

# PERSPECTIVES

## Convention Theme

It was a good Convention, well planned with a special thanks going to the WI members of Saskatchewan and the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, especially Miss Margaret Patillo.

Hot weather, excellent meals and facilities provided the environment for a real learning experience.

Also appropriate that the new president, Mrs. Emmie Oddie of Regina should be elected at the 8th FWIC Convention in her home province. Delegates came from all Provinces and the Territories, numbering 423.

The action packed five days found delegates attending open sessions, workshops, banquets and a day bus tour within driving distance of Saskatoon.

Ontario's FWIC Representatives were Ontario's Vice President to FWIC Mrs. H. Noblitt; Mrs. Clarence Diamond and Mrs. Herb Maluske along with 10 voting delegates representing FWIO Mrs. Geo Barr, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Geo Fleming, Mrs. John H. Forrest, Mrs. Ethel Liddard, Mrs. Gordon Mallion, Mrs. Wm. Porter, Mrs. R. I. Skene, Mrs. Kenneth Spence and Mrs. R. B. Weber.

### HAZEL STILES SCHOLARSHIP

The first winner, Mrs. Esther McIntosh, Bathurst New Brunswick received a \$500.00 scholarship to help upgrade her education. Mrs. McIntosh will use the money for lessons in advanced painting.

The scholarship was designed with the idea in mind that the recipient would upgrade skills.

### CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

#### House Logs (9 entries)

1. Mrs. Ivy McVicar, Saskatchewan, winner of the Cairine Wilson Rose Bowl.
2. Mrs. Florence Ignatuff, Quebec.
3. Mrs. Isabel Coburn, New Brunswick.
4. Mrs. Gladys Jewson, Ontario.

### TWEEDSMUIR COMPETITIONS

#### History Kits (12 entries)

1. Stanhope WI PEI
- Harbour Grace, Newfoundland and Cranbrook, B.C., both Honorable mention.

#### Afghan (19 entries)

1. Oyster Bed Bridge WI PEI
2. Birtle WI Manitoba
3. Tregarva WI Sask.

#### Oil Painting (14 entries)

1. Joyce Carmichael, Quebec
2. Kathy Grashang, Sask.
3. Tina Hoogland, Man.

#### Child Safety (9 entries)

This competition in honor of the IYC.

1. Wheatsheaf WI, Alta. (The child and farm safety)
2. Melfort View WI, Sask. (Block Parents)

## WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Jane Abramson, Professor of social work, University of Victoria and chairperson CRDC, Rural Women's study, hit hard on a subject that has been the source of many resolutions, women's unpaid labor.

She told the Convention delegates that the failure to include housework in the calculation of the Gross National Product has real and harmful consequences for women particularly rural women.

She continued to say "not only are rural women disadvantaged by the way we limit the definition of 'work' to 'paid' employment, but rural families as a whole may be less well off as a result."

Society fails to acknowledge the value of women's work, which inevitably leads to the exclusion of recognition of these women on economic and political planning boards. Women in general are a minority on such boards and yet the decisions made by men profoundly affect the lives of women and children.

### STATUS OF WOMEN

Vice President, Canadian Advisory Council, Sue Findlay used the title "Gaining Ground or Treading Water."

Although more women are participating in the labor force, the wage gap between men and women is still evident. Ms. Finlay feels economic security of women is still very remote, such examples as very little increase in support services for day care for working families — pensions are tied to income — again women on the low end of the scale.

Ms. Finlay concluded by saying "although women haven't made much progress toward economic security and equality through government and industry, women have gained ground in developing a collective consciousness and demand that we be integrated as full participants in Canadian society."

### FATHER LUCIEN LARRE

#### Children — God's Greatest Gift

The Bosco Homes for delinquents in Regina is Father Larre's responsibility. In talking to the delegates he said, "the need to be loved and to give love is the most important need in the whole world." Also, he felt, there is a greater need to-day than ever before for organizations such as the Women's Institute which stands for Home and Country.

When love is removed, the opposite moves in, hostility, hate and violence. Over the last 10 years murders have doubled, crimes are more serious and offenders are younger. Every year 400,000 teenagers attempt suicide, they don't care how they drive, what drugs they take or if they get pregnant, simply because they have not experienced love.

"A return to the basics is essential, many homes are like self-serve gas stations where people come to tank up and ship out."

It is important to pay special attention to children, think back to your own childhood in relationship to to-day's child. Take a look at the environment, the youth unemployment rate, the suicide rate and one finds things are different to-day.