

**Around
The
W.I.'s.
With
PAULINE
CAUSEBROOK**

Golden Jubilee Day— Climax Of Hard Work

There was a lot to see—which was excellent, not just static exhibitions but live, on-the-spot demonstrations to emphasize how, despite keeping pace with modern crafts and new ideas, the W.I. still stands for the preservation of rural crafts.

People were fascinated by the work of three county women in ancient crafts, like that of Mrs. D. Harrison, Leicester Forest East, making pillow lace, surrounded by a loan collection of historic lace; Mrs. L. N. Hill, Walcote, spinning and weaving with raw material, that of "combings" from Welsh colliers, Pyrenean mountain dogs, Dutch barge dogs — and, of course, her own angoras; Mrs. Jean Hill, Gaddesby, intrigued still more followers with her aptitude for making corn dollies (she's fully booked in demonstrating the craft for the next two years!).

Questions were fired at her... the "corn" must be wheat picked just before it is ripe,

she explained (not barley or oats which are too brittle and soft respectively)... look in the hedgerows and around the hedge of fields for material.

W.I. wine-making expert, Mrs. Elsie Haines, Scraftoft, staged her own display and was on the spot to answer questions; a team of cake-icing enthusiasts kept up a running demonstration; Mrs. Betty Kendall, Houghton-on-the-Hill, demonstrated and displayed her own work in pottery and sculpture; and Mrs. E. W. Marston, Evington, painted at her easel.

Mrs. Margaret Johnston, Humberstone, could fill in gaps in W.I. history from her own collection of local historical souvenirs, and the International Committee's sale of stamps had a brisk start with the sale of First Day Covers.

Highlights to remember that wonderful pyramid of soft toys... they arrived in their hundreds for competi-

tion in three classes. Child's Soft Toy (first prize Mrs. Hill, our spinning and weaving demonstrator with her horse and saddlery), Dressed Doll (first prize Mrs. H. Joules, of Hathern), and a Decorative Toy (first prize for a lizard to Mrs. F. A. Bott, of Ashby Magna).

On the culinary side there were two competition classes for W.I. members—wonderfully supported—mouth watering to the public. The first prize for a decorated gâteau was won by Mrs. J. A. McDownen, of TILTON, and the first prize for the best open fruit flan by Mrs. M. Theaker, of ANSTEY.

W.I.s had promised there would be plenty to buy... which is what the public demands; W.I. markets personnel from Melton Mowbray and Oakham took turns to keep up a supply of home produced goods; the Produce Guild had conjured up a veritable garden shop.

Additionally a home-made cake stall must have seen W.I. cakes being eaten in thousands of homes throughout the county on Sunday.

Generosity

And Handicrafts members deserve a special mention for their generosity—they had each made and given an article of craft work. On sale were hundreds of items ranging from children's wear and soft toys, to lampshades, and articles of embroidery.

What the W.I. is doing in 1968 was all there—hats, embroidery pictures, and paintings were awarded a unanimous "marvellous."

W.I. Drama allowed a pleasant sojourn as members from South Kilworth, Scraftoft and The Langtons staged tableaux from Greek, Saxon, Elizabethan, and Regency Days.

Rutland members had assembled from their own homes complete furnishings for a kitchen—of 1918! We envied the copper of saucepans and jelly moulds for our own collections, but how many of us had stopped to think that great-grandmama didn't only have to cope with washtubs and flat irons but suet choppers, apple peelers, lemonade bottle openers, and wooden pastry wheels.

To 1968, when members are

currently working on a field names survey organised by the Education and Public Questions Sub-Committee. They challenged the public—do you know these fields? Thackwracks (it's Cossington), Drunken Meadow and Cold Comfort (both Kirkby Mallory), Porridge Pot (Thurlaston), among many others.

Welcome

What a splendid occasion it was, too, for Lady Ruddle, as county chairman, to welcome the city's Lady Mayoress, with an especially warm welcome too, for Mrs. Leone Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson, has lived all her life in Stoney Creek, Canada, and is the president of the Women's Institute whose name is known throughout the world.

Stoney Creek, founded in 1897, is looked upon today as the Mother Institute.

It was no co-incidence that Mrs. Jackson arrived in time to stay with Fernie Group Convenor, Mrs. R. E. Bowers, at The Coppice, Newton Harcourt, for the occasion.



President of Stoney Creek Women's Institute — the Canadian W.I. which was the first in the world, formed in the year 1897 — Mrs. Leone Jackson flew in for the occasion and meets Mrs. M. Harris, chairman of the Jubilee Ad Hoc Committee, the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. K. Bowder) and County Federation chairman, Lady Ruddle.

IT was really GREAT, wasn't it? Golden Jubilee Day...

The day when members of the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation "went to town" to show the Public how they stand after 50 years in existence.

First impressions count. And how inviting had the city's De Montfort Hall become for the occasion in the hands of The Stagers who had worked throughout the whole of the previous day to bring a warmth of illumination to the scene...

Suspense

A pervading golden look, which travelled right through the length of the hall to the focal point of the platform where, against a backdrop of royal blue, the best part of a score of W.I. groups had assembled their floral pedestal arrangements in competition for the silver trophy presented to commemorate the occasion by the county's second Federation chairman, Mrs. Sheila Munro, of Bucks. It was the climax of weeks of inter-Institute competitions to decide just which W.I. should go forward to represent the whole of the Group to which they belong.

Fascinated

High suspense, resolved by the judges' decision to award the first prize—and the Munro Cup—to the HIGHCROSS GROUP, comprising Burbage, Claybrook, Elmesthorpe Estate, Sapcote, Sharnford, and Wigston Parva, Stoney Stanton, and Ullesthorpe. It was, in fact, members from BURBAGE whose majestic arrangement with a central theme of golden and blood red roses, won the day.

Second place in the pedestal arrangement trophy contest went to BOSWORTH FIELD, and the third to the WREAKE VALLEY.



A huge pyramid of dolls and soft toys was a feast for the eyes at the Golden Jubilee Day celebration in Leicester's De Montfort Hall. Goggle-eyed in admiration, Alison and Wendy Burton of Melton Mowbray.



The Women's Institute in