

COUNTY W.I. SPRING SHOW PRAISED AS 'A JOY AND RELIEF'

The spring show of flowers and produce staged by the Cumberland Federation of Women's Institutes was described as "a joy and a relief in a world of plastic, nylon and instant foods" by Mrs William Whiteaw when she opened the event at the Derwent School, Cockermouth, on Saturday.

Mrs Whitelaw, wife of the Northern Ireland Secretary, is an active member and former treasurer of Blencowe W.I.

The show attracted over 700 entries from 50 institutes, and hundreds of members and friends from all over the county crowded the display areas.

Awards were awarded on a points basis, and winners in the class for institutes with fewer than 40 members were Ennerdale and Kinniside, with Uldale and Sebergham joint second. Winners among institutes with over 40 members were Great Orton, with Ireby second and Lorton third.

WIDE RANGE

The show featured 33 classes for growing bulbs, pot plants, flower arrangements and cut flowers, cookery and produce and school-children's floral and cake classes.

A feature was a gardening corner and a "plant a tree" section with advice given by Mr Johnston Edwards, former head forester for Manchester Corporation at Thirlmere.

Awards were presented by Mrs Whitelaw, who was accompanied by Mrs Helen Fox, president of the County Federation.

EARLY START

Many members had worked almost until midnight and made an early start in the morning to ensure that the display was ready, said Mrs M. Cottam, of St. Bees, the Federation chairman, who presided.

Thanking the many people who had co-operated in arranging the event, she had a special word for the judges who, she said, had been very patient and thorough in their attention to classes which had up

to 70 entries. She thanked the College of Agriculture at Newton Rigg which had provided a gardening exhibit and the floral decorations for the stage.

Mrs Whitelaw said there had obviously been tremendous activity by members throughout Cumberland; and she endorsed Mrs Cottam's appreciation of the judges "whose task is never easy, especially when they have to taste 70 lemon curds.

GRATITUDE

"It is heartening to see so much interest in the arts and crafts of the country and of the home, and out gratitude is due to the institutes for giving so much time and effort to ensure that these do not die out," she said.

"This show is a revelation, a joy and a relief in these fast-moving days of plastic, nylon and instant foods" said Mrs Whitelaw.

Mrs Sadie Wilson, of Uldale, vice-chairman of the Produce Guild, presented Mrs Whitelaw with an orchid grown by Mrs Lowes, of Cockermouth.

DEATH OF DESERT ARMY VETERAN

One of the men who served in the legendary Lawrence of Arabia's desert force in the First World War was buried at Cockermouth on Saturday.

Mr William Dawson Dickson, who died at his home in Dalton Street, at the age of 77, was in his late 'teens when he joined the Army and served in Egypt and the Dardanelles before joining Col. T. E. Lawrence's force as an armoured car driver in the desert campaign which ended in Damascus. Mr Dickson is named in Lawrence's book, "The Seven Pillars



Mrs William Whitelaw (left), wife of the Northern Ireland Secretary, presents the prize for most points in show for a branch of under 40 members to Mrs Eva Rapley, of Ennerdale and Kinniside, at the County W.I. spring show AT Cockermouth on Saturday. On the right is county chairman, Mrs M. Cottam, of Rottington Hall, St. Bees. Below: Interest is shown in the Easter bonnets that were on display.



Rambling Club
V.P.'s night

Church bells

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and ROOTS



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