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MRS. WINIFRED KASTNER

1003-1987

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Mrs. Winifred Kastner was interviewed on November, 11th 1975, for the Battye Library Oral History Program by Jean Teasdale. Mrs. Kastner has been involved in many areas of welfare work in Western Australia and has been associated with many Women's Organisations since her arrival in 1930. These include the Women's Service Guilds of W. A. (Inc.), Y.W.C.A., Red Cross, Women's Justices Association, Marriage Guidance Council (Inc.), Good Neighbour Council, Irrabeena and the Slow Learning Children's Group Inc., The Kindergarten Union of W.A., (now Kindergarten Association) and the Girl Guides.

My name is Winifred Kastner. It was Winifred Stubbs before I married Eric Kastner. I was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England on the 29th June, 1903. I was the eldest of five children and my mother was an invalid from the time I was nine years of age so I had a great deal of responsibility in my early life. I was very interested in handicrafts and in art and creative work and I did a full two and a half or three year apprenticeship in Photography, which in Britain at that time was a profession and I studied at the Sheffield School of Arts and Crafts in the evenings. Meantime we had moved from Chesterfield to Sheffield and I spent the years between sixteen and coming out to Australia in Sheffield. I hated the climate, in fact I didn't like Sheffield very much at all, but I dreaded the winters coming and each morning on my way to the office I used to pass a poster showing beautiful beaches, blue skies, golden sands and the invitation to come to Western Australia, the Land of Golden Sunshine. Waiting for a tram in those days, huddled up, waiting for the snow plough to clear the lines, I decided that one day I would go to Western Australia. It took two years to really get me onto the boat. Meantime I had taken a diploma in Arts and Crafts and had started teaching in the Council schools in Britain. I had friends in Western Australia and they wrote letters, sent flowers and told me so much about the beautiful climate in Western Australia that I finally booked my passage and decided that whatever I had to do in the way of a job I would try and stay for a while, having meantime saved up my return fare in case I didn't like Western Australia when I arrived. On my arrival I was surprised to

find there was a dreadful Depression. We had had this Depression in Britain eighteen months to two years previously but we had revived and I'd forgotten all about it. I was horrified to see on the day I landed in Western Australia which was the first day of May the celebration of Labour Day, one of the most ghastly processions of men wearing rags and holding shoes with holes in and demanding just enough food to survive. This was in 1930. I understand the Depression in those early days was something new to Western Australia.

Having no close links in Australia I went straight from the ship to the Young Women's Christian Association. I was warned on all sides that it may be quite impossible to get a position as there were so many people out of work. The next day, having a letter of introduction to the manager of one of the big photographic firms in Western Australia I thought I would pop in just to see what was likely to be available in the future, having first of all intended to take a full month's holiday to look round. However he was able to give me a contact and I commenced work the next day on trial. I drew a pay on the Friday, which was my first week in Western Australia and from then on I never felt the Depression myself. I found the girls at the Y.W.C.A. very, very anxious to learn handicrafts. I also found a number of older women who were very anxious to learn, so that they could raise a little money. I was horrified at the number of people who were desperate to take jobs, just for keep on farms with no set hours, no pay, just food and shelter. It was within the precincts of the Y.W.C.A. I think that I first saw the need for social work. Up to that time, in Britain I had been so busy with working in the day and studying at night that apart from the fact that my grandfather was on the Board of Guardians of what we would call in those days a workhouse and I used to go and help him with various tasks, that was practically the only voluntary work I had done in Britain. But I could see in the Y.W.C.A. and in Perth there was a great need for this work and I became very deeply involved.

Apart from the fact that I had full time employment and I was teaching two nights, I spent practically all my other time trying to help with the soup kitchens they had down on the Esplanade. The Y.W.C.A. supplying the meats and the vegetable tops and so on and helping to serve. Also serving at the jumble sales which I might say were quite new to me, quite a novelty. I had never attended a jumble sale and I really felt my education was very enriched after the first jumble sale! The Depression had affected the Y.W.C.A. considerably and at that time they had had to dispense with the services of an assistant matron. I being elected to be that person and very glad of a place to continue my studies or do my letter writing. So I relieved the matron on several nights each week. It was then that I discovered that very few (roughly about one third) of the girls only were paying board. The Y.W.C.A. were maintaining the other girls, mostly from overseas, because they were unable to get work. I saw a tremendous amount of sacrifice going on within the Y.W.C.A. and I think the spirit of wanting to serve was born in me at that period and anything I have done for the community since my arrival in Western Australia in 1930 I owe to the first two and a half years which I spent at the Y.W.C.A.

