

Farm Family Forums proposed

Greetings and best wishes to you all for the remainder of 1986.

I have been viewing our organization in a bright, encouraging light in the last month as I housecleaned an accumulation of W.I. material collected over many years — rereading, sorting, labelling, filing away, and discarding reams of paper. Once again I am impressed by the tremendous contribution W.I.'s have made to every community in this country and to many projects overseas.

There is very little to report to you from FWIC since our FWIO President, Charlotte Johnson, and I reported to the board meeting in November. FWIC has responded to the government's request to submit our views on unemployment insurance. Our FWIC President, Beatrice Reeves, and our President Elect, Jennie McInnes, attended the Agricultural Outlook Conference held Dec. 9 and 10, 1985, in Ottawa. They report that the general tone of the meeting stressed the difficult situation of the farmers in Canada from east to west. To quote from Jennie McInnes' report:

FWIC Report Bernice Noblitt



in 1985 agricultural production rose by 4%, farm prices were down 5%, retail prices were up 3%. Milk production fell 2%, but its price did rise during the year. Good news for the consumer is that food prices should only increase 2-4% in the next few years.

Apparently the Hon. John Wise is proposing a series of Farm Family Forums and FWIC president has written him urging that Women's Institutes be included in any action taken in connection with the forums and support given by Agriculture Canada.

One of the major concerns of W.I.'s in each province and federally over the years has been the condition and preservation of our environment. We have had resolutions on acid rain, land use, the effect of chemicals as

they affect the environment, pollution of lakes and streams, humane trapping methods, deforestation, air pollution and others. These concerns are not confined to the Canadian scene; they are world wide concerns and are being studied by the United Nations. In June of this year an international committee will meet in Ottawa to hear briefs and submissions and have discussions on the world wide environmental situation. It is expected that FWIC will make a contribution in light of the concerns they have always expressed in that area. I will keep you posted on this.

In closing, I would like, as chairman of the FWIC Adelaide Hoodless Homestead Committee, to thank you once again for your continuing generous donations to the Homestead. We now have a new chairman to replace Mrs. Randall who had to resign due to ill health, and a secretary to work with the local committee.

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

Free resources at your library

Are you aware of the many cost-free resources which are available at your local library?

Contact your local librarian to establish which of the following resources are available in your community.

BOOKS:

- current listing of books available for purchase and books soon to be in print;
- fiction and non-fiction books;
- special interest books: "Self-Help", "How To", gardening, travel, crafts, foreign languages, local history, and tracing your family roots;
- large print books;
- "Talking Books" for the sight-impaired, from the C.N.I.B.;
- Reader's Guides: containing articles from numerous magazines and periodicals;
- Encyclopedias;
- Government Documents;

- career-related materials;
- university and college brochures;
- local newspapers;
- map collections;

SERVICES:

- films, filmstrips, slides, videos, and audio-visual equipment for borrowing;
- shut-in service;
- photocopying;
- evening hours;

- story hour for children of any age;
- inter-library loans;
- free memberships, or minimal charge memberships

FACILITIES:

- meeting rooms;
- community bulletin board;
- ramps for disabled people.

As you can see, libraries today are no longer the hush-hush domain of quiet mice, but the cultural focal point of the community.

