

A View from Here

By Margaret Eberle

Writing "The View from Here" for each issue of *Home & Country* has been the most difficult job I have tackled as FWIO President. As I leaf through the past issues of *Home & Country*, I read, with some envy, the flow of words from the Public Relations Officer, Margaret Atkins, the Program Co-ordinator, Glenna Smith, the New Branch Co-ordinator, Hilde Morden, and the Past President, Peggy Knapp. And the many, many others who have written so eloquently.

I am not a writer! But if you ask me to hide a zipper in a skirt pocket, design a wedding gown, carry out any one of the 100 stitches needed to produce a proper Victorian crazy-patch quilt, or name what weed or plant is in my garden - then I am in my element. And it's a good thing that we are not all good at the same things. Wouldn't it be a boring place if we were all good writers or seamstresses?

That each of us has a different talent and



is willing to share it with everyone else is one of the greatest strengths of our organization. Even the member who criticizes and finds something wrong with everything is contributing. That member can sometimes make us take a second look at a project and prevent a mistake, or make us more aggressive to

finish a project for the betterment of all.

Many changes have taken place since the last *Home & Country* was delivered to you. Strategic planning has been on the agenda for many organizations in the past few years - governments included. Some of the results of the Strategic Planning in the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food have affected the Women's Institute. We now fall under the Leadership and Organizational Development Branch and Jack Hagarty is the Director.

This change has moved the FWIO office from 52 Royal Road to Ignacius College north of Woodlawn Road off Highway 6. Please note that our address remains the same. But our new phone number is (519)836-3078. Also note that this will be our phone number when we move to Park House.

P.S. - See you soon at Area Conventions!

Margaret Eberle is the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.



From the Provincial Program Co-ordinator

By Glenna Smith

Need some ideas for programs? Try these:

1. Special Days

September 8 - Literacy Day

October - Food Week

October - Women's History Month

An informative program could certainly be arranged around these special dates. For example, ask each member to research "who was the first Canadian woman to become a doctor, an astronaut, a judge, or a variety of other jobs." Ask them to prepare a one-minute report and then evaluate this program.

2. Agricultural Issues Video Tapes

There is a new series of eight Agriculture Issues Video Tapes prepared by the FWIC Agricultural Committee. They are available from the FWIO office and include the following topics:

- ◆ Safety Nets: GRIP, NISA and the Third Line of Defence
- ◆ Environmental Sustainability
- ◆ WGTA (The Western Grain Transportation Act) and The Crow Benefit
- ◆ Farm Finance, the Farm Credit Corporation, and the Farm Debt Review Board
- ◆ Farm Women and Agricultural Economics
- ◆ Soil and Water Conservation
- ◆ GATT (The General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade)
- ◆ Farm/Rural Women's Role in the 1990s

3. Practising the 3Rs

Do you know what Ontario's New 3Rs Regulations are? The challenge of the Ministry of the Environment is to reduce

the amount of solid waste going to disposal sites in Ontario by at least 50% by the year 2000! The new 3Rs are part of the province's Waste Reduction Action Plan. Its purpose is to make waste reduction, reuse and recycling the way of managing waste (rather than disposal) by individuals, businesses, industries, governments and institutions.

Backyard composting is also a part of this plan; how knowledgeable are you on this subject? Start your backyard compost bin today and work towards zero organic waste going to landfill sites.

For more information on the new 3Rs Regulations call (416)323-5898 in the Toronto dialing area or 1-800-565-4860 toll free. Or, write to Public Information Centre, Ministry of Environment and Energy, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5.

Glenna Smith is the Program Co-ordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.