80 years young at Solina WI

By M.J. Fraser

It's great to be 80 years old ... especially if you're in possession of all your limbs and faculties, and have managed to stay young!

And that's the way it is with Solina Women's Institute. The current membership isn't a day older than the small group of ladies (led by Mrs. Wm. Law, and by Mrs. Thos. Baker, their first president) who attended that first meeting, some four generations ago, in January of 1903.

A great deal has changed, of course. But on the other hand a great deal hasn't. "For Home and Country" is still the motto, and the main focus of attention. Learning to live better, through greater efficiency and higher skills in homemaking, is still of prime importance to us. However — where once the accent was on pickling and preserving, quilting and soap-making and cheese-pressing — the W.I. extension courses now teach sewing with modern synthetics; cooking with microwave ovens; preserving produce by fast-freezing and quick-drying.

Concerns are no longer with the pasteurization of milk; with smallpox or diptheria immunization for school

children. The Institute is concerned about pollution; about teenage drug and alcohol abuse, about providing clean water for people in Third World countries.

The goals of Solina W.I. (as outlined in the Mary Stewart Collect) haven't changed: "Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed ..." Where we once shipped bales of hand-knik socks and sweaters to fighting mean overseas, and tons of home-grow produce to the depression-ravaged prairies, members now send money provide education for under privileged children in impoverishe countries; boxes of Christmas gifts for under-privileged families in Canada.

The emphasis on education has changed. Eighty years ago those fir Solina W.I. members worked for broader education for their daughter wider opportunities for all the children. They helped establish the Solina Community Library for the Today members continue to spons 4H Homemaking clubs; to help provide scholarships for girls taking Home Economics training; to rewal all young 4H members in the community for their achievements. At they continue to support the work Solina Community Library.

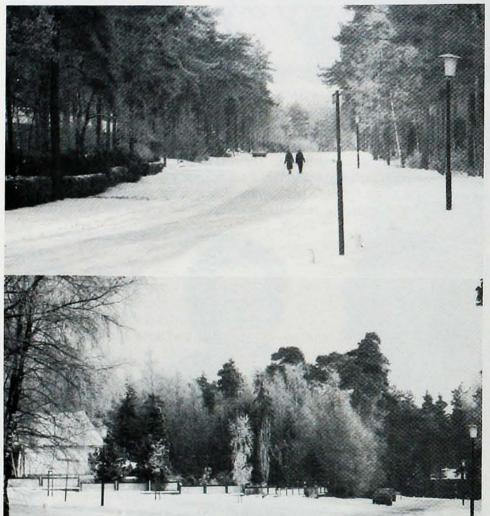
The Solina Women's Institute is st socially responsible for its commun ty, as it has always been. It contribut to the support of Eldad Church; to the community hall, and the park beside it. It hosts a shower for each new brid and a presentation for each new married young man in the commun ty. It attends to the ill and the lone as well as to such things as cance drives. It provides the willing hand and practical help in time of deep so row, as well as in times of great rejo cing - such as in anniversaries an homecomings and successful socce seasons. And 80th birthday parties!

So what has changed, then?

Just the faces. And the programs emphasized in a changing world. It is no longer strictly "rural" — members commute to urban centres to work as salespersons and bank tellers, teachers and nurses. The Institute is adapting itself to the needs.

The annual bazaar, with its long winter months of knitting and needlework, has long since given way to the popular Casserole Luncheon.

Foreign Greetings



These two picturesque scenes are of Nijverdal, the home of ACWW president Ziny Westebring-Muller. The photographs were sent to FWIO by Mrs. Westebring-Muller with wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The reverse of one of the photographs reads as follows:

May Christmas be a peaceful time

The New Year bring you much happiness Our Conference in '83 a great success

Love in all your families from old and new friends A world with friendship a friendship that never ends.

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