



BETWEEN THE LINES

*Mrs. Clarence
Diamond
President
Federated
Women's Institutes of
Ontario*

Dear W.I. Members:

Sunny days have sped by and I hope you have had a measure of satisfaction from your activities and holidays and now are ready to take an active part in the planned programs of your Branches.

It has been a year of celebrations, for a great number of Branches and Districts have reached 75 years or more in W.I. If only all of us, no matter what our age, could be inspired with the missionary zeal and determination which Mrs. A. Watt carried to England in 1913! Her will to succeed in forming Institutes was a project in which she firmly believed. So it is small wonder that between 1915, when she started the first Branch in Wales, and 1919, she had organized 100 Branches.

The W.I. has achieved success and not only has the accomplishments to prove it, but the unsung satisfaction of having developed people. Are we offering the same opportunities of which our pioneers dreamed but in a different form to a different kind of woman? There are ever changing circumstances and we must program for today. We must hang on to rational argument for needed changes but temper it with common-sense and seek new ideas that never were, as well as make improvements on the old. Tolerant and informed we must continue to be, apathetic we must not become.

In these days the W.I. can still be the centre of inspiration and creative activity if we make it so. But we must not forget our co-founders had vision in 1897 when they saw the need for our organization that would unite not divide people.

In this issue you will read of exciting happenings in which we have been a part over the last few months. Our Annual Officers' Conference was well attended by delegates from all parts of the Province. We were happy to welcome our National President, Mrs. J. Bielish, as guest speaker on her official visit to Ontario. Members at the Conference had opportunities to meet and visit with her as she attended the Sessions.

In mid-June the Provincial Council of Women unveiled a plaque in memory of the work of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless while she lived in Hamilton. It was placed on a boulder on the grounds of Adelaide Hoodless School in recognition of the many accomplishments and the organizations with which she had

played an integral part in their founding. To this FWIO was invited, and on your behalf a short review of her activities as W.I. co-founder was presented. The audience was composed of representatives from organizations and a large number of school children. The school was decorated with posters on which the pupils had portrayed much of Mrs. Hoodless' life story.

FWIC Annual Board Meeting was held June 20-22 and a review of activities and competitions etc. is included in this issue.

Ontario W.I. Week at the Lee Home was a valued experience, meeting members and friends even in the pouring rain on the Wednesday when 11 buses and many cars arrived. A large number have expressed their pleasure at the interesting changes and the attractive Drive House renovations. I am sure their enthusiasm will be caught by more and more members who will plan trips to our Institute Home. As they revisit and become involved in this historical site, I hope they will feel they want to be a part in contributing to the Foundation Fund that these beginnings of our history may be maintained and preserved for those who follow.

In July it was off to England to attend the ACWW Council Meetings, meet in person many officers and interested members from worldwide points, and learn still further how widespread the activities of the ACWW participating Societies are. If it were possible for every W.I. member to have such a contact at Council or Conference, they would appreciate the picture of how others live and work to be a positive force in helping people learn there is a better way to live and improve health etc. Glimpses from ACWW are detailed separately.

As I attend Area Conventions with Miss M. McGhee I look forward to this closer association when we will learn of your activities. I know the different Conventions will be interesting as you build on your ideas, imagination and actions to uphold the W.I. aims in your community.

I disagree with those critics who think they have outgrown the skills and attitudes of homemaking be it preparing nutritious meals or adding to the comforts of home. As long as there are people in the world there will be a need for the educational programs we have demonstrated. High pressure selling, status symbols, and affluence have seemingly meant satisfaction to some. But what good is social welfare in the form of lower-cost housing if families have no idea on how to keep house, how to manage money, if the occupants are clueless consumers, if there are all kinds of clinics, camps and clubs for our young people but they are not getting nutritious food at home? The welfare of the home is still our concern and that is one way we have been able to make our organization stand out with distinction and pride in what we have done. We are all interpreters, public relations mirrors reflecting values and we must advertise our Women's Institute. History will record what we, the pioneers of today, have done to make life better for others.

Florence Diamond