

A.C.W.W. Report

By Janet Hiepleh

Hot, sunny weather greeted women from around the world as they met in July at Baden-Powell House, London, England for Open Day and Council Meeting. Due to the British rail strike, attendance was down from the year previous.

Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, President, ACWW related to Council Members and visitors her numerous experiences as she travelled in Surinam, Guyana, several Caribbean Islands, nineteen states in the U.S.A., Northern Ireland and Scotland, and attended the FWIC Convention, Fredericton. Everywhere the hospitality was wonderful, the participation tremendous, and she foresees a great future for ACWW.

Visitors to Open Day were greatly impressed by the kind, friendly women. As women of the world, we are aware of the need for good communication and international dialogue.

Mrs. Dorianne Wilson-Smillie, Adviser on Women and Development, Commonwealth Secretariat, London was guest speaker at Open Day and stated there is a failure to address the sanitation problem in this International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade.

Water courses in some areas of the world are being used for sanitary disposal systems, she reported. Half of the world's population is without reasonable access to a safe water supply. 80% of disease is caused by unsafe water and in the developing world, one person dies each day because of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers.

In Tonga in the South Pacific, catchment of water is needed. Water tanks are attached to the homes and water is stored for daily use. However, in other countries, women prefer to go to the village tap for water because it is at the village tap that they gather and gossip.

The Honorary Treasurer of ACWW, Mrs. Lyndsay Hackett-Pain, was grateful for the flood of Pennies for Friendship that came in this past year — a total of 89,325 pounds sterling. The pennies are the life-blood of ACWW and it is hoped that many will also come in during this next year.

Council accepted 18 Societies for Associate Membership. Two of the accepted societies were from the Area of Canada: L'Association des Fermières de la Province d'Ontario and the Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Mrs. Aroti Dutt, ACWW President 1965/68 and 1968/71 was recommended by FWIC and accepted by Council for a Membership of Honour. This recommendation will now go to Conference for approval of title of Member of Honour upon Mrs. Dutt who is President of Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association and is connected with many social welfare organizations in West Bengal.

Mrs. Dutt is also the Founder and President, Country Women's Association of India which co-ordinates the work of different women's societies in the rural and urban areas among low income people in different states. She has attended nine triennial conferences from 1951-1980 and has travelled extensively on all five continents on ACWW work. She is Vice Chairman of the ACWW Constitution Committee 1980-1983.

Area Vice Presidents reported on visits they had made in their Areas and of their participation in Regional Conferences, Seminars and Workshops.

The two Deputy Presidents gave brief highlights of meetings they had attended.

It is through personal visits that the friendly relations between country women and homemakers around the world can be strengthened.

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ACWW 17th Triennial Conference

Vancouver, 1983

By Florence Diamond

FWIO Appointee to
Canadian Conference Committee

At the Associated Country Women of the World Council Meeting held in July at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London, England, the ACWW Triennial Conference Committee met with members of the Canadian Conference Committee who were attending the Council sessions.

We were assured that Registration forms would be going out from the ACWW London Office by the end of the month to those who sent written requests for them.

Mrs. Jacquie Linde, British Columbia, Chairman of the Canadian Conference Committee, addressed the assembly and presented Conference details as reported in the previous issue of *Home and Country*.

The next meeting of the Canadian Conference Committee will be held in Ottawa in November and more details will be decided upon then.



WI Members Honoured

Alberta Strong, left, and Mabel Edgar proudly display the FWIO Life Membership Certificates presented to them by the Gorrie WI at its May meeting. They have been members for over 40 years and are the first to be so honoured by the Gorrie WI which celebrated its 80th Anniversary earlier this year.