

HOME ECONOMICS

Miss Molly McGhee, Director of the Home Economics Branch, OMAF expressed good wishes for a successful meeting.

I see from your agenda that you are to discuss the WI, as an organization, when two groups will decide whether the WI vision is as bright to-day as it was yesterday. The Ministry quite often receives requests for the funding of new women's groups from women living in rural areas. While some, like the Women for the Survival in Agriculture, have no intention of setting up more rural organizations, others like the Ontario Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women, are interested in forming a new group to better meet the needs of younger rural women. They feel that the WI in its present form does not meet their needs. It disturbs me to learn this, and it worries me more when they tell me that they tried to join the WI but were not made welcome. Jacquie Linde, the B.C. Provincial President, wrote about this same feeling in the April issue of the BCWI News. Nancy Cook, the Director of Home Economics in New Brunswick, also wrote along similar lines.

At this time I would draw your attention to the fact that there has been a significant drop in JWIO membership; down to 325 from 400. Yet I continue to receive calls from younger women lamenting the fact that there are no courses for them to attend in rural Ontario. The Manitoba WI has established study groups to meet the needs of younger women, who because of family and work commitments are unable to participate in JWIO's or WI's. Perhaps you could give serious consideration to the formation of such groups?

We gave out 52,059 of our publications in an attempt to provide the public with sound, unbiased information. We have also increased our media contracts significantly in 1980-81; over 136% for written work; almost 60% for radio tapes; and one extra TV presentation.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Mrs. John Brown

The Public Relations Officer continues to promote the WI through the press and media. By communication with the Area PRO's she keeps them informed of the work and projects of the organization.

Mrs. Brown feels that the workshops were very helpful and has sent out written information and program ideas to local PRO's. She is asking that special programs be held on ACWW so the members may be more aware of the work and accomplishments of the WI around the world.

As well as addressing meetings, the PRO attends the FWIO Executive meetings Officers' Conference meeting and the WI Hall meeting. She was pleased to assist with the registration at the Lee Home on Southwestern Day and there met many friends.

Despite the promotion of the Canadian Unity Poster Competition, the response was poor. She wishes to thank those who participated and the winning posters have been sent on to FWIC.

**FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF
ONTARIO
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 1981
BOND PLACE HOTEL, TORONTO**

COMING EVENT

The eighty-fifth anniversary celebration honoring the founding of the Women's Institute movement in Stoney Creek in 1897, will be held on August 12, 1982 at the Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road, Toronto. The guest speaker will be the ACWW President, Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller. Two members from each Branch will be able to attend. Further details regarding ticket, prices and time will be announced at a later date.

ROYAL WINTER FAIR

Mrs. Barbara Saari

After attending a very brief Board of Directors meeting and Annual Meeting, as well as a luncheon, a published booklet was distributed. Special highlights were brought to the attention of the audience, attendance was up at the Royal while many Fairs experienced decreases. One possible cause for this was attributed to the close proximity to the U.S. border and the related gasoline price. Even with this increase in visitors, the Royal was \$26,000 in the red. This however was offset by the lottery revenue which caused an overall surplus of cash.

The guests of Canada Booth recorded 5,500 International Visitors from 60 different countries. The Prince Philip Cup Games, a new facet of the Horse Show was met with such enthusiasm that it will become a permanent part of the Royal Horse Show.

The Field Crop Competition again emphasized the global aspect of the Fair with prizes going to many countries around the world. All potato producing provinces combined their efforts to come up with an excellent display. This portable display will travel around and become a display at other events.

Youth activities were well attended and the Royal extended special thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for their support of the 4-H programs.

The final highlight of the Royal was the presentation of the Major Fair of the Year Award to the Royal by the Canadian Association of Exhibitions at their annual meeting in Kitchener. This is a very great honor for the Royal to have accepted.

In summary, the quality of excellence is what the Royal is all about and only through the maintenance of excellence can it be expected to remain a giant in its field. The people of the Royal, staff, members, exhibitors and competitors have brought the Royal to its present status and will continue to keep it one of the world's greatest Fairs.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

A Certificate of Merit may be granted by a Branch to a member in recognition of her contribution to the organization, providing she is an active member in good standing.

The Certificate of Merit must be approved by the Branch Board of Directors.

Application forms for the Certificate of Merit shall be forwarded on request by the Office of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Upon receipt of a properly completed application form and the sum of \$10.00, the Office of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario shall forward a Certificate of Merit for the member.