
HOSPITALITY

Nothing seemed to be forgotten! During the welcoming reception, on Mother's Day a spray of roses was given to each delegate.

The Federal Minister of Agriculture sponsored a reception at the Congress Centre, and another at the new City Hall.

Leaders of the Provincial delegations were invited to the home of Consular General of Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Maddick.

Bus tours travelled into the countryside of the Republic, seeing and hearing about the Agriculture, visiting farm homes and a never to be forgotten sight of the fields of yellow rape in bloom. An interesting visit to a manor house where details were explained by a Baroness. A magnificent place which began 400 years ago. It is now resplendent with its Italian marble objects, winding stairways with 450 different faces painted on the sides of the steps.

There was time to pause along the banks of the Kiel canal to watch the boats of many nations ply through the waterway.

Memories will long remain with all delegates and pleasant thoughts of days spent together at ACWW.

PLENARY SESSIONS

PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN, Mrs. H. Noblitt, Ontario. Great concern centred around the fact that only 1% of ACWW's membership subscribe to the Country-woman. Subscription price will be 2 pounds as of March 1981.

There was discussion about printing the magazine in another language, but what language was the question, with over 60 countries belonging? Consensus was that excerpts could be taken from the magazine and published in other countries in their own language.

COMMUNICATIONS. Vice Presidents may strengthen the role in their own societies by keeping in closer touch, a two-way communication would help the members to know more about the International activities. For a start, a questionnaire was circulated for suggestions and comments. Hopefully this will be sent to all societies beginning the two-way communication stream.

STUDY SESSIONS

QUALITY OF LIFE, an overall title chosen for group sessions.

WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY heard speakers from Kenya and Southern Australia. Kenya stressed rural areas should be made more interesting and competitive, while the latter credited government with initiating programs to try to prevent urban drift.

An Indian delegate in **WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE** session said more women are embarking on careers, yet only 18% of Indian women have achieved total literacy. A member from England speaking on **FULFILLMENT THROUGH LEISURE TIME** stressed the importance of voluntary work.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

A five member Constitution Committee was elected, one, Dr. Ellen McLean, Canada. If anyone has ideas for change, suggestions or recommendations, send your thoughts on to Dr. McLean, R.R.1, Eureka, Pictou Nova Scotia, B0K 1B0.

POLLUTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Mrs. C. Diamond, FWIO President presented a paper in The Study Session, excerpts from presentation.

More than 2 million species of plants and animals share this planet earth, with man. For some, the sharing is a happy arrangement, with one species contributing to the welfare of the other, while for others, the relationships are not so friendly. Regardless of how these organisms, large or small, interact, all are dependent on a limited supply of air, land and water.

From the beginning, man has sought to understand his environment and to change it to his advantage. We are plagued with questions, the answers to which might free us from disease or provide an abundant food supply to a still hungry world.

Despite similarities in any group of organisms, each has its own requirements, shelters its own secrets and commands its own place in our biological world. Organisms can seldom be described as all good or all bad. For instance, the black fly that molests the angler on his fishing trip also feeds the fish he hopes to catch. The bacteria that causes milk to go sour is needed to produce yogurt, cheese and a host of other food products.

Then what is pollution? It is the introduction into the environment of any material which hampers the life cycle of man and the creatures who live on earth.

Pollution has beset mankind for centuries. But since World War II with the rapid advance in industrial technology, more exotic products have come on the market, some of the waste products are indestructible and cannot become a part of the natural cycles of the environment.

What is Environment? Environment is composed of all things, conditions and forces to which living matter is sensitive and to which it is capable of re-acting.

There is a mounting crisis and we must become aware and alert to the urgent need and dwindling time for action before the growing noise dulls people, the exhaust fumes choke them and the nervous tensions drain them of all will. We hear the cry "away with pollution" but, is our own patriotism rusty? Wearing a white blouse, we have bleached, we may sit down in the kitchen with a non-returnable bottle of fruit juice to think about who is polluting whom, with what and where?

If all we read is true, then you and I are clogging the rivers with weeds, choking the fish to death, cluttering up the garbage collection with rubbish and adding filth to the air with our cars, and dirty heating systems. We may be upset at what pollution is doing to our world, but are we ready to change our old habits? Modern society has become a King Midas in reverse, turning everything it touches into garbage. We have become a throw-away age of consumers who carry home a bulky load of packages made up of a bewildering array of plastics, foams, foils, all adding to the garbage.