



## *The President's Corner*

*Mrs. Herbert K. Maluske,  
President the  
Federated  
Women's Institutes of  
Ontario*

Dear W. I. Members:

One hundred years ago George Cooper wrote,  
"The days may come, the days may go,  
But still the hands of memory weave . . ."

The days of my provincial presidency have come and are fast approaching the going point of my term of office. But during my three years as president the hands of memory have woven a beautiful piece of material for me. In this letter to you I would like to reminisce as I describe this fabric for you.

Just as in any weaving where the strong lengthwise threads of the work are needed, these were provided in my fabric by the friends that I have had in the work. I have been supported all the time not only by the members of my own Branch, District, County and Area who have been so loyal in all circumstances, but also by all the new friends I've made across the province, throughout the nation with F.W.I.C. and internationally through A.C.W.W.

When I think of friendship, I am also reminded of fellowship and fun. Of these two commodities there has been no scarcity for I have assuredly been most enjoyably entertained. During the past three years I have been privileged to attend anniversaries at every level of the organization.

Events such as these should always be observed because they provide the impetus and the inspiration for future concerted efforts based upon the achievements and accomplishments of those who have served the organization down through the years.

Thanks for the ardent memories of Anniversaries.

In telling about the weaving I want to mention especially the Board Directors, the Conveners and the Executive who have worked so faithfully and industriously not just at provincial level but likewise in their own Subdivisions and Areas and wherever in whatever other capacities they have been called upon to serve.

The Provincial Board Meetings are busy, busy sessions. However, besides the toil during those weeks of meetings, are woven in the extra bonuses of the Minister's Dinners, Miss McKercher's Party and the Third-year Directors' entertainment nights. With added opportunities for such listed pleasures, the hours spent in discussion and deliberation are compensated for.

Thanks for the bonny memories of Board Meetings.

The fabric woven has been beautiful but not perfect. There are some dark threads found among the weft. These telltale marks show that we did not reach

our objective of 100% reporting as I had hoped we would. Surely there are others just as disappointed as I. Nevertheless the weaving must continue and I hope that some day for some future president there will be only cheery bright coloured threads of total reports from every district of the province.

Thanks for the realistic memories of good reporting by those who remembered and for the delightful rapport I have experienced with people everywhere.

Trying to inspire, encourage, enthuse, spur on to greater effort, I have stressed throughout my term the importance of the individual. I have acknowledged the value of her contribution of personal involvement which creates renewed interest with the ultimate response being self-improvement and the presentation of new ideas. Many of you heard me quote, "In all the history of mankind, no group ever wrote an outstanding story or poem, composed a memorable musical work or painted a great masterpiece. These things have been the work of individuals".

Someone else has said, "The story of Marie Curie serves to exemplify the importance of a profound truth: that in an age of mechanically-calculated decisions the spirit of mankind is best interpreted by the minds and deeds of individual men and women. People, with their capacity to anticipate the needs of others, make the difference. The gift of the individual to understand and communicate is a precious commodity for which there is no substitute."

No fabric of a Presidency would be complete without the woof of Conventions, Conferences and Committee Meetings. These have been the opportunities afforded for the summation of activities, for the assimilation and dissemination of knowledge and for the evaluation of past performance and the proposals for future programming.

I have appreciated the chords of confidence exhibited through these means of association with the executives, co-workers and the membership-at-large. Your kind thoughtfulness in presenting me with beautiful bouquets, countless corsages and gratifying gifts are irrevocably woven by the hands of my memory.

Thanks for the contented memories of conventions, conferences and committees.

Johann Von Schiller wrote in *The Wonder of Women in 1795*

"Honour Women! They wreath and weave  
Heavenly roses into earthly life".

Aren't those charming words? I have never heard nor read a more impressive tribute. As my term in office ends those are the words I wish to dedicate to all Women's Institute members everywhere, provincially, nationally and internationally.

It is also a challenge for the future for all of us. Conscientious programme planning of meetings and projects must be utilized to weave a course of action for the continuing education and edification of our members with a marked increase of warp threads shuttled by a weft of benevolence. May we always continue to weave a fascinating fabric.

Thanks for the exquisite memories of an everlasting experience as your Provincial President.

*Verna A. Maluske*