



BETWEEN THE LINES

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"The years teach much which the days never know", said Emerson years ago as he expounded on history being "but the length and breadth of great men and women." And so it was at the Reunion in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of our Provincial FWIO. The enthusiasm and delight in recognition of Board Directors, Officers etc. of a possible 30 years past, was plainly evident. The recall of past events by Mrs. Austin Zoeller, some of which brought smiles and outbursts of applause by the 200 in attendance, and many which portrayed the extent of influence and accomplishment of W.I. in Ontario, bore testimony of the above opening statement.

This reminiscence of goals and achievements recorded in its 60 years of existence, were indeed a revelation. Yes, "Within Living Memory" was a picture reminding us we have been responsible for improvements that greatly changed day-to-day life of Ontario women. It was reassuring to be reminded that we have and still are satisfying needs and concerns with our approach to self education. So a glance backwards in our FWIO history reminded us of some of the more important achievements of W.I. women past and present.

Attending National Board Meetings and Convention and also ACWW Council Meetings, London, England, was a real pleasure. Further details will be discussed at Area Conventions. Since 1979 marked the Diamond Jubilee of FWIC and 1980 will be Golden Jubilee of ACWW, they each chose to have a tea towel designed for the occasion.

Sincere congratulations are extended to Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, Ottawa, on her election as President elect of FWIC at Convention in Saskatoon. Mrs. Noblitt is well remembered by all of you as our Ontario President 1971-74. At the National we were introduced to Mrs. Janet Morgan, Ottawa, first FWIC Executive Secretary. Constitution changes had to be made to accommodate this position and revised By-laws will be sent to each Province. There was a varied assortment of articles which netted over \$4,600 for FWIC. Thanks, W.I. Districts of Ontario, for your gifts to FWIC Convention Gift Stall.

Provincial Laws, pertaining to children, have been researched by FWIC Convener, Mrs. Noblitt, and booklet will be sent to each Provincial office. An application for a grant towards printing these has been made and answer is awaited.

Mrs. John McLean, ACWW Area Vice President for Canada, unveiled plans for a Mini-ACWW Conference

in New Brunswick, March 1980. At ACWW Council Meetings later we learned that Mrs. Raigh Roe, Australia, President of ACWW, would be attending this and visiting other Provinces en route across Canada. No further plans have yet been received.

FWIC Past Presidents presented a letter to Post Convention Board Meeting proposing an essay competition for children 14 years and under on subject, "What my Mother and/or Grandmother taught me about the Women's Institute." This was accepted and Mrs. Bielish will be in charge with prizes provided by Past Presidents. Rules will be announced when we receive them.

Delegates accepted New Brunswick's invitation to hold the 1982 FWIC Convention in that Province. A motion was approved that an invitation be extended by ACWW Constituent Societies of Canada for the 1983 ACWW Triennial Conference to be held in Canada.

Highlights from ACWW Council included plans for 16th Triennial Conference in Germany, 1980. If considering attending, registration forms must be requested from ACWW, England. Completed forms are to be returned to Germany by January 31, 1980. Pamphlet of tours arranged by German Societies will be sent and Vellinga's of Chatham will forward details of their planned tours upon request. Save your stamps, there is to be a used stamp stall but instructions on mailing to Germany have not arrived.

Communication was a key word throughout Council. One way is to become a subscriber to "The Country-woman" and read of people's activities in other lands. A plea was entertained that each reader get a new subscriber. Anyone paying contributing membership receives the magazine but the new editor, Miss D. Orton, reported only 8,000 members all over the world subscribe for magazine only, out of a possible 8 million. Individual subscriptions in Canada have increased some this past year but should be multiplied many times over.

Another key to better understanding of ACWW was the suggestion for each Branch to hold an ACWW Golden Jubilee Day. A real public relations program could be most informative and include the reading of World President's letter if printed in "The Country-woman."

If each W.I. member could attend a World Conference I feel you would take pride in the fulfillment of our W.I. objectives as reported by their Vice-Presidents. Concerns of women in other lands for their families are similar to ours although they do not have the same opportunities. Children cannot help but have a better future and be better citizens because we have participated in IYC. There has been a growing awareness of their needs as humans who have rights and responsibilities.

May we in the W.I. still live our belief that even at a time of increasing change, the family stands at the centre of our society for great principles of stability, continuity, love, individual responsibility and self respect. It seems to me that one of the most dangerous trends of current times has been the endless knocking of society and the family has come in for its share. Surely it is better to follow the W.I. pattern of putting before the whole family the ideals for which they should aim and for which they should work rather than to offer a second-draft best in trendy modern thought. See you at the Convention.

Florence Diamond