

Officers' Conference

OFFICERS' CONFERENCE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Approximately 585 delegates and staff under the direction of Mrs. Russell Campbell experienced the satisfaction of a well run Conference.

Sing-songs lead by Mrs. Hugh Baird and Mrs. Wm. Stone, coffee parties and the Gilbert & Sullivan Mikado, presented by students of Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School, were a few of the "extras".

Registration was again provided by the Bloomingdale W.I., and displays by Mrs. Maluske on the A.C.W.W. Conference in Kenya, a pictorial review of 30 years of Officers' Conference, and a food presentation display and audio presentation by the Home Economics Branch.

"Every great and commanding moment from the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm."

FWIO President

The highlight of the Conference was the introduction at the first official function of the FWIO President, Mrs. Clarence Diamond. Although well known to Ontario WI members it was a fitting introduction because Officers' Conference was celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Tribute was paid to Mrs. J. R. Fatcher President and Mrs. John McCulloch, Secretary of FWIO 30 years ago, by Mrs. Diamond, as she continued to say, their foresight in establishing a Conference as a training ground for members has had immeasurable benefits over the years. It indeed is a lasting tribute to those who pioneered a Conference that has been held annually for the last 30 years.

Over the years many of our richest experiences have come from inter-action to achieve common goals. Mrs. Diamond felt anniversaries are for reminiscing and from this comes the thrust to move forward. Planning is the secret to success for WI meetings. Good planning comes from research and preparation, an involvement of committee members and the enthusiasm and imagination to present educational programs which will attract members.

She paid tribute to Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee who had enthusiasm and faith and the know-how to involve women. They saw followers of ideas and dreamers of new programs with a will to work as well as communicating with each other.

Doom and gloom seem to appear at every turn in this present day, whereas our ancestors seemed to know their destiny. Our generation are often puzzled by the day after to-morrow. Sometimes we have to make decisions against a background that no longer stands still, however WI's have kept pace by up-dating objectives. Likely there will continue to be doom and gloom in the world but we don't have to give it a stopping place.

Mrs. Diamond, continued to say, voluntary service such as the WI provides is a boon to the individual and contributes toward the creation of an alert and concerned society. Good Branches, Districts or Areas

don't happen. Everyone must play a vital role.

Words spoken at the first Officers' Conference are equally applicable to-day "with new imagination and enthusiasm we must remove the snags that hinder our growth such as insisting that we have always done it this way, and the snail-like practices that slow us down. We must be workers, not shirkers or even chirpers."

National President

Mrs. Joseph Bielish, Warspite, Alberta paid her official visit to Ontario when she attended the Officers' Conference. Time permitted her to attend all the sessions, which provided an opportunity to meet delegates from all over the province.



*Time out for the VIP's
L-r Mrs. Clarence Diamond, FWIO President, stops for a break and is joined by the Officers' Conference Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Russell Campbell, and FWIC President, Mrs. Joe Bielish.*

As the key-note speaker, Mrs. Bielish "talked" to the delegates rather than using a prepared script. She paid tribute to Ontario W.I.'s, the birthplace of the organization known around the world for its work. She told about the work in the various provinces, acknowledging the support provided by the provincial governments, and the different types of programs involving the provincial units. Mrs. Bielish talked about her travel experiences and the aims of F.W.I.C., and the things, hopefully, that will be accomplished in this triennium, particularly the F.W.I.C. competitions to be judged at National Convention.

Mrs. Bielish said plans were underway for a Child Safety program competition to mark the International Year of the Child 1979 which will be sponsored by F.W.I.C. She encouraged each branch to plan a program around child safety, regardless of whether it is entered in the competition. There is a great deal to learn and the scope is immense.

Mrs. Bielish is a strong supporter of the family and believes in the future of the family unit.

Women's Institute programs all over the Dominion could stand some revamping to meet the changing needs, the difficult economic situations, and the changing lifestyles. We must learn to speak out to govern-