, films, debates, attendance at adult classes, messages received from teachers, principals, students and armchair visits to gain knowledge about our educational system. Roll Calls and Mottoes have made the member a real part of the program. Members are urged to voice their opinions and ask questions.

It is noted that our members are learning about our own organization from Branch through to A.C.W.W. Attending the 75th Anniversary Celebration in Toronto on February 12, 1972 was a learning experience for many.

Conveners' report displays of old school books; prizes given for student achievements at school fairs and other projects. Spelling and geography matches have provided information and fun.

Cultural Activities

History — Reports tell of work on the Tweedsmuir Histories, scrapbooks, etc., speakers dealing with local and other history, presentation of biographies of noted Canadians, studies of coins, stamps, bed warmers, buttons, heirlooms, photographs, Indian artifacts, fashions of former days, old books, etc.

Music — Members are reported to have taken part in music festivals, attending concerts, sponsoring choir concerts, musical contests, singsongs for festive holidays, contest on musical instruments, a film strip of Handel's Messiah.

Art — Tours to galleries, attendance at art shows, demonstration by local artists in pencil, magic marker, charcoal water colours and oils; gifts of oil paintings of homes, etc.

Drama — Skits of Women's Institute meetings, the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek. Many branches attended plays in Stratford or in Toronto.

Literature — Not many book reviews were reported. Some life stories of noted authors were reported. Special notice was made of the new Ontario Women's Institute Story and Dr. Ethel Chapman's book "Humanities in Home-spun."

Crafts — Reports indicate much participation in craft courses, displays and demonstrations of hobbies — quilts, jewellery, ceramics, oil painting, hair pin lace, tatting, etc.

Museums and Libraries — Tours of museums and libraries were popular program features. Many branches reported giving donations and having curators as speakers at branch meetings.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Mrs. Brock Suddaby, Convener

Roll Calls — In her report the Convener said "Let us aim for imaginative roll calls that require some effort on the part of the members. Consider — How many neighbours have you visited lately? A misleading advertisement, something new in foods, something to do before starting a holiday, little things that make life beautiful, a bargain that wasn't a bargain."

Mottoes — The value of a motto is questioned. How are they being used? Have they any real value? Do we use mottoes just because it has become a custom? One motto reported was "You can't go on being a good egg; you must hatch or go bad."

Demonstrations — Branches are urged to have at least two demonstrations during their year's program. Some listed were: Care of wig and hairpieces; finishing driftwood, candle-making, macrame, dip it flowers, sourdough decoupage and setting up a family tree.

Speakers — Lawyers, bankers, teachers, nurses, druggists and policemen were named as guest speakers for the branches. They dealt with the subjects of nutrition, food poisoning, the elderly, the disabled and children with disabilities, drugs, pesticides, abortion, etc. Many reports mentioned satisfaction in obtaining program material from the Loan Library of the Home Economics Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Courses — The Convener expressed surprise at the amount of involvement with 4-H Homemaking Clubs, many branches providing leadership. The question was asked, "How many branch members attend the Achievement Days to lend encouragement to the members, leaders and Home Economists?"

Many Senior Courses are sponsored. Leaders' training courses provide some adult education for branch members and interested persons in the community.

Suggestions — From the Area Reports the Convener has taken the following suggestions:

1. If you have an interesting display, demonstration or speaker, be a tattler. Tell a neighbouring branch so that they can have a chance to enjoy it.

2. Many persons can make an interesting display and explain it who are too shy or nervous to talk or demonstrate.

3. Most business and professional people are willing to speak or demonstrate at your meetings if they are asked in time to make the necessary arrangements. Be specific about time, place and length of time allotted to the speaker.