

## The Director Writes:—

### A BIG THANK YOU TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Over 9,000 persons who attended our programs since the beginning of the year filled in both the Senior Program Participants Survey and the 4-H Homemaking Club Leaders one. The Home Economics Branch would like to thank everyone who participated.

The Central Statistical Services are busy analysing the results. When their reports are ready, I am sure that we will have a great deal of very useful information with which to plan our programs in the future. In the next issue of *Home and Country*, we plan to tell you what we found out about you; who exactly are the members of F.W.I.O., and who are the 4-H Homemaking Club leaders, and what you think about our programs.

Again, a big thank you to all who took time to answer the questionnaire.

### 4-H HOMEMAKING CLUBS

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and especially our Branch, I do want to thank the 5,524 women who attended the 305 training schools held during year just ended, and acted as leaders and assistant leaders. I would also like to thank all the W. I. Branches who helped find leaders, and those who gave financial support to the clubs. Without your generous help, we would have found it difficult to carry out the program.

You may be interested to learn that there were 2,989 clubs in Ontario last year, and that the members and leaders received a great many awards. The following were distributed:

#### Members:

4-H Homemaking Club Teaspoon Certificate of Achievement	24,917
County Honours Pin and Certificate	11,348
Provincial Honours Pin and Certificate	1,725
4-H Homemaking Club Pie Server and Advanced Honours Certificate	755
	214

#### Leaders:

4-H Homemaking Club Teaspoon	5,524
Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs Certificate	160
Trip to Royal Agricultural Winter Fair	495

Club members were active at both the Class A and B Fairs. 590 girls attended the Class A Fairs. There were 604 4-H Homemaking Club Exhibits at the Class B Fairs.

### DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know just how many people attended our Senior programs and meetings between April 1st, 1977 and March 31st, 1978? 34,299 people attended and took part in the following:

Training Schools	11,068
Summary Days	6,654
Food Forums, Short Courses and Workshops	5,641
Programs in French	2,886
Lectures and meetings	8,050

If the weather hadn't been so inclement in January, the total would have been even higher. Naturally, we look forward to better weather in the coming year, and we hope that a greater number will take one of our courses. Please do ask your friends and neighbours to go with you, and remember that some of the Senior W. I. members would really like to go, but often need the offer of a ride to get there. In addition to the above programs given by the Home Economists, there were ten Procedures Workshops with 280 participants and nine Tweedsmuir History Workshops with 258 participants.

### AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In the past year we have had a sixfold increase in the number of written and telephone requests and office visits, as the public have sought information. 10,638 people wanted information from us about a variety of home economics subjects. Occasionally, there are days when the phone never seems to stop ringing at 1200 Bay Street!

Approximately 45% of the requests were for foods and nutrition information, especially about food preservation and safety; food processing and additives; 20% were for consumer information (a lot of husbands called before Christmas asking for advice before buying a major or portable appliance for their wives), and 12% were for housing and energy-related information. Another 739 requests were received in the loan library for resource material. We also received requests from other provincial and federal ministries and government-supported agencies for assistance, especially in the counties and districts without a nutritionist.

### NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS:

JOYCE CANNING has been appointed the London Regional Supervisor, replacing Mrs. Betty Obokata, who resigned in November, 1977. Joyce is a graduate of Acadia University, and has had teaching experience in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Saskatchewan. She was the District Home Economist for four years in North Bay before she transferred to Niagara North and South with headquarters at Vineland Station in 1972.

CONSUELO ALLEN was appointed Housing Specialist in head office on April 10th, 1978 replacing Jeanne Armour, who retired in October, 1977. A native of the Phillipines, Mrs. Allen graduated in Home Economics from the University of the Phillipines. She also holds an MSc. in Extension Education from the University of Guelph. Mrs. Allen has had extensive experience in home economics extension work in New Brunswick, both as a district home economist and a 4-H Program Specialist. For two years she was the chief home economist with the New Brunswick New Start Inc., a Crown Corporation formed to promote a series of activities which would raise the participation of the more disadvantaged segments of the population into the life of the community.