

July 1977 members urged to use influence for good

By FRANCES L. DENNEY

Associated Women's Editor
Women's Institute members, who gathered in Kitchener Wednesday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first branch in the world, were urged to be steadfast in their efforts to restore a standard of decency and respect to society.

More than 1,300 delegates filled the ballroom of Bingham Park to hear Mrs. Lyndsey Hackett-Pain of England, honorary treasurer and chairman of finance of the 8-million-member Associated Country Women of the World, the international outgrowth of the WI.

She said the WI should be seen to stand firm against drug abuse, crime and other anti-social behavior which is threatening to erode a more acceptable way of life.

Because of its vast membership the WI is a "formidable but informed pressure group if we care to use our influence for good," she said.

The WI must face up to present-day economic difficulties, she said, and give

thoughtful consideration to the future survival of the movement which was founded Feb. 19, 1897, in Stoney Creek by Adelaide Hunter Hoodless and Erland Lee. Their aim was to encourage rural women to improve their homemaking skills.

Now new thinking and new planning are needed, particularly since working mothers are an established segment of modern society, she said.

"The WI supports equality of opportunity and legal status for men and women. I hope we all advocate equality of opportunity with freedom of choice," she said, "so that those who wish to compete at whatever level should be free to do so.

"And those who choose to restrict their efforts to the home, family and community, should be regarded as equally important as those who choose a professional career or part-time employment."

Mrs. Hackett-Pain, who lives in Hove, East Sussex, is a native of Scotland. She is a member of the Institute of

Bankers, of Scotland, and in her early career worked as an investments statistician with a British trust company in Edinburgh and later as financial director with an engineering group. Her husband, Maj. Andrew Hackett-Pain, is former vice-consul of Nablus, Jordan.

The ACWW, which has related societies in 76 countries, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1990. One of its major projects is the Penites for Friendship Fund which helps pay for administration, organizational expansion and maintaining representation at the United Nations by voluntary members in New York, Paris, Geneva and Rome.

When the fund began in 1948 contributions totaled \$2,000. This year \$120,000 poured into the ACWW's world office in London, of which \$18,000 was contributed by the 30,000 members of the Federated WIs of Ontario. The fund "is the lifeblood of our continuing survival," Mrs. Hackett-Pain said. She noted that the objective for 1989 is a penny from each of the ACWW's 8 million members.

Another project, called Save Sight, has received \$160,000 in the past 5½ years. Half of the money has been spent in Africa, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Seychelles.

Save Sight's biggest endeavor is under way at Madurai in southern India where treatment is given in villages to infants blinded because they lack vitamin A. Mothers are also being taught how to prevent the affliction.

"The most significant outcome of the ACWW pilot scheme is that the Indian government is now using it as the prototype for similar government schemes in other parts of the country."

She also said income from the Lady Aberdeen scholarship fund — named after the wife of a former governor-general of Canada — pays for training women in many countries to improve the quality of life. In the past year courses have been arranged for Australian Aborigines, Bantu, Zulu, Kavango and Indian women in southern Africa, as well as for women in Kenya, Spain, United Arab Republic, West Indies and South Pacific islands.

The ACWW's triennial world conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, Oct. 11-21. It will be the first women's conference on the African continent. Some 90 WI members from Canada will be among the 1,000 delegates.



CAKE CUTTING — Mrs. Gordon Conant of Oshawa (left) and Mrs. Herbert Maluske of Chesley, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, cut the cake at Bingham Park Wednesday. Mrs. Conant was nine years old when she attended the founding of the first WI branch in 1897 at Stoney Creek.

Record Photo by SUE WICKLE

Women of the World with 11 million members in 76 countries.

A woman who attended the founding meeting of the WI when she was nine years old was in Kitchener Wednesday to help celebrate its 80th anniversary. Mrs. Gordon Conant, 88, of Oshawa drew a standing tribute from 1,200 delegates when she was introduced by Ontario WI president Mrs. Herbert Maluske of Chesley.

Mrs. Conant, who has long been a community leader in Oshawa, is a daughter of the late Mrs. E. D. Smith, the charter president of the first WI branch.

