

7th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE A.C.W.W. - 1953.

Gleanings from some A.C.W.W. Conference sessions, held at the Royal York Hotel were given by Mrs. Laura E. Rolling of King, who attended several plenary meetings, round table conferences and press interviews.

When we think that over 6 million women will, within the year be learning about Canada through the delegates and publicity channels, the impact will doubtless be tremendous.

The conference in Ontario was the "home coming" of ACWW. As Mrs. Sayre, the president said, at the opening ceremony in Convocation Hall, which I attended on August 14, "In a very real sense Canada is the land of our birth. Here it was in 1897 that Adelaide Hoodless conceived the idea of Women's Institutes, and here our first ACWW president, Mrs. Watt lived and worked among you and carried from these shores this idea of an international organization that was to circle the globe and eventually find its fruition on our Associations.

Mrs. Rolling described the scene in Convocation Hall, August 14, when the opening ceremonial took place, as a memorable day. Interspersed with speeches, the processional of the Ontario Junior Farmers Girls bearing the flags of the nations represented in ACWW, and the United Nations flag, made an unforgettable picture which aroused the admiration of the large assemblage. Dressed in their blue and white uniforms, and Jr. Farmer crests, they carried the flags to the platform depositing them in stands. When the two young girls, walking side by side, carried the flag of U.S. and the Canadian ensign, there was a murmur of patriotism and a clap of hands. Everyone felt the significance of "3,000 miles of unfortified border", was truly demonstrated.

Mrs. Rolling spoke of the friendly relations among delegates, as evidence of how much pleasure they felt in mingling together. The longer the Conference lasted, the stronger these ties of friendship became. There was no hint of restraint, and while many were in Canada for the first time, and Canadian customs were graciously accepted by many strangers.

Round table discussions or conferences, too, had an important place in the conference. Led by a chairman, they are the key-pins up which the ACWW builds up its future references and work. The findings at each round table talk, had an important relation to the whole outcome of the conference as a whole.

The problems existing in the underdeveloped country are being met through technical assistance, which is sharing knowledge and ways and means with other countries, giving them a chance to "help themselves". Today FAO (Food Agriculture Organization) technical assistance is the greatest idea of our times. Last year it sent 532 expert advisers to underdeveloped countries.

International exchange of programs is building world wide friendship. Methods include International Day, letterfriends, exchange of students.

CANADA DAY - Aug. 21 - 53.

About 11,000 women gathered in the Maple Leaf Gardens for Canada Day, climaxed by a colorful pageant. The women came from many parts of Canada and the United States, who came by train, plane and bus to join the 1000 delegates from 26 countries here for the conference.

The gardens were appropriately decorated with stooks of Canadian corn and barley , and at the rear of the platform, on which were seated international representatives, many in national costume--was a large map of Canada flanked with a miniature forest of Scotch pines.

"Few organizations have a better grasp of the essentials of our national life than your members", Mr. Justice Garson said. "New techniques mean changing cultural patterns" he said, "This is where women's organizations, and especially international organizations, come in. Who understands better than women the true spiritual and moral values of these national cultures? Who can better appreciate what can safely and beneficially be changed and what values must be retained?"

"ACWW membership is open to all women on the same footing", said Mrs. Raymond Sayre, retiring President, "We believe in the basic sameness of human nature. Whether we are called women, or feminies or frauen, we love and care for our homes and families. Whether we are Christians or Moslems or Hindus we believe in the importance of the things of the spirit."

"This banding together of women, mothers of the nations, with the same ideals and aspirations, is one of the greatest means of achieving world peace," said the incoming President, Mrs. A.M.Berry, Australia."It is within our power to instill into the minds and hearts of our children tolerance and respect for other peoples of the world.

From this triennial would go out "a more complete understanding of the problems of the peoples of every nation, and a deeper desire to give all aid possible wherever it is needed," said Mrs. Hugh Summers, president of the Canadian federation

Mme. J.B Cadrin, St. Anselme, Que., president of Les Cercles de Fermieres, co-hostesses with the FWIC also spoke briefly. Messages to Canada from their respective countries and governments were given by heads of the 26 delegates.

Some of the impressions of the women from Laskay who attended were that the pageant was outstanding, the colour, costumes and the lighted Globe of Canada and when the lights were out, the colored lights on for the pageant, the Maple Leaf pins looked like little flashlights shining in the darkness.

1956 A.C.W.W. CONFERENCE

The 1956 A.C.W.W. conference was planned to be held in Ceylon, but had to be cancelled on account of the European situation, and was held one year later.

The five delegates left Malton on Friday, June 14, 1957 for Vancouver via San Francisco, Honolulu, Fiji Islands, thence Aukland, Sydney and Singapore to their destination, of Colombo, Ceylon for a ten day conference. Many stops were made during this trip.

Their return trip took them to Bombay, Karachi, Istanbul, Athens, Rome, Geneva, Frankfort, Dusselldorf, and Paris to England for eight day tour of British Isles, thence to New York and Malton on August 25th, 1957.

## FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

"It is better to light a candle than to grumble at the dark," said Mrs. Nancy Adams in her presidential address at the first convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada held in Ottawa October 28 to 31. Mrs. Adams went on to say that the Women's Institutes throughout Canada had lighted many candles each candle representing another effort, another responsibility accepted. At this national convention, delegates from every province of Canada were assembled to celebrate the Institutes' sixtieth anniversary to pay tribute to the founders of the Institute movement, "to say 'Thank you' to the mother Institute at Stoney Creek and to members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Department who lighted and tended the first candles and have kept the more and more lights shining all these years."

