

Miss Jeanne Rowles outlines YW's Pakistan work

Miss Jeanne Rowles, who recently returned to Canada from Karachi, Pakistan, where she spent three years at YWCA director, says she is concerned about the assistance given by the West to developing countries.

"Many things we do are not effective, but as long as we have so much we must keep trying," she told a luncheon meeting Friday when she met with local YWCA board and committee members and staff. She also said she hoped YWCA members would give

thought to ways in which they could help.

Miss Rowles was stationed at Karachi in Pakistan, where the YWCA has been established for more than 60 years. She was pleased, she said, to report that she had found and

trained a Pakistani as her successor and that she herself would be the last foreigner to hold the post. Her successor, a former headmistress of a school, holds two college degrees.

YWCA work in Pakistan,

she said had been concerned with the problems of women in purdah, who bring up families without contact or stimulation from the outside world. There was no tradition of services as in the West which made it difficult for an organization that depended on the partnership of volunteers and staff, and it was hard to get board members.

It was a country with both a population explosion (the increase is about five million a year) and a refugee problem. Miss Rowles outlined several services the YWCA had established.

These included social work projects among refugees. She noted there were 150,000 families in two housing developments in the desert not far from Karachi. The YWCA provided a medical unit, with a doctor and two volunteers on duty each morning. Powdered milk and vitamins from UNICEF were distributed and rations of milk, corn, beans and wheat, were given to a group of families once a month.

As a nutrition project mothers were taught how to feed their children, "but we were constantly fighting food prejudices."

To implement this in a practical way "Y" workers chose a group of babies, who were little more than skeletons. Their mothers brought them to the centre each day and the food they were fed was prepared in front of them. Within six weeks many of the children were able to "graduate" as they had improved in health and it was hoped the mothers would continue to give them the foods they had been taught to use.

Although schools were not YWCA business, Miss Rowles said several classes were established to try to get children ready for state schools. Mothers also came to learn to read and write.

To fight poverty "as there is no dignity in handouts" a cottage industry was established for women. They were encouraged to do mirror work

an embroidery which uses tiny (three-eighths of an inch) mirrors on dress lengths, aprons and hand towels. The business was growing, with a turnover of 100,000 rupees in one year, and it employed 150 women. Purchasers were chiefly foreigners and tourists.

While the Pakistani had no tradition of service, the government was now expecting people to learn to give this. Miss Rowles said no one could graduate from the 10th class in school without a credit of 100 hours of volunteer services. The YWCA took 50 girls from schools to work as volunteers in its centre

"...we know they will be the wealthy begums some day and we are hoping they will remember what they did in the YWCA," she said.

A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Miss Rowles is a cousin of Mrs. A. L. Caldwell and Dr. Edith Rowles Simpson, who were among guests at the luncheon. Her next post with the YWCA may be in Africa.

Mrs. L. R. Warden, chairman of the membership and world service committee, presided at the luncheon. Appreciation was expressed to the speaker by Miss Marion Graham.



—Star-Phoenix Photo
Miss Jeanne Rowles points to a map showing Karachi, Pakistan, from where she returned after spending three years as YWCA director.

Council of Women reports expansion

Continued expansion in the Council of Women provincially and locally was indicated in reports at a meeting of the Saskatoon council Friday.

Bringing to 52 the total number of federated organizations in the Saskatoon Council of Women will be the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Saskatoon UNICEF Committee, the United Commercial Travellers' Auxiliary and St. Mary's Catholic Women's League. The latter organization had just applied for membership and was not

steering committee had been set up in Yorkton this week to look into the possible organization of a council there. A further meeting had been planned for January, she added.

Annual meeting of the provincial Council of Women will be held in Saskatoon May 4 and 5, 1966, it was announced.

It had been reported at the provincial executive meeting that the centennial project of the national Council of Women will be to establish the Lady Aberdeen Library at the University of Waterloo,

CALLING ALL HOME MAKERS

By Orval Murland



Orval Murland

Don't Over-Crowd Your Rooms

Many years ago a famous decorator said, "The right way to furnish any room is with the least number of pieces of furniture and not with the most." That principle still applies today.

Too many rooms in too many homes look like displays in furniture stores — terribly overcrowded.

Many people seem to have a fear of leaving any open floor or wall spaces in their rooms. But, actually, there is nothing worse than the "cluttered" look.

Sufficient spacing is an important factor in decorating. It is often the difference between "decorating" and "furnishing."

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