

Officers' Conference



Officers' Conference Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. Russell Campbell, makes it all happen. Her job is to arrange the plans for the 3 day activities of the 584 delegates and staff. Grace must work with the University to plan sleeping accommodation, eating schedules, shuttle bus services. In general, she makes certain delegates are at the right place at the right time. She carries out her duties graciously and pleasantly and seems to have the answers to all the delegates' questions.

Mrs. Clarence Diamond, FWIO President, spoke on the theme "Each Generation Makes Its Own Accounting To Its Children."

All of us love that little crossroads neighborhood, that is our own. It is in these centres that we can create the spirit, the values that mean truth and beauty in this materialistic world. And I am sure this is why the greatest importance of our Tweedsmuir Histories lies in their value to the local people.

We in Canada have been lax in preserving our history. In the course of almost assuming we had no history of great importance, we nearly lost it. Seemingly we did not want to acknowledge the history of our past human endeavours. At one time we, as Canadians, paid much more attention to accumulating buildings, artifacts, and manmade landscapes.

Long after older and more developed countries had second thoughts about clearing away a valued past, Canadians continued to empty their communities and especially their cities, of character. Even as we lamented our lack of identity we had been doing our best to destroy it. But at last we became fascinated by a glimpse of the past we had never had the time, wisdom, or money to enjoy because we had been constantly seeking so-called excellence.

Then came a long overdue public awakening to our history and again the Women's Institutes can proudly take credit for the steps they took in establishing Tweedsmuir Histories and thus saving an important part of our community heritage.

Remembering gives us standards by which we can judge the present and hopefully plan for the future. We are custodians of a heritage that must not be embalmed, it must be living.

As we conquer the past by memory, the present by duty, and look to the future with faith, what are we doing to prepare young Canadians for the future? I firmly believe in the WI objectives and feel that it is in the home that the child gains a sense of values and the inspiration to do worthwhile things.

The world is now one neighborhood, we must work to make it one brotherhood creating something enduring to aid mankind. In the family, children learn duties and privileges which form a part of social growth, they learn respect for the rights of others by receiving certain rights themselves and by being free to express opinions and discuss problems.

Our every action and attitude can be soaked up by the blotting paper of a youngster's mind. We are the models they copy so we certainly must consider the accounting we are making for the future's children. Today's children cannot help but be bewildered because a thousand voices call to them and it is difficult to recognize the sound of truth.

The success of this International Year of the Child will not rest with new legislation for children's rights. Too many people are viewing it as child versus parent. We need to persuade all adults to tune in on children, to realize their needs are special.

A community's greatest investment is that which it has in its youth.

Rather than teach our children to be economic machines, how much more realistic it would be to teach them values that include reverence and love for our fellowmen—two very valuable assets to pass on to our children.

May we accept the challenge to slow down and realize that life is no brief candle. It is a sort of glorious torch handed to each of us for the moment, and we must seek to burn it as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations, because "each generation does make its own accounting to its children."



Clothing specialist, r- Mary Tompkins, presented Focus on Fashion to the delegates. Mary tells about sewing techniques to delegate l-Mrs. Irene Wallace, c- Regional Supervisor, Lorraine Holding looks on.

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