

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Ninth National Convention Report

University of New Brunswick

June 13th to 17th, 1982

By Janet D. Hiepleh, Senior Board Director

It was a wonderful Convention! Special thanks go to the New Brunswick Women's Institute, the Department of Agriculture and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure that the Ninth National Convention was a truly great Convention.

The facilities were excellent — the cafeteria meals served quickly and courteously, the walking distances short and the scenery splendid.

The Student Union Building where general sessions were held also accommodated Registration, FWIC Office, Gift Stall, Competition Displays, Provincial Displays and Educational Committee Display.

A full agenda of activities relating to the theme "Concerns and Challenges" provided the delegates with an insight into present day concerns and a challenge to meet them. From early morning to late evening everyone was kept busy. Four business sessions, participation in workshops, an ACWW evening, opportunity to question guest speakers, entertainment by the twinned Provinces, a day-long bus trip and a banquet helped each person better understand the work of FWIC.

At the close of the last business session, the new officers were installed. Congratulations to the new President of FWIC — Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, Gloucester, Ont. This was a very special occasion for the Ontario delegates and a great achievement for Mrs. Noblitt.

It was also a great pleasure to have Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, President, Associated Country Women of the World participate in the Convention and remain for the entire meeting. Other special guests included Marie

Tremblay, President, Les Cercles des Fermières, Quebec; Mrs. Yolande Calve, Treasurer, Finance Sub-Committee of the Canada Co-ordinating Committee 1983; and Mrs. Greta McMordie, Honorary Secretary, ACWW and Chairman of the 1983 Triennial Conference Committee.

The 607 registered delegates will have fond memories for years to come as they recall their visit to the "Picture Province — New Brunswick". A special word of thanks to Mrs. Anna Manzer, Secretary-Treasurer, NBWI, and to Mrs. Nancy Cook, Director, Home Economics, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development whose efforts were greatly appreciated.

Ontario's FWIC representatives were Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, President Elect; Mrs. Keith Hiepleh, Senior Board Director to FWIC; and Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Junior Board Director to FWIC.

The ten voting delegates representing FWIO were Mrs. James Beard, Mrs. Hugh Coons, Mrs. Bruce Snider, Mrs. J. C. English, Mrs. Willis Matheson, Mrs. Ernest Depencier, Mrs. L. M. Dixon, Mrs. Warne Emmott, Mrs. James Coyne and Mrs. E. A. Rauhala. Information for the Convention report has been supplied by FWIO's official voting delegates.

Official Opening

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II sent best wishes to FWIC for a very successful Convention. Greetings and best wishes were also extended to the WI members attending the Convention from many invited dignitaries, includ-

ing those from the Province of New Brunswick, the City of Fredericton, University of New Brunswick, and several WI members.

The 35-voice choir from Hillsborough School, Albert County, N.B. provided some outstanding entertainment. Dressed in tartans, the 9 to 17-year-old choir members were an example of excellence.

Theme Address

Prof. Len Siemans, Associate Dean of Agriculture, University of Manitoba spoke on the Conference theme, "Concerns and Challenges", relating it to the world's population and food supply and illustrating it with a slide presentation.

World demand for food is fast exceeding the supply, he noted, citing increased consumption in the Western World and increased birth rates in Third World countries as contributing factors. He named education of the mother as the strongest birth-declining agent.

He also reported 5 million people suffering from severe malnutrition, with poor countries unable to afford available food; up to one-half the food available from all sources in developing countries never reaching the table because of mismanagement; and food aid that could cause local growers to stop producing.

"The problem is not population, not production, not poverty," summarized Professor Siemans, "but justice."

**1985 FWIC CONVENTION —
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