

News from New Brunswick

Our new Provincial President, Mrs. Dorothy Dunphy, joins me in sending greetings again to all W.I. members in our twin province. We were very happy to find our greeting published in the Spring edition of **Home and Country**. Branch representatives at our district conventions have been given a copy of your magazine. I am sure they will find it useful both in their study of Ontario and also in finding new ideas for their branches.

We have now begun a **letter blitz**. At the four conventions which I attended in August I asked each woman to write a note to a woman in Ontario. I then bundled these letters into packages of **ten to twenty** and sent them to women who had written to me or to our office. When those names were all used I then began using board directors names. It is our hope that each person who receives some of these packages, will distribute the letters at a W.I. meeting. We are all hoping that every person who has written one of these notes will receive at least a post card or a letter. If pen pal relationships develop that will be a bonus. All letters and pictures will be shared with branch members in New Brunswick.

A display of maps, pictures and other material was used at the district convention in Keswick Ridge to urge all branches to prepare talks and displays about Ontario. Had we thought of it earlier we would have had a travelogue of N.B. slides for use in Ontario. One is now being prepared. Better late than never we hope. I am also putting together my own slides taken during a number of trips to Ontario. This travelogue will be used at local meetings this year in N.B.

It is our hope that when N.B. delegates arrive in London, Ontario next spring for F.W.I.C. that many will begin at once to look for a familiar name — the name of a person to whom she has been writing.

Our Bicentennial Quilt Competition is now over. The display of prize winning quilts from the four primary

exhibitions came to Fredericton for the final judging. They were on display for a month and drew over 5,000 people to the Exhibition Centre — a record number of visitors for that centre.

During the month of August I attended conventions in Centre Napan, Salisbury and New Denmark. In Centre Napan, Northumberland County District, we enjoyed demonstrations of candlewicking and smocking. Mrs. McAlpine, a former N.B. president, was the guest speaker. Another convention was in Salisbury in the Petiscodiac District where we heard of plans for a mini-A.C.W.W. in Truro for the maritimes and we were entertained by a group who presented a very original and cleverly described fashion show. At New Denmark in the Victoria County District, Nancy

Cook, of the Department of Agriculture, gave a talk on changes in the department organization and several reminisced about the good old days, the convention theme.

All delegates had an opportunity to visit the local museum and hear a lecture on the history of this Danish settlement, the first in Canada, founded in 1872 by 20 immigrants from Denmark.

In Keswick Ridge, Loyalist No. II District, the guest speaker was Ronald Hallett, a forestry consultant, who talked about management and the problems caused by "clear cutting", disease and pests. It was seen as just one more concern in which W.I. members can play a part and help.

Isabel Coburn
PRO, N.B. Women's Institute

WI work in Africa

Dear Editor:

It was my great pleasure a year or so ago to have a holiday in Africa. Our daughter, her husband and two children were in Zambia then. He is a math teacher and also a builder and electrician. She is a missionary nurse and a talented music teacher.

While we were in Zambia we were privileged to visit the farm of Mr. and Mrs. George Atkins near Monze. He was raised in South Africa and she had come from Holland. She was a midwife, and is now a very alive and active lady. They own 10,000 acres of land and had 60 black families amongst their farm staff. They were raising soybeans and harvesting them by hand. The crop was piled on large plastic sheets, then the workers tramped or flailed them out and finally the wind separated the beans.

Nina Atkins is an avid worker with Women's Institute. While I was there they certainly did a great deal of work with the resources that they have available to them. They had sewing classes, bake sales, made jams and jellies, held fashion shows where each

one modelled the dress that she had made. They raised a lot of money which they divided between two hospitals.

Since that visit, I have corresponded with Mrs. Atkins. She says it is very hard to come by goods to keep busy with, such as wool for knitting. At the moment, Canada does not have monetary relations with Zambia and as a result none of those goods are shipped into the country, so unless someone makes a box of care package and sends them to these women they do not have the supplies they need.

I am planning to write about the Women's Institute in Zambia. When we were there they had a big countrywide meeting and the purpose was to interest people or to educate people in the value of soybeans and how soybeans can be used for a nutritious diet. It is not an easy job to get something new into the minds of some of these people. It is a sad thing to know that for a lack of protein in the diet people do not have the same learning ability as North Americans.