Shortly after my arrival in Western Australia I was approached by Mrs. Dorothy Graham, who was running a women's radio session at that time, and who was trying very hard to interest women, particularly country women to buy radios. Evidently they were quite expensive and in the middle of the Depression the sales were not very high, but people were encouraged to form groups in the homes if they owned a radio and pay a very small sum, I think two shillings (twenty cents) to join a radio club. In return for this, when they came to Perth they were able to come up to the studios of 6WF and have lessons in any of about six different handicrafts. This was a service which was very well used because I used to have as many as 120 women come up to that studio in a week and this went on for, I think, round about two and a half years until such time as it was taken over by the A.B.C. and the premises were moved to St. George's Terrace. At the time we were having classes and doing the talks the premises were at the corner of Hay Street and Milligan Street. After working with Mrs. Graham for some time I was approached by Mrs. Fisher who was the

State President of the Country Women's Association. One of her pipe-dreams had been to establish a handicraft service for women in the country so that handicrafts could be taken to the country particularly to help those women who were rather anxious to earn a little extra money by being able to make things with products that were probably near at hand or reasonably cheap.

I left Perth on the first tour in January 1933, my destination on this occasion being the whole of the South West area, including the group settlements. At that time of course these people were having an extremely bad time. My first stay over was with Mrs. Archie Burt who was the Regional President of the C.W.A. for this particular area. I was billeted at her home for the first few days. I was rather horrified after having the first bath to discover that I had done a dreadful thing in letting out the bath water because they were in the middle of a drought. Of course coming from the north of England this was something that I could not understand. After being told how important every drop of water was I realized just how different and what problems these people had to put up with apart from the Depression. I had a most wonderful, although terribly busy time, spending two days in all the places that end with up - 'Balingup', 'Cookernup', 'Dardanup' as well as Bunbury and a number of places in the South West going down to Manjimup and then out into the group settlements. The numbers attending these classes grew because I found when I was at Brunswick, the people from Bunbury came to Brunswick and when I went on to Bunbury the people from Brunswick and Busselton and quite a number of other places came there and they sort of followed on until by the end of the tour it was virtually impossible to do a really good job of teaching. We worked right through the day and even on Saturdays and Sundays to try and get the various articles finished before I had to move on to the next place. Accommodation was provided for me, either by the schoolteacher or the bank manager's wife or the president or an officer of the C.W.A. or various people who were quite glad to provide the hospitality. Transport was arranged from the stations. I had a first class railway pass which would take me anywhere and I'd be met by anything from a milk float to a

car and taken to my destination. The first long tour lasted for something between four and five weeks and from then on there was a tremendous demand from all parts of the state for a similar service.

I married Eric Kastner early in 1933 but as he had a serious illness shortly afterwards I continued with my work with 6WF, the condition being that I retained my single name for working purposes as Winifred Stubbs because that was the name I had become so well known under. A strange incident happened fairly recently. I was travelling in a lift in Boans from first to the top floor and a lady in the lift recognized me and said, "Oh, Miss Stubbs, how lovely to see you? How's your daughter Miss Stubbs? She must be quite grown up now Miss Stubbs?" This was much to my embarrassment but I explained I was now Mrs. Kastner and my daughter was in her late thirties and had four children. I continued teaching arts and crafts with 6WF until about three months before my daughter was born. Three months after her birth I resumed teaching but in my own home for in the meantime 6WF had moved over to St. George's Terrace and contacts with listeners was quite impossible in that particular setting.

