



## BETWEEN THE LINES

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

Happy Anniversary to all Women's Institutes celebrating this year. Please accept hearty congratulations on your past achievements and best wishes for more challenging heights to attain in the future. It is so appropriate to celebrate a meaningful birthday party in this the year of the W.I. As you plan new programs that meet the needs of the women in your community, you will be making them more aware of the educational opportunities available in W.I. membership.

Anniversary is the time for remembering and naturally you will recall your pioneers who built well on the foundation established over 83 years ago by our co-founders. Samuel Johnson once said, "Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties, passing from one step of success to another, forming new desires and seeing them gratified." Over the years your Members have been thrilled by many successful projects and maybe a bit downhearted when things did not reach their highest aim. But in striving for high ideals your Branch has been strengthened and your Members have developed their capabilities.

As you reminisce you will think of the activities that have resulted in the betterment of your community. And now the next chapter must be planned wisely by setting goals and establishing priorities for the '80's. Many people go through life without finding any satisfaction in the simple fact of being alive and able to help someone else. George Bernard Shaw said, "We do not seem to live long enough to take our lives seriously." Why do we not? Is it because most people do not think in terms of minutes and so they waste them? Each week they start over again and spend their days unrelated to what they really want to achieve. Without goals and motivation, time will evaporate.

I know you will assume your responsibilities, and then our influence will be greater than mankind has ever dreamed and the years ahead will have positive, significant meaning. We are but products of what others have communicated to us. And what have we to give except part of ourselves, our ideas, our faith, the work of our hands and minds . . . that which we communicate to others.

What wonderful ideas we could innovate in this year of the W.I. if every Member would sit down and write her three ideas for W.I. program renewal! Having done that if each would establish priorities by selecting the one you really feel is of urgent concern. Do this and let us explore some of your wildest dreams, even if they are only fantasies now or seemingly impossible. You may have filed them away because "People do not do that" or "I do not have the time." Time is the life of your Branch. Do it now.

Too often we forget that life is a continuing education and instead of putting periods here and there when we have accomplished something worthwhile, we should just place commas and continue our quest to help human beings reach their goals and potentials. The future is one of the many things that defies control by human beings. It is your's for the making so let us make some choices from your brain storming ideas.

I hope you have resolved at this anniversary time, that it really will not be interesting enough to travel the same old, straight road of routine in programing, mile after mile. Mediocre programs follow an oft repeated plan in which you look neither to the right nor the left because you do not want to change. It is, of course, all right to look back, but now is the time to look up and survey the road of W.I. ahead. Turn a corner now and then, take a chance on that discussion by a speaker, you thought would be too far out but is one the young people would like to hear, and you will be glad you did not miss the opportunity to learn something new.

In your Branch I know you will continue to do the human things the W.I. was organized to do. You will prove that our original motto, "For Home and Country" is good enough for the years to come as long as we adapt what we do to meet the concerns of our ever-changing times. Why has the light, kindled at Stoney Creek, spread its beams all over the world? Because of the value of our objectives based on the home, the foundation of our society. Working together, learning together and united for greater accomplishments still, you can determine the future direction of human history.

In twenty-four hours I will be leaving to attend with the other delegates the ACWW 16th Triennial Conference in Hamburg, Germany. How I wish all of you could go to a World Conference. It is the melting pot where we see and hear of the true scope of W.I. work in the world. One also learns that people on the other side of our spaceship, earth, have many of the same problems we have but not always the same opportunities. The golden chain of friendship that links us around the world gives us strength to help change what we think should be changed and unites us in this purpose. The W.I. circled the globe not because of huge propaganda surveys, not because of good leadership alone, but because the founders had the idea of self education. We have a duty to help make that self education reach out at home and abroad.

*Florence Diamond*