
ACWW council update...

Dr. Ellen McLean, president of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), chaired the council meeting held at Reading University, England, in July. In her address to the council, Dr. McLean said the name ACWW and its work is not very well known, although there are member societies in many countries of the world. It is up to ALL members of ACWW to make it a more visible organization.

This statement was echoed by Dr. Michael Wales, a guest speaker, who had not before been familiar with the work of ACWW. He spoke of women in farming and said while researching for his talk, he discovered that women are involved in the whole spectrum of farming. He said 40 per cent of all farming is done by women.

Visibility and recognition are just a couple of problems facing our world-wide volunteer organization. Another problem is the cost of administration. Often, grants are available from governments and agencies for a specific project, but very little or none at all is allowed for the administration of these projects. This is where the money goes which is collected as Pennies for Friendship. Canada is one

Margaret Munro



of the top supporters of Pennies for Friendship, however there are many others who are in a position to give, but are not pulling their weight. The raising of fees to societies was discussed, and whether or not there should be a mandatory per capita levy.

There were four workshops for all delegates. Two of them were:

- a) Economic crisis in the farm family
- b) Agricultural education (accessibility to women)

From these discussions, it became clear that women in farming in all countries have some common problems. One of these is inaccessibility to credit, even though the women may be doing most, or in lots of cases, all the work. This situation varies from country to country, however, some governments are beginning to realize the value of women's work.

This brought us to the topic of Women and Unpaid Work, which is

a possible workshop topic for the triennial conference in 1989. It is a vital, but often neglected issue. It was part of the Forward-Looking Strategies agreed upon at the United Nations conference in Nairobi in 1985.

One of the problems in this country is that housewives are not eligible to make contributions to the Canada Pension Plan. In fact, it was only a short time ago that the law was changed enabling widows to collect half their husbands' Canada Pension Plan payment.

The ACWW Triennial Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, September 1989. The theme of the conference will be Partners in Progress. Details will be reported when they become available.

This was my first council meeting, as FWIO President. It was a very busy agenda with informative discussions. It was an honor to be your representative. Canadian societies were well represented, thanks to the Mrs. Alfred Watt fund.

Action for Africa resources available

In the April, May, June issue of *Home & Country*, the OXFAM-Canada Action for Africa program was advertised with available speakers for Carleton, Renfrew, Lanark, Leeds, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Russell, Grenville, Frontenac, Leeds, Lennox and Addington have now been added to the program.

Action for Africa is an educational community service funded by the Canadian government through the public participation program of the Canadian International Development Agency and OXFAM-Canada.

For more information, or to book a speaker, please write or call Anne Gillies, OXFAM-Canada Action for

Africa, 251 Laurier Ave. West, Suite 301, Ottawa, K1P 5J6, 613 237-5236 or 613 594-2826.

ACWW President is Hall of Famer

Dr. Ellen McLean, President of Associated Country Women of the World, was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame on Nov. 15 at a ceremony at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Dr. McLean is one of three inductees in 1987 and is

described as "an 'ambassador' for the agricultural industry and those involved in it, particularly farm women." Dr. McLean lives on a farm in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Donald Shaver and Thomas Hays were the two other inductees.