In 1939 I was persuaded by Mrs. Isabel Johnston to join the Women's Service Guilds. I think at that time she had hoped that handicraft classes would be started within the precincts of the Guilds. Although I had no particular wish at that time to join organizations, having had very little time for organized activities, I did become very interested in the platform and objects of the Women's Service Guilds and discovered that they really were doing an excellent job and had done so from the foundation of the Guilds in 1909. I met such very fine women and felt that the ideals of the Guilds were so very special that I continued to belong to the Women's Service Guilds and do so even until the present time. The aims of the Women's Service Guilds were to educate women on moral, social and economic questions. When the Guilds were formed in 1909 it was discovered that women knew so little about voting and what the vote meant to them, that it was intended that the Guilds should provide a common ground on which all women could learn to use the vote intelligently. Also, in every

country and state there was need of an organization which was prepared to launch other organizations. In 1909, I gather, it took a very brave woman to belong to an organization at all and Mrs. Bessie Rischbieth and Mrs. Edith Cowan, Mrs. Ethel Joyner and a number of other very wonderful women could see the need for such an organization. The Guilds have throughout the years, established many of the organizations which now play such a vital role in our community.

I think probably the Kindergarten Union was one of the early organizations. At that time of course it was meant to be a free kindergarten and to provide mostly for the children from very underprivileged families. The Girl Guide Association was an organization which was formed by the Women's Service Guilds. In each case, wherever an organization or whenever an organization formed, someone had to be responsible for calling a public meeting, getting the right people there, providing a hall, providing a secretary, providing telephone services, providing stationery and guiding them once they had formed their own organization and found their own offices and then just pushing them away so that they could function as an independent organization. Now the Women's Service Guilds, throughout the years have formed many of these organizations, and during my term as State President I've helped form the Civilian Widow's Association. We were having so many requests from civilian widows who were at that time having a very rough deal and were really living very much below the poverty line. We felt, after many requests to help them, that the best way to do this was by forming them into an organization or association so that they could become a pressure group and try themselves to bring about better conditions. We did expect perhaps 40 or 50 women to attend that first meeting but we were amazed to find something like 200 women crowded into the hall and the staircase. It was held over the Grand Theatre building in a very large hall and even the staircases were packed with these people who were quite unable to get into the room. This was the need for the Civilian Widows. I chaired that first meeting and we listened to some of the needs of these women. We felt there was a definite need to go on. 140 women agreed to subscribe a very small sum, I think it might have only been two shillings and sixpence (twenty five cents - not being

dollars at that time,) and 140 women indicated that they would pay that sum that night. The Women's Service Guilds carried that organization for six months and I chaired the meetings. Mrs. Rischbieth acted as vice-chairman. The Guild Treasurer Mrs. Eivers acted as their treasurer and at the end of that period, we felt that as they knew who the members were and their potential, that they could very well organize themselves. I was not a widow, therefore I was not eligible to become a member but Mrs. Rischbieth did retain the position as vice president and Mrs. Eivers the Guilds treasurer did retain the position as treasurer of that association for many years. It has of course grown into something now which is State wide.

The next organization which I had the privilege of launching was the League of Home Help. We had this vision of having help available for people in times of sickness or great need. It was very difficult to obtain domestic help and we felt if women in the various suburbs could be organized to work within that suburb, to just go for two or three hours to someone who lived perhaps two, three or four streets away and provide them with home help. Also to get the authorities who were dealing with the sick such as physiotherapy and all the various medical therapies, to go into the homes, that this would relieve the hospital situation and would be a great help to the people concerned. The initial committee comprised Dr. Davidson, who at that time was the Deputy Commissioner for Public Health, myself, and five members of the Women's Service Guilds. Again it was an organization that we carried. We had literally hundreds of phone calls, mostly from people wanting home help, rather than people volunteering to do this work. In due course this was handed over as a separate committee and Mrs. Florence Hummerston became the first President when this organization went outside the Women's Service Guild. Shortly afterwards she launched the Meals on Wheels service which now we know serves such a marvellous purpose.

One of my other interests was with the Red Cross during the War period. I joined the Red Cross in 1939 and I worked for ten years as the Superintendent (we had various titles during those years) of the



Metropolitan Emergency Service Company. We performed all the duties possible in a voluntary capacity to help with the War work and doing various training in the hospitals. We all took first aid and home nursing; we met the hospital ships; we served in the canteens; we supplied partners for the forces when they needed to have social activities or dances; we performed very many services during that time. I had a very big company of something like eighty, mostly young people and they worked in the military hospitals teaching handicrafts, doing the jobs which the staff were not able to do. Towards the end of the war we were meeting the planes bringing the people who had been imprisoned in the camps in Burma and other places, back to Western Australia. In fact, the amount of work, the variety of work which was done in the Red Cross during those years was tremendous and it was a very great challenge I think to all of us.