Mrs. J. Freeborn of Saskatchewan presented the trophies won in the national Tweedsmuir competitions, the competition in Hope Chests was won by Penticton in British Columbia, with the second prize going to West End, Ontario and honorable mention to Richard Homemaker's club in Saskatchewan. Tweedsmuir Histories, first, Sunshine, Coutts Bay, Alberta; First Prize in the Cultural Projects, an oil painting, went to King.

The Hon. Lester B. Pearson was guest speaker at the convention Banquet. Presiding at this session, Mrs. Hugh Summers said that membership in A.C.W.W. had made Canadian Institute women more international-minded, and their contributions through UNESCO of a tractor to Greece, sewing machines to Korea and home demonstration equipment to Ceylon had given them a closer tie with the women of these countries. Relationships within our own nation are important too, and it is hoped that this convention would cement friendships among women of the different provinces of Canada. ("We have a common purpose in creating a home life of the highest order," Mrs. Summers said, "then creating national unity and better relationships with women the world over.")

There was a Conservation Panel chaired by Dr. P.O. Ripley, and a President's Panel about different activities in the Institute. Problems and Projects were discussed by representatives of various groups.

The new Executive consists of President, Mrs. Keith Rand, Port Williams, N.B. First Vice-President, Mrs. E.J. Roylance, Greenwood, B.C., Second Vice-President Mrs. T.H. Howse, Millet, Alberta, other members, Mrs. Leonard Steeves, Surrey, N.B., and Mrs. James Haggerty, Napanee, Ont.

Resolutions were presented by Mrs. E.J. Roylance. The Board, dealing with a resolution from British Columbia concerning conventions decided that to keep expenses to a minimum, future conventions be held in universities if possible and that the place of the convention alternate among provinces.

## Club Women's Creed

KEEP us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed .:.

Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self seeking .: .:

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without self pity and without prejudice .: .:

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous .: .:

Let us take time for all things: make us grow calm, serene, gentle .: .:

Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid .:.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one .: .:

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord God let us not forget to be kind .:.

Mary Stewart

FOR many years, women's clubs in Canada, United States, Britain and other countries have used a prayer for the opening or closing ceremonies of their meetings. Sometimes it is simply read by one member, at others it is repeated in unison by all those present. They have usually called it Our Creed or The Club Women's Creed and as such it is widely known and popular on this continent, especially in small towns and rural districts. Widespread usage has resulted in some changes. The author gave it a title: "Collect For Club Women," when it first appeared in an obscure corner of a well known American magazine.

Mary Stewart wrote the prayer in 1904, while she was principal of Longmont high school in Colorado. We are indebted to a Canadian woman, the late Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., for a true and correct version of the prayer, as here presented, and a little of the author's own personal story. Mrs. Watt came back to Canada in 1939 to attend and speak at the eleventh biennial conference of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, in Edmonton. She it was, who had carried the Women's Institute idea to Britain and later became president of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Mary Stewart, while visiting in England had spent some time with Mrs. Watt at her English home. Errors had crept into the various printings of the prayer, especially in the first and second-last lines. These errors marred the beauty of expression and the clarity of thought of this prayer. The author expressed concern about the garbled versions which were being circulated. In the studio of Robin Watt, the artist son of Mrs. Alfred Watt, Miss Stewart personally supervised his work of copying out the prayer, down even to fine points of placing a comma or a period. Reproduced here is Robin Watt's copy done by hand, under Mary Stewart's close supervision. The title, it should be noted is set in type, to identify it.

"It was written as a prayer for the day. I called it a 'Collect For Club Women,' because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps they had need for special petition and meditation of their own. This must have been true for the Collect has found its way about the world, especially wherever English speaking women get together. Indeed it has been reprinted in many forms in many lands."

It was officially adopted by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, meeting at their second convention in 1920, at St. Paul. It was read into the printed records of the Congress of the United States by Senator Tobey of New Hampshire, at the closing session in 1949.

Mary Stewart held a number of special teaching posts in Colorado and Montana. In 1921 she became a junior guidance and placement officer in the pioneer period of U.S. employment services. She continued to write for American newspapers and magazines. Her Alma Mater, the University of Colorado, in 1927 conferred upon her an honorary degree in recognition of her distinguished work in education, social and civic service.

WORLD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE STAMP

The post office department will issue a special stamp Wednesday, May 13, 1959, to commemorate a world-wide organization of some 6,000,000 rural women—an organization conceived by a Canadian woman.

The five-cent stamp will honor the development of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. Cercles des Fermieres of Quebec and similar groups elsewhere belonging to the Associated Country Women of the World.

The green, black and white stamp, designed by Helen Fitzgerald, Toronto artist, shows a female figure kneeling beside a tree over which the glove is poised.

The words Associated Country Women of the World and Union Mondiale de Femmes Rurales form the border on three sides of the stamp. On the fourth side is the word Canada, with the denomination in the bottom right corner.

The border of the stamp is green and the lettering white. The denomination is black.

The female figure, the tree and the glove are pen outlines on a white background. The drawings of the woman and the globe are in black and the tree is green.

The postoffice said recently "the design symbolizes growth, as cultivated by country women, of individual country organizations into the world association as represented by the glove."

The idea of Women's Institutes was conceived in 1897 by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton. The first institute was organized in that year at Stoney Creek.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, the national organization, was formed in Winnipeg in 1919. It now has a membership of 95,000 country women.

Mrs. Alfred Watt of Collingwood proposed the idea of any international organization and was named the first president at a meeting in Stockholm in 1933.

Miss Helen Hunter, one of our members, was the first member to purchase a stamp at King Post Office the next day, and gave it to us.



Twenty Year Membership Award

To commemorate membership of twenty-five years, April 12, 1972  
"The Ontario Womens Institute Story" was presented to  
Jean McDonald, Pearl O'Brien, Helen Hunter, Norma Etheridge  
and Elsie Hunter. (Picture below)

