

Fourteenth Triennial Conference

Perth, Western Australia
8th to 18th, October, 1974



The Associated
Country Women
of the World
Conference Theme
A World to Share

Mrs. H.L. Noblitt, Leader, FWIO Delegation

The theme of the A.C.W.W. Conference was "A World to Share", and in keeping with the spirit of the theme, I shall share with you some of the information from the Conference and some of my interpretations, thoughts and impressions.

Australians from all parts of their vast land were waiting to share their country and friendship with us. Banners in airports and one on the main street of Perth, proclaimed their welcome, Australia Women's Institute Members met us at the Perth airport to greet us and see us into buses to our hotels and in one hotel, at least, meals were arranged to accommodate as many of us as quickly as possible. Their warm friendship extended into the "Day in the Country" with friendly guides on the buses, hospitality and entertainment by local groups was appreciated. We will long cherish the memories of the evening hospitality of individual W.I. members who entertained us at their private homes and through friendly conversation gave us an insight into their way of life, their local W.I. activities and even the political and economic life of their country.

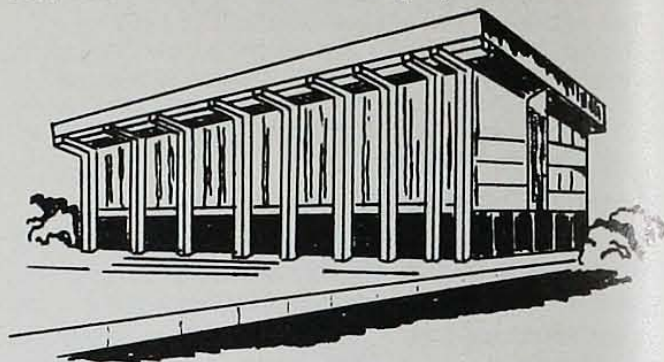
Several pleasant interludes provided a change from the business sessions — the opening and closing parties; the receptions for the leaders of delegations at Government House by the Premier; one given by the Lord Mayor; and an "at home" reception by the Governor and Lady Edwards in Government House.

Throughout the Conference we were constantly aware of the immense amount of planning that had gone into an event of this calibre and the Australian ladies, with the assistance of members from the A.C.W.W. Office, accomplished the remarkable feat with efficiency and thoroughness.

The beautiful new Concert Hall (opened in 1973), located beside the lush green gardens of Government House, provided ample room for all sessions except for one study session in the Ballroom of Government House and one in the Sheraton Hotel. The entries for the Triennial Conference Handicraft Competition were displayed in Perth Town Hall nearby. Here, too, the Australian members "shared" with us their beautiful arts and crafts in attractive home settings under the theme "Home and Family".

Prior to the A.C.W.W. Conference, the A.C.W.W. flag had been sent on a journey from London to Darwin, then to visit six states in Australia collecting Pennies for Friendship along the way and it was expected to arrive in Perth in time for the Conference. On October 8, it was to be presented by the President of the Countrywomen of West Australia to the National President of Australia and she in turn was to present it to the Lord Mayor on the plaza in front of the Concert

Hall. The hour arrived and — so did the rain — torrents of it! Everyone was drenched and perhaps even the flag! However, it dried out well later as it waved in the breezes out in front of the Hall for the duration of the Conference. Inside, a huge rubber tire provided a receptacle for more Pennies for Friendship. Mrs. Farquharson later accepted a cheque for more than \$10,000.00 collected from this project.



Perth Concert Hall

Mrs. Sipila

Mrs. Helvi Sipila, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, flew from New York to address us on "The Role of Women in Development". She spoke at considerable length so I shall give you only the essence of her talk here:

It has been increasingly recognized in the last decades that the improvement of the well-being of individuals requires a unified approach to economic and social development and the utilization of all human resources with every individual participating in the development and each sharing in the benefits. The role of a mother has been considered such as to hinder her full participation in society and has impeded her opportunity for education despite her being first educator of the world's greatest human resource — her children. It has also given her a different legal status from men. The restrictions and constraints which have prevented women playing a full role in their societies differ from country to country due to differences in culture, traditions, religion, historical development, political system, economic life and so on. Hence there is a need to study the position of women in individual countries.

The promotion of equal rights for women has been a prime objective of U.N. Some strides have been made in this regard through the International Development Strategy effort. Organized activities have been held in Africa and regional consultations and seminars in Bangkok and Addis Ababa with others planned for Latin America, West Asia and Europe.

Member societies of U.N. have been urged to take all necessary steps to educate women through T.V., ra-