It was while I was with the Red Cross that I became interested in working with handicapped children and I can remember one morning, actually I was at the Women's Service Guilds on this particular morning when a Mr. Hines came up from Fremantle to the Women's Service Guilds to ask whether we could find anyone who was interested enough to come down to a camp which was being held at Naval Base for very handicapped children, including cripples, spastics, deaf and dumb, in fact pretty well all the handicaps which were recognized at that time. He had felt that there must be a need and a way of occupying these children and discovering whether they really had a potential for doing anything except just the lying around as had been the custom amongst most of these very handicapped children in the past. I did not know what I was accepting when I agreed to go and I think the first day I spent at that Naval Base camp has left a scar which I will never quite get rid of. I arrived at the camp the day before the children came, to set up one of the big canteen rooms as a kindergarten, having gone around to all the kindergartens within my area to borrow tables and chairs and puzzles and all the sorts of equipment that was available. It was during the kindergarten Christmas term holidays and incidentally I had been very active with kindergartens during those years which helped. My own daughter was attending the

Mount Hawthorn kindergarten and I had taken a course in parent education with Catherine King who more or less got me to say 'yes' to anything she suggested. She really had a great influence over me and I used to find myself saying 'yes' to things which I felt it was quite impossible for me to accomplish, so I was fairly well known to a number of the kindergartens. They very willingly lent me the material that was available. The next day the children were due to arrive and I was to be with the sister, a nursing sister, in a room when the children arrived. Here they were to be examined. The nurse to examine them for physical disabilities and a general sort of health check and then they were to be handed to me so that I could decide whether it would be possible for them to take part in any of the sort of play or therapeutic activity. When the first ambulance arrived over the hill, it contained something like thirty or forty wheelchairs and crutches, no children, just piled high with crutches and wheelchairs and walking leg irons and gadgets. I just began to wonder what I had struck and then line after line of ambulances came, I think we had about 70 children. They were brought in just like a sack of potatoes over the ambulance drivers' shoulders and put down onto these mattresses and we had to make a snap decision as to what we could do to help these children. It was amazing really, the response. For the first two days I cried inside. I thought, 'how can I go through a whole month' and I was trying to think of excuses as to how I could get away. I felt it was something quite beyond me. At meal times everybody helped feed children. They practically all had to be fed. I had taken ten Red Cross aides from my company who were able to perform these tasks, but everybody worked at meal times feeding children and as I explained, they were so mixed that there were no two children, with exactly the same disability. At that time the term spastic was practically unknown. In fact when I got the list, the medical list, giving me some idea as to the disabilities I just didn't know what half of them meant. This I think was the beginning of a recognition that spastic children are not always slow learning children. Also that many other children who were up to that time regarded as being quite incapable of doing things, were proved to be able to do considerable tasks under very light supervision once the encouragement and the warmth and the support and the

material was presented to them.

One day, I think about the third day, we hired a truck and put mattresses on the truck floor and laid the ones that had to be laid, on these mattresses. We were all sitting around the edge and we had at least two children each on our knees. As we made our way to take them for a drive, I've forgotten where our destination was, I think it was to swim somewhere, we almost had a collision. I think it's the nearest thing I've ever been to a real collision. I wasn't driving incidentally. I was nursing two children. The children were singing at the top of their voices, there was a terrific jerk as the truck stopped and for a moment the thought went through my mind, 'would it matter very much'. I still had this awful feeling about these children. But then I realized that the children were having a whale of a time, and it was me, it wasn't the children, it was me and if everybody felt like I did, they must abandon it because all these children wouldn't be able to have a lovely time if we wouldn't help them and my entire attitude towards handicapped children changed from that moment on. This camp was I believe a tremendous success and it's something that has been continued and is still being continued. Now of course the various handicaps have been sorted out and the children are put into groups where they fit in. Also so many different tests and diagnoses have been made so that we no longer have this collection of children with a very wide variety of handicaps. Throughout the years this program still continues. We of course had no training and we didn't even know the term 'Occupational Therapist', but this job is now being done very skilfully by occupational therapists in all the organizations and institutions which care for these children. However we did get through that camp and a very many more camps. It became an annual event.

