

The Women's Institute has been a source of learning friendship and leadership for me for many years. My mother, Sarah Tredway, was such a staunch member and supporter of W.I. that her daughter could not help but be caught up in this enthusiasm. What better place to increase one's knowledge!

For seventy-nine years now our organization, under the guidance of our many Provincial Presidents, has continued to provide strong leadership for its members. However, for the past twenty years in particular, this guidance has been greatly assisted by a true friend of Women's Institutes in Ontario, and indeed throughout the World. Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Branch, was always there to lend a helping hand as well as providing the thoughtful understanding and answers to the needs and concerns of women throughout our Province. Continually working for and giving us opportunities to improve our way of life for our homes, our families and ourselves.

Her long hours of assistance and devotion for the betterment of our Organization will long be remembered. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to work closely with Miss McKercher during my term of office with FWIO. She was always a source of information, a great adviser and a good friend, never too busy to listen and share her many talents. Her ready smile and pleasant manner made one feel at ease and reassured.

We must accept changes and make adjustments for new things—so it will be! Our organization will be without her help, but I know she will always be willing to share her wealth of knowledge with us. Congratulations, Miss Helen McKercher on your retirement, and best wishes for much happiness in the future. Thank you, Helen, for all your help and a job well done!

Mary J Miller

To me, Miss Helen McKercher is as much a part of Women's Institutes as stars in the sky at night or flowers in a summer garden because as long as I have been associated with the organization in Ontario, she has been the Director of Home Economics for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and has been present at conventions and celebrations.

Presidents and secretaries have come and gone but she was there—a unifying presence, helping, directing and making it possible to get things done. Throughout her years as Director, she has always had the interests of the W.I. uppermost in her mind and all her efforts on behalf of the members are reflected in the warmth and affection she holds in the hearts of all.

Whatever changes came to be accepted by society, she has encouraged W.I. members to uphold and preserve standards in all their endeavours. It is doubtful if any Director of the Home Economics Branch has ever put more emphasis on Women's Institutes or, in times of decision, cast more votes in their favor. She has been the instrument in providing courses, information, Home Economics services in the Areas, secretarial services and a first class magazine in Home and Country. Her management of relations with the provincial government has been such as to permit the flowering of the W.I. into the strong and responsible organization it is today.

Nor have her interests been limited to FWIO. They have extended to FWIC and ACWW. She helped to purchase and develop the Adelaide Hoodless Home and gave valuable help as Councillor and as committee member. She carried on a personal campaign for memberships in ACWW and urged contributions for Pennies for Friendship. "To develop people should be our motto", she believed as she worked with us to provide FWIO scholarships and perhaps that could be said to be her motto all through the years.

While I was Provincial President, I enjoyed her support, guidance, encouragement, interest and friendship and, on many occasions, her warm hospitality. We will surely miss her, but wish her the happiest years ahead with time to enjoy her many friends and the leisure she so richly deserves.

May she be replaced by one of equal calibre!

Dernie B. Noblett