

Emma

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES REPORT -1967-1968

(Mrs. C.E.Pink, Post Office Box 117, Burks Falls, Convener)

What a wonderful contribution we are making to future generations in compiling so many Tweedsmuir Histories. More than a thousand are reported as well as many Centennial scrap books. Our appreciation of the hard work of all who laid the foundations of our country has been greatly deepened by the celebration of our Centennial year and most Branches have visited museums, assisted financially or done volunteer work in their development. Many Branches have representatives on local Historical Societies. Countless exhibits of antiques have been held, many being donated to museums afterwards.

Music has been highlighted with the Centennial theme. One district organized a Centennial Choir with membership restricted to W.I. members only. One member composed a Centennial song which was used throughout the year at W.I. functions in her county. Folk singing and dancing has been revived and variety concerts were held everywhere.

Skits and plays have been presented, centering in many cases around old-fashioned W.I. meetings and by-gone fashions. Many Branches enjoyed high school operettas, Stratford theatre and productions at O'Keefe Centre, not to mention films on many themes.

Great Canadians of the past and present and Canadian poets have been the subject of biographies and book reviews. Libraries have been assisted with both books and donations, locally, on Indian Reserves, in schools and in senior citizens' homes.

Amateur art competitions have been enjoyed and professional art exhibits visited. Hobby shows have been sponsored and quilting bees and rug hooking still are popular get-togethers for members in all parts of Ontario.

"Hats for You?" and "Baking with Yeast" seem to be mentioned most frequently among the many leadership training schools and short courses which are being sponsored. Some Branches have participated in radio and T.V. programmes and fall fair displays, keeping their work before the public. Travelogues, by people from almost every country have been enjoyed, many complete with films.

One conclusion from these reports is certainly obvious. W.I. Members during the past year have certainly gone places and seen things. It would be impossible to name all the conventions, historical points of interest, industrial plants, theatres, festivals, etc., which have been toured by Branches. Surely we cannot leave Centennial year behind without being better informed and more appreciative of our proud Canadian heritage.

Scholarships, bursaries, trophies, pins and gifts are being given at all levels of education by all levels of our organization. We can be really proud of the contribution we are making to the betterment of our communities and the education of our citizens.

I would like to thank all who sent the information for this report