Later I became camp mother for the first camp which was run exclusively for mentally retarded children and this was held under the auspices of the Slow Learning Children's Group but it was really sponsored by the Education Department and the Psychology Department at the University to give the people who were going to work with these children an actual experience of living with these children.

The staff were to change every five days and some post-graduate students from the University and some people from the Teachers' Training College and various people were going to be concerned. They came to that camp and had to live for five days with a very small group of children, in some cases it was only two children. We tried to grade the children according to the degree of retardation. Some staff members would have up to five children and in each group there would be what we would call the female figure and the male figure and they had to be actually in attendance on the children 24 hours a day so that they would experience just what the parent experiences, whether it was a wet bed or whatever. It was a very strenuous camp indeed. Some of the children, I think about a third, came from country areas. They were children who had never been outside of their homes. They probably dragged out their little lives on back verandahs. There were thirty children I think from Claremont Mental Hospital and then a group of around about twenty from an Occupation Centre, which was a fairly new idea in those days. These were children who had had some group experience in a very special class for mentally retarded children. They came along as a group with the teacher in charge. Apart from the post-graduates and the people who were actually going to work with these children later we enrolled five grandmothers who had had no experience except bringing up children and being fond of children. This was an experiment to see whether the experience went so very far ahead of just what was provided by the love and support and understanding of a person who had simply brought up a family. I won't tell you what the result of this was, all I can say at this stage is that we lost quite a few post-graduates who had intended to work with slow learners.

The late Dr. Elwyn Morey was co-director with me in that camp, and it was just the most amazing thing to see these children. Every five days when we changed the person who had been in charge, they played up. This was in either 1950 or 1951. Every evening we had a case conference when all the workers got together and discussed the problems and the successes of the day. Dr. Morey or the head of the Teachers' Training College or a head of the Mental Hospital came along either

to lead this conference or to listen to and perhaps advise as to what had happened. This was a most interesting session. I can remember I think about the second day, one person coming to me and asking whether I would give her permission to smack a certain child who had played up and who was quite well known for playing up. I said, "My answer is no, but bring it up at the case conference tonight when Dr. Morey is here." When Dr. Morey arrived I mentioned that this was going to come up as a problem and she would be required to answer. She was horrified and I can remember her saying, "Now that person could have written a 50 page thesis and not mentioned smacking once if she hadn't had 24 hour care of this particular child!" These camps as I said have continued and now I understand several are held each year during the summer vacation, although I no longer take part in them.

Another activity, which I started in 1948, was to take handicrafts to Princess Margaret Hospital. At that time Dr. Edmonds was Superintendent and he was very concerned about the children who were suffering from the effects of rheumatic fever and who had to lie perfectly still on some occasions for several months. They had three periods of varied activity, either they had to lie completely still or they were allowed to sit up for one hour or they were allowed to sit up one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. Very often when these children were taken home this treatment had to continue and the parents were at their wit's end to know how to occupy them when they had to be kept so very quiet. Dr. Edmonds asked whether we could introduce some sort of handicraft or occupation for these children who had to spend so long in this particular ward in the Princess Margaret Hospital. I started with practically nothing in the way of materials. They just had to fall from the sky. It was started in a small way. It grew very quickly and became a very important part of these children's lives. I was able to get the Red Cross to come in behind me and supply not only members from my particular Emergency Service Company but also the materials, so that these children would not be deprived because we had not sufficient. The work was extended from the rheumatic heart ward right through the

hospital and we attended on two or three afternoons per week. It was whilst I was doing this work that I noticed that many of the children were straining their eyes, reading comics with very small print. This seemed to be the only reading matter available. I was working at that time with a Mrs. Ida Swift and she also noticed these children with their eyes screwed up so we got together and decided to appeal for books and to provide a library for the children at the Princess Margaret Hospital so that they would no longer need to beg comics to read. Mrs. Ida Swift had a very good connection with country people as she had been a very successful farmer following her husband's death when her children were very young, so she appealed throughout the country areas for donations or books and I did the same in the metropolitan area. In 1949 we were able to establish a very good library with at least 800 books which we had backed and catalogued and I attended along with a number of my helpers on two days a week, changing books, keeping them in repair. This in due course was handed over to the social workers at the hospital. It had up to that point been very difficult to recruit social workers, especially social workers who had time to do this job, but this was handed over I think round about 1951 and as far as I know that library still functions in Princess Margaret Hospital.

