

Browns Corners

UCW See Film

The January meeting of Brown's U.C.W. was held at Brown's school house. Mrs. Clarence Tate, president, opened the meeting with a poem, The Garden of Behaviour, followed by prayer.

Annual reports were given by Mrs. Murray Taylor, convener of the group for the church in society and social action.

Miss Joyce Burgess for stewardship and finance; Mrs. Robert Arthur for world outreach; Mrs. George Towle for Christian development.

Minutes of the executive meeting were read by the secretary, Mrs. John Conway.

Dates of interest for 1983 are May 6, mother and daughter banquet; Friday, Oct. 21, Brown's U.C.W. bazaar; Dec. 6 annual Christmas dinner for the U.C.W. and the Women's Institute.

The World's Day of Prayer service will be held on Sunday, Mar. 6, at 11:15 a.m. at Wellburn United Church.

This will be a family-type service for everyone.

The annual meeting of Brown's United Church will be held Jan. 23, following the church service and a luncheon at noon.

The U.C.W. Presbyterial is Feb. 10 at First St. Andrew's Church, London.

Annual reports were given by the secretary, Mrs. John Conway, and by the treasurer, Mrs. David Arthur.

The 1983 secretary will be Mrs. John Hawkesworth.

The president then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Robert Arthur, convener of the world outreach group.

The hymn, My Faith Looks Up to Thee, was sung.

Mrs. William Switzer read the scripture, Luke 10: 38-42.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the film, Breaking Through, which was loaned by St. Marys and District Association for the Mentally Retarded.

This was filmed in Vancouver in 1981 and told the story of two handicapped boys, Norman and Tom, who were patients at Woodlands Institute for the Mentally Retarded.

It illustrated the mental turmoil and soul-searching

by the parents of these boys before it was decided that nothing more could be done for them at home, and they were put into Woodlands.

This institution has doctors, nurses, dentists, psychiatrists, psychotherapists, speech teachers, teachers to teach sign language, physical training, swimming and many others.

The film gives a comprehensive look at all of the aspects of life in this institution - waking the patients in the morning, bathing, dressing, feeding breakfasts, teaching patients to walk, sign language for those who could not talk, swimming, gym training.

The staff gave each patient constant, patient loving attention at all times. Later on as the boys, Norman and Tom, improved they left the Woodlands Institution and three teenaged boys had a house of their own with five attendants to care for them. Here they had their own private room, with furniture provided by their parents. They could have radios, cassette players and other things of their very own.

They are taken shopping, swimming, skating, to see ball games and other spectator sports. They attend school. They are gradually integrated into the life of the community and families. This was an excellent film which gave insight into the life of mentally handicapped people without undue sentimentality, but clearly and sympathetically.

Following this film, Breaking Through, several members of the audience told of their own knowledge and experiences with the care and treatment of mentally retarded persons. The program was concluded by, A Closing Thought, by Mrs. William Switzer.

Mrs. Tate brought the meeting to a close with an appropriate verse of scripture - "See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children - and so, in fact we are." John 3: verse 1.

Following the singing of Grace, a delicious lunch was served by the group in charge. A pleasant social time was enjoyed.