"I came here to represent my mother and the wonderful executive which helped her — wives of the Farmers' Institute

members — who drove their buggies around the countryside urging people to come to the founding meeting.

Those women knew how to communicate, Mrs. Conant said, and she urged Wednesday's audience to make it a point to spread the word today about the good things the WI accomplishes in a modern society.

Then moving to a three-tiered anniversary cake spotlighted in Bingham Park Ballroom, Mrs. Conant and Mrs. Maluske sank a knife in it to formally mark the occasion.

The cake, which was made by Mrs. Jean Gingerich of Hayville, Wis., was the subject of hundreds of photographs taken by delegates. In its base

were costumed apple-head dolls symbolizing Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee seated at the "constitution table" which can be found at the Lee House in Stoney Creek.

The dolls were crafted from pictures of Hoodless and Lee by Mrs. Harold Shantz of Kitchener.

Many well-known figures attended the anniversary, including Mrs. Martha Blesch of Warspite, Alta., president of the Federated WI of Canada; Mrs. E. V. Fulton of Birle, Man., the area vice-president for Canada to the Associated Country Women of the World; Mrs. Lyla Lymburner of Port Colborne, Ontario president from 1959 to 1962; Mrs. Everett Small of Essex, president from 1963 to 1968; Mrs. Austin Zoeller of New Hamburg, president from 1968 to 1971; and Mrs. Harvey Nobilt of Ottawa, president 1971-74.

Delegates, many of them from northern and eastern areas of the province, began arriving at Bingham Park as early as 9:30 a.m. and throughout the rest of the day, bolstered by a hearty smorgasbord, the anniversary took on the mood of a reunion.

Among sought-out guests were Helen McKecher of Stratford, recently retired as director of the home economics branch of the Ontario ministry of agriculture and food; Mrs. Anna P. Ewing of Guelph, a former longtime director; and Dr. Margaret McCready of Toronto, for many years dean of Macdonald Institute, Guelph, which was aided through scholarships and other funding from the WI for decades.

Entertainment, including group singing led by Mrs. Hugh Baird and Mrs. William Stone and mini-concerts by operatic soprano Marianne Trifunovich of Fergus, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Mary-Louise Vosburgh.

4-H Courses Revamped for Girls in 20s

By Record Special Correspondent

TORONTO—The 4-H home-making club program is being revised to keep some of the older girls involved in club work. Helen McKecher, director of the home economics branch of the Ontario department of agriculture and food, told the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario board meeting Tuesday.

Senior girls (in their early 20s) who have taken the projects Supper Club, the Club Girl Stands on Guard and Clothes Closets Up-to-Date, can get credit for the new courses which have replaced them. These are the Third Meal, Focus on Fitness and a Place for Everything.

One completely new course on needlecraft has been added in the last year.

As a further incentive to keep senior girls interested, the completion of 18 projects is marked with an "advanced certificate" and the presentation of a silver pin server. Previously, there was no recognition beyond provincial honor certificates at the end of 12 projects. There are 23 projects now available in the program, which comes under the supervision of Miss McKecher's branch.

Participation in the program continues to grow and there was no let-down after Centennial Year, she said, noting an increase of 1,500 girls in the course this fall.



Mrs. Hackett-Pain spoke to WI members on Wednesday.

1,300 celebrate founding of institute's first branch

The year was 1897 and the British Empire was caught up in the golden jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria's reign.

But on Feb. 19 that year several dozen men and women were gathered for the evening at the home of gentleman farmer Erland Lee and his wife Janet in Saltfleet Township. They were there to hear Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hood-

less of nearby St. George's urge that an institute be formed to help rural women improve their lot through programs in homemaking skills and hygiene. Adelaide had lost her son from a disease contracted by drinking unpasteurized milk.

That same night Adelaide and Erland drew up the constitution of the Women's Institute of Stoney Creek. The first branch in the world, from that

beginning the WI has grown to 50,000 members in Canada, with 300 in Ontario. More than 1,200 branches operate in this province, carrying out a wide variety of homemaking and leadership programs in co-operation with the Ontario ministry of agriculture and food's home economics branch.

But the broader impact has been the growth of the international Association Country