

FWIC

The Vice President from Ontario to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Mrs. Harvey Noblitt reported on activities at national level to FWIO Board Directors.

Mrs. Noblitt was appointed by the Provincial Board Directors at the annual meeting to complete the term of office vacated by Mrs. Clarence Diamond. Mrs. Diamond upon election as President of FWIO automatically becomes the Senior Board Director representing Ontario at national level.

At a recent Executive Meeting, Mrs. Noblitt was appointed convener of Citizenship and Legislation, replacing Mrs. Diamond. All Committee Chairmen were asked to present a progress report of work accomplished in their Province.

WITHIN THE PROVINCES

From Saskatchewan Mrs. E. Oddie reported on the brief she prepared on "A Food Strategy for Canada" in response to an invitation from the Department of Agriculture, and a report of "Land Use" which she is presently compiling.

Mrs. MacArthur from BC told of entertaining a study group from Japan on an educational tour of Canada. (a group from the same organization visited Ontario a year ago).

Mrs. Robertson from Quebec had worked on the Survey of Women's Work in Rural Development (many provinces participated).

Mrs. Laracy, Newfoundland had been working on a follow-up survey on Nutrition Studies and Mrs. Burgess, N.B. was investigating courses available on money management and credit.

Mrs. Diamond had compiled the FWIC flip-chart brochure now available from FWIC office and worked on House Logs while Mrs. Noblitt reported on her summary on the "Action Plan by CBC—Changes in Programming" copies will be given to the executive.

Panorama of the Provinces is being updated by the secretary Mrs. McMillan, however not all provinces have sent in their slides.

NCWI

Northern Canada Women's Institute held a Conference Workshop in Inuvik, January 30-February 2 under the auspices of the Continuing and Special Education of Inuvik Region. Members of the N.C. Committee Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Laracy and Mrs. Bielish met with WI members from Aklavik, and Fort McPherson.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD—1979

FWIC will mark IYC by preparing rules for a safety competition on "Child Safety" as a special project to be judged at the Convention. Further details to follow.

FWIC CONVENTION—1979

National Convention will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon—**Board Meeting** June 21-23—**Convention**—official opening the evening of June 24 through June 28—**Post Board** meeting 29th.

To mark FWIC's 60th anniversary a publication is to be printed for sale at the National Convention. It is to include biographies of two pioneer Women's Institute members from each province from the beginning through to 1947. The write-up along with two pictures should not be less than 1,000 words or more than 2,500. Further details will be released from the FWIO office.

FWIC COMPETITIONS

District and Area officers are to be responsible for both the mechanics and judging of the competitions.

The winning entry from each category is to be sent on by the Area secretary by November 24, 1978 to the FWIO office for final judging.

FWIO will be responsible for sending winning entries to FWIC and returning the remainder to the Area Secretary. Also FWIO will be responsible for insurance upon arrival at the office until their return to the Area.

LEGAL STATUS

Mrs. Noblitt summarized the book entitled "Legal status of Married Women in Canada," by Margaret McCaughan. This gives an interesting history of women's rights under the law in Canada and brings us up to date except for the most recent legislation. As far as Ontario is concerned, the recent amendment to the Matrimonial Property law, Bill 59, provides, in brief, in the case of marriage breakdown, for an equal sharing of 'family assets' defined as: home, cottage, family car, family boat, snowmobile etc, and the family bank account. No stocks, bonds, or interest in the husband's business are included in this. That means that the farm wife has no claim on the farm itself or in the business of that farm. She can, however, take her case to court if she can prove she helped build or maintain her husband's farm by working on it.

The couple can draw up a contract sharing assets that takes precedence over the law.

The wife is as responsible for supporting a needy husband as he is for supporting her.

A common law wife will be entitled to support if she has lived with a man for at least 5 years.

There is still much left to the decision of the courts.