In 1952 I was appointed a Justice of the Peace and asked whether I would be prepared to sit on the marital cases. At that time these cases were held in the ordinary police court. There was no special provision made because it was a marital problem and they were not criminals. We would have a case perhaps for breaking and entering and then there would be a marital case and then there would be a case of stealing and the whole atmosphere was very mixed and there was very little privacy. The courts were open to the public. Children were running round the courts and we saw many couples in that time when both the magistrate and the Justice felt that this separation could have been saved had there been an organization to help them. Some of the couples were very young, a girl would come in with perhaps a twelve month's old baby and a 19, 20 or 21 year old father. The start of their trouble we could tell had often been something very small and probably could have been helped, yet these

bewildered people were leaving the court very much in need of support and there was just nowhere that they could get help or advice. This need had become very obvious to women in other organizations, particularly in the Women Justices' Organization and the Women's Service Guilds. At that time there was an organization called the Women's Parliament which was a sort of model parliament which I think did a very good job during the course of its life time. They too were very interested in forming a Marriage Guidance Council. We invited, from South Australia, a Dr. Amy Wheaton who was a lecturer in sociology in charge of the school of Social Work at Adelaide University and she came over to the Women's Service Guild to speak at one of our annual conferences on the work that was being done by the Marriage Guidance Councils in Britain where she had spent some time. She had returned to Adelaide and a Marriage Guidance Council had been established there and she felt that we could very well support an organization or actually launch such an organization in Western Australia. We were very impressed with what she had to tell us, especially those of us who sat on the marital courts. We had at least five women, Justices of the Peace, as members of the Guilds who were sitting on the courts at that time, and so although the Women's Service Guilds did not actually launch this alone, they played a very major role in calling a committee together. That committee had a very rocky road for about two years. The minutes seem to have been lost. We did quite a lot of spade work and then we came up with the idea that if we were going to start such a project it would need at least some money. In the meantime another committee seemed to have been formed and was working alongside. Neither of us knew of the existence of the other one but at some stage we seemed to combine and three of the members waited on the then Minister for Justice. I think it was something like fifty pound was given which seemed quite a good sum in those days. Having this fifty pounds to do the spade work the next thing was that now we needed somebody who knew how to start a Marriage Guidance Council. There was another delay until almost at the same time, two people arrived from England who had actually been Marriage Councillors in Britain. One was the Reverend Price who was a Baptist minister at the Central Baptist Church, the other was a solicitor and I do not remember his name, but between the two they were able to draft

a program, first of all how we should select counsellors, how we should train them and how we should function. They did a tremendous amount of spade work and the Marriage Guidance Council came into existence I think in 1952. As I say, the early records seem to have been lost. We've never quite been able to discover the exact date. It was decided that the first trainees should have a professional background so that they could be trained quickly and so it was social workers and people in kindred work who were selected to take that first course. About six counsellors were accredited probably round about 1953 and we obtained premises in Havelock Street which were to be used as a Marriage Guidance Council. The only thing we had plenty of was goodwill, because we had no money. We had to furnish the rooms from our own homes. We took in furniture and curtains, we painted the walls and apart from the few professional people who had been trained as counsellors, we as an executive committee performed the other duties as well as the clerical side, that is admitting the people who were needing help and doing some of the recording. Not the names of course, this was highly confidential, but we did all the work in an entirely voluntary capacity. The counsellors too, although they were highly skilled people, there was no money, ever, to pay them. This was carried on for I think about four or five years, without any substantial grants being made whatsoever, until the need was proved for this service, when a small Government grant was made available. The first group of counsellors of course were invaluable in helping to set up a training course for future counsellors and also during the first two years several other people arrived from overseas with actual marriage counselling experience. Of course that organization has grown from strength to strength and now have magnificent headquarters in Richardson Street West Perth. They are expecting to perform a very extended role in family counselling, once the new Family Law Bill becomes operative. They also have established a centre in Fremantle which is very busy. But it was because of the concern, particularly of the women who were sitting in the marital courts as Justices of the Peace, sharing the bench with a special magistrate, who saw the need for help and support and sympathy before people actually got into a court situation that this was started. We all felt quite



convinced that once they got into a court and the solicitors started with the cross-examinations and all the dirty washing was aired