

# Combined conference held at Cottonwood

SUNDRE ROUND UP WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 1998

by Elaine Kaiser

The combined W.I. Constituency Conference for Innisfail and Olds/Sundre was held April 18 at the Cottonwood Hall. There were 34 members and two visitors present. The theme for the conference was "Challenges of Change". The conference was co-chaired by Elaine Kaiser, Olds/Sundre Convener and Barb Thomson, Innisfail Convener. During the morning the following reports were given: the Girl's Club reports by the Tiger Lilies and Coburnettes; Educational reports on Health and Home Economics, International Affairs, Agricultural & Canadian Industries, and Education & Cultural Activities; Both Constituency Conveners reports; and District 5 Director, Bernice Willsie's report. Next on the agenda

was a quick craft. Blanche Cunningham showed us how to make gift bags out of gift wrap or wall paper. We all got to try our hand at it and had a nice gift bag to take home. Shirley Shrader played the piano while all members sang the Prairie Rose followed by the Pennies for Friendship March which lead us all to a bountiful pot-luck lunch.

In the afternoon all members were informed by four women forming a panel on "Focus for Women". Each woman spoke about the country she had lived in for a time and her insight into how the women live in those countries. Karen Kaiser spoke on her experiences in the Middle East when she lived in the United Arab Emirates and Orman for two months. The women are segregated in every way and

their only role is to be a wife, mother, and homemaker. The United Arab Emirates is a very oil rich country and its native people work only in the managerial positions. Many nationalities from all over the world live in the UAE and they do the physical labor. Sherry Schnell spoke on her trip to India. There is still a caste system in India only they are called different names so it is supposedly not so demeaning now. In the upper class the women are allowed outside the home only if they are escorted by a male relative. Arranged marriages are still the normal way of life. Shelly Bradshaw told of her agricultural tour trip to Mexico. Everyone both male and female from young to old work both inside and outside the home. Much of the work is still

done manually in the country. There are too many children to attend school at the same time, so half attend in the morning, and rest go in the afternoon. Also that way the children can be working the remainder half of the day.

Margaret Dinnsen wrote a report on Barbados since she lived there for a few weeks with her friends who are Barbadians. The majority of people are descendants of slaves brought to Barbados from Africa between 1636 and 1834, when slavery was abolished. Since both men and women were set free at the same time, they both are on the same level as far as equality is now. In fact, the women probably have even more to say in their own lives because they are usually the ones who manage their households and families as

their husbands are working far away from home and only return occasionally. In just these four countries we were able to grasp the difference women experience in their lives everyday. What a contrast from one country to another. The A.W.I. Provincial Vice President, Millard Luz spoke on A.C.W.W. theme, Shaping Tomorrows World toward 2000. A memorial service was held in which two members from Innisfail Constituency and one member from Glamis W.I. were remembered. In closing for the service Grace Duff sang "Garden of Peace and Prayer" accompanied by Gloria Gorril. The Secretary Reports were given by each club. Then each constituency held their own business meeting. The raffle of two Afghans, one donated by each of the constituencies were made by Bernice Willsie of Bowden and Fay Stirton of Olds. They were won by Mildred Luz of Camrose and Win Waters of Innisfail. A door prize, a flowering plant, donated by the Olds College was won by Stella Graham of Innisfail. Each lady who attended received two plants, one donated from each of the two constituencies.

The afternoon was concluded by Isabel Bartholow giving the courtesy report.

To wind up the year the Women's Institute and Girl's Club held a Social on May 30th at the Olds Legion. Elaine Kaiser, Olds Sundre Constituency Convener chaired the event. In attendance were members from: Coburn, Mary Riley, Glamis, Eagle Valley, Tiger Lilies and Coburnettes. The afternoon began by each club supplying entertainment. Most clubs shared some readings and special moments from the past while other clubs entertained with music. Then the women and girls were paired off to work together at different card making stations. Four stations were set up: 1. Cards using rubber stamps taught by Linda Hengen; 2. Cards using stencils and appliques with fabric and wall paper instructed by Rhonda Duff and Adelaine Johnson; 3. Envelope making and card edging with fancy-edge scissors shown by Flo Kinney; 4. Printing verses and signing the cards taught by Emma Ehrhardt. Lunch and visiting followed. Door prizes were won by the following: Lee Ann Johnson and Doris Dube, two stitchery picture kits. Carol Brown won a flowering plant donated by the Olds College. Special thanks to the College for their beautiful plants. The afternoon was enjoyed by both Mother and Daughter clubs of the Women's Institute.