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# ACWW awareness is improving

By CHARLOTTE JOHNSON

Eighty-five voting ACWW delegates met at the University of Edinburgh in June 1985. Fourteen delegates attended from Canada, thanks to the Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Trust Fund, made possible following the ACWW Conference in Vancouver.

Dr. Ellen McLean, President, urged us to develop strategies, assess projects that were successful and use them as guidelines for the future.

Areas that have benefitted from the Clean Water project are Kenya, Korea, Pakistan, Phillipines, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

Other projects undertaken within Areas of the World include:

- seminars on farm and home financial management;
- program developed with Peace Corp volunteers;
- onion seed bank; 4-H Club, potable water system started in Equa-

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dor; and

- sewing and knitting centre and school for physically handicapped children in Calcutta.

Constituent Societies are also involved in leadership training courses, pre-school play groups, training women to provide for themselves and develop potential. As a result income generating projects are emerging.

Among the recommendations that pertain to us regarding the ACWW Constitution are:

- any recommendation that is approved would take effect immediately after the next conference;
- dues payable annually on January 1;

- any organization making application for corresponding membership must submit copy of its objectives;
- Regional Conferences shall be called Area Conferences;
- the Realm of Canada to be changed to Canada; and
- attendance at conference changes from three years standing to two years.

Dr. McLean made the observation that there was a much greater awareness of ACWW after the Vancouver Conference, but asked "Are we truly representative of all nations? Will the main reason we attend ACWW Council or Conference be to improve ACWW as an organization for the benefit of all its members or just an opportunity to sightsee and to meet old friends?"

To quote Mrs. Alfred Watt: "No organization stands still. It goes forward or back."

**Charlotte Johnson represents the FWIO on the ACWW Council.**

## Many challenges await FWIC in '86

Though it is early in December as I write this, by the time it appears in *Home and Country*, the new year will be well on its way. Nonetheless I wish you all good health, the joy of friendships and success in every adventure throughout 1986.

We are all concerned over many of the issues that will carry over into 1986 — crime, unemployment, wars and rumors of wars, poverty, famine, destruction of the environment, social injustices, family violence, child abuse and in our own private lives perhaps the health of our loved ones. While these are very deep concerns, trying to do whatever little we can in our own small corner to eliminate or cope with them can become real challenges and excite us to action.

It is so easy to become apathetical by contenting ourselves that there is nothing we can do as individuals. The challenge comes in searching for that "something" to do and in taking action. Remember, the potential is within us and as a large organization

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of Women's Institutes we can individually and together do a great deal to help solve the major problems which confront us.

When the FWIC Board met in October, it accepted an ACWW project to do research on "Women and Small Business Developments" for the women in the Windward Islands. However, when we let ACWW know that we would assist in this project, we learned Holland had already accepted it. There will be other opportunities for us to help overseas, but we may have to wait until the June 1986 FWIC Board meeting to choose another project.

At the post Convention Board meeting, Beatrice Reeves, our FWIC President, appointed me to be chair-

person for the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead committee. Charlotte Johnson, our FWIO President, and Mrs. Gadd from Saskatchewan will act with me.

We were indeed sorry to lose Helen Randall as the local Hoodless Committee secretary due to illness last fall. Mrs. Charlton is kindly taking her place for the time being, but we must not expect her to continue doing so as she has already served many years on the Hoodless committee and resigned two years ago. One of the members of the present committee will act as secretary, but we require a chairperson.

If you live in the area of the Homestead, would you kindly offer your services for this very rewarding position? We will be setting out new guidelines and making new arrangements for the operation of the Hoodless in the near future.

**Bernice Noblitt is past president of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.**