

Reflections from ROS

with Joyce Canning (Rural Organizations and Services)

At least two noteworthy events have taken place this summer which involve the Women's Institutes. One was the unveiling and presentation of the quilted wallhanging to the Province of Ontario at Queen's Park on June 11. Some of you were there for the ceremony and I am sure many more have visited since.

The second was a pilot project in Bruce County sponsored by FWIO to offer child care for rural farm women. This was a need identified in the study on the needs of rural

women carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 1983. Women's Institute members everywhere should be aware of this project and be proud that their organization has taken the initiative "to do something". Your provincial secretary, Marcie Johnston, was manager for the project, which involved hiring four university students to serve twenty families. Funding for the project came from a Canada Summer Works Grant. I am sure the potential is there for similar kinds of

projects in other parts of Ontario. Should your branch or district be assessing local needs and determining ways to meet these needs? Maybe a Co-op would be the answer — but someone has to organize it.

A conference of interest to rural women who want to take a leadership role in their communities will be offered at Geneva Park Conference Centre, November 16, 17, 18, 1984. Look for more details in this issue of Home and Country.

Letter

A thank you from Scotland

What a happy visit I had to Erland Lee (Museum) Home on June 5 this year! While on a trip to Canada, with my husband, I was determined to visit the place where the WI all started, and to arrive when the Home Committee was staging a special three-day event was a wonderful coincidence. The ladies were all dressed in period costume and Mrs. Miller, chairperson, on seeing my SWRI badge extended a warm welcome and arranged for Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Stones and Mrs. Dennis to point out the lovely furniture and interesting articles on display throughout the house. In the dining room I was invited to sit at the beautiful table to read the minutes which inaugurated the WI 87 years ago. What a thrill to see the actual writing!

We were happy to meet Mrs. R. B. Johnson, President of FWIO, who told us of plans to visit ACWW conference in Scotland. You will have a lovely time, Mrs. Johnson. On crossing the yard and entering the barn, we were welcomed by broad smiles on the faces of eight ladies seated at a table joining patchwork squares. Many members spent long, and I'm sure happy hours, preparing the squares which were beautifully embroidered. The sewing ladies invited me to join them but unfortunately my time was limited.

My Rural is Fenwick, which is 65 years-old and like WI's everywhere we are always looking for ways to

raise money and to get away from the jams and jellies image that rural women have. Why should this be? I can't understand as one need only to attend the National Conference to learn the wide interests and concerns the country women have.

I am writing this sitting at my kitchen table. If you publish this letter perhaps it will be read by many farmers' wives sitting in their kitchens perhaps waiting on the menfolk coming in for a meal. Mine are clipping

sheep today and that appears to be a scarce commodity over there. We visited a number of ranches and grain farms right across Canada and experienced the same warmth of welcome wherever we went. Thank you everybody.

**Rinee Currie
Tayburn Farm
Kilarnock
Ayrshire
Scotland**

Congratulations...

Community Branch, Northumberland East District, celebrated its 40th anniversary in April, while **Pelham Branch**, Welland West District enjoyed its golden anniversary in March. Two 60th anniversaries were celebrated recently — one by **Utoka Branch**, Wellington South District and the other by **Pittsburgh Branch**, Frontenac. **Hurondale Branch**, Huron South District held a 65th anniversary celebration and **Springfield Branch**, Elgin East held a combined 80th anniversary and bicentennial tea in May.

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Certificate of Merit

Mrs. Dorothy Poupore was awarded a Certificate of Merit for her 20 years of dedication to the Thornloe Branch, Temiskaming South District in April.

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Life Memberships

Several life memberships have been awarded recently. **Dorothy Parsons, Violet Bacher and Rena Richert** of Kohler WI, Haldimand East, received theirs late in 1983. **Dorothy Britton** of Claremont Women's Institute, Ontario South District was given hers in April. Hawkestone WI honored three of its charter members, **Mrs. Harry Kendall, Mrs. Ray Gray and Mrs. Victor Hart**, with life memberships at a dinner in April. **Mrs. Eileen Johann, Mrs. Mary Woods, Mrs. Helen Eadie, Mrs. Mary Wallace and Mrs. Jean Jeffrey** of Belmore WI, Bruce South, were awarded their life memberships in May.