

*Dr. Ellen McLean, Eureka, Nova Scotia, Area Vice President for Canada tells about the first Area mini-conference held in Canada. The ACWW President, Dame Raigh Roe Western Australia (whose title was recently conferred by Queen Elizabeth) told about first-hand experiences in other countries. She will have completed three round the world trips this year.*

From Quebec to the West, and Newfoundland to the East, ACWW members from seven Constituent Societies came to the Mini-Conference sponsored by the New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia Women's Institutes. Ninety-seven delegates from the Quebec Women's Institutes, the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes, Les Cercles des Fermières de Québec, the National Farmer's Union and the three sponsoring Societies arrived at Memramcook Institute at Memramcook, New Brunswick on March 17th, and from that first evening until departure in the early afternoon of March 20th, discussions were centred on the theme "Around the World with A.C.W.W.", and the sub-themes "ACWW — what it is, what it does and how it works".

Meeting in an ideal residential setting, participants learned of the history and structure of ACWW, its projects and its financing. How had we already supported ACWW projects, what more should we and could we be doing? After the first morning's session all who were there realized how little they really knew about their own organization.

Dr. Teresa MacNeil of St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish and Dr. J. Morrison, International Education Centre, St. Mary's University, Halifax, spoke to us about women and development, and about our responsibilities as Canadian women in international development. Mrs. Aylene Murphy, Professor of Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, gave a first-hand account of a nutrition education project she has organized in the Dominican Republic, — very much an ACWW-type project.

These were three excellent contributions. But the highlight for all who attended was the presence of our own World President, Dame Raigh Roe of Western Australia. With her dynamic personality, her enthusiasm, her wide knowledge and experience, she thrilled her listeners, and was truly an inspiration. Giving very freely of herself and her knowledge at every session, answering unlimited numbers of questions, it was a privilege and a pleasure to gain our instruction in A.C.W.W. from her.

On the Wednesday afternoon of the Conference an Open Session was held, and more than two hundred and forty women came to hear their World President. She emphasized that ACWW is a forum for country women on international affairs, that 'caring' is what ACWW is all about, that consideration and concern are important ACWW words.



*The ACWW Mini-Conference held in New Brunswick was the responsibility of Dr. Ellen McLean, Area Vice-President. L-r New Brunswick Conference delegates pose with Dame Raigh Roe. Mrs. Anne Manzer, Mrs. Minnie Nevers, Mrs. Evelyn Northrup.*

Listening to the speakers, taking part in discussion groups, asking questions, — that was all part of the sessions. But there was fun and laughter, there were singing and fitness breaks, there were juice and fruit breaks, there was coffee or hot mulled cider and cookies baked by N.B.W.I. members, there were games and skits and a pageant. There was food, friendship and fun. There were displays of Societies' programs and projects, there were tables with articles for sale. There was a warmth and a fellowship that is difficult to describe. The ACWW Flag aimed at publicizing the organization and raising funds was there, and the silent kind of money was placed in the basket while the voices blended in harmony to the words of the "Hymn of All Nations".