

A View from Here

By Margaret Eberle

My term as your President has come to a close, and I want to express my sincere thanks to all who have helped to make the past two years two of the most memorable, interesting, busiest and most exciting years of my life.

What an exciting time to belong to the Women's Institutes in Ontario as they pass through this metamorphosis. Until now, the WI has been like the Luna moth. This moth, although very large, goes about its business very quietly, and is seldom seen as it actively lives its life. From now on, however, the WI will be more like the Monarch butterfly - more numerous and visible, and very active as it lives its life in our communities.

Congratulations to the New Branch Organizer's of the province - to those who have had very visible successes, and also to those who are following up on many leads. To the new Branches just formed - welcome aboard!

There are two numbers I have noted as I attended Area Conventions. One is the



number of disbanded Branches; the other is the number of new members reported.

In every Area report, the number of new members far surpassed the loss due to disbandments. This is very encouraging. So keep on encouraging anyone you think might enjoy what the WI has to offer.

Welcome to our new Development

Officer, Wally Knapp. Wally brings a great deal of experience to the new position. His contacts in the corporate world will be invaluable, and his knowledge and commitment to the goals of this organization is very intensive.

Now, I must write a retraction to a statement in my last column. I said that I was in my element when it comes to naming any weed or plant in my garden. But, I apparently don't know my flowers. Everyone admired a beautiful pink and mauve geranium that I purchased from a plant table at the North Central Area Convention. I even gave another member a slip from it. When I arrived at a motel in Timmins, I decided to water it thoroughly before continuing on my journey. As I watered it and once more admired the single flower that was on it, I parted the leaves and found a petunia had twined itself among the geranium leaves. Oh well, you can't win them all!

Margaret Eberle is the President of the FWIO.

Headquarters Update

By Glenna Smith

Things are just a busting at our "new home to be." By the middle of September the tender was let by the Township to a Kitchener Contractor and work began immediately. For those of you who have seen the house this may have more meaning; for the rest of you, believe me, it is taking on a great new appearance - both in and out. Of course, the nice part of this is that it is not costing us anything for the renovations since we are renting.

Now to the outside of the house... The little front porch is gone and a long, open veranda is in its place. At the side of the house the cement step is gone and a great wooden veranda is in its place. This pro-

vides a necessary exit for the meeting room on the back. There is also a back entrance off the parking lot with a wheelchair accessible ramp.

The inside walls are that "lovely" green that all old houses are noted for and the names of those who wallpapered are visible for all to see. I'm looking forward to the newly painted off white walls. Everyone has been called into service. My husband has been installing the phone wire so we will have lots of jacks, which means the wire doesn't have to be stapled to the baseboards.

The Moving Committee has chosen the carpeting - it's mauve/pink, blue and gray. Now don't despair; it's really warm and cosy looking. The tile has the same basic colours with a simple design. (My I ramble...) The Committee is anxious to start shopping for the furniture, and I gather some of you are feeling the excitement of

the new office as well. I say this because we have had some large donations marked furniture. Thank you.

And your Branch Challenge and individual pledges have certainly shown your concern and support for our new provincial office. As of November 1, 1993, there was \$190,000 in the Headquarters Fund.

Yes, we must keep working, but with the knowledge gained from the questionnaires and the money collected, our Development Officer will be prepared to present our case to Corporations and ask for their assistance. If you know of a company that should be contacted, please let us know.

Well, I've used my space. There's more to come in the next issue, but in the mean time, as they say on TV: "Keep those letters coming."

Glenna Smith is the Chair of the Furniture and Moving Committee for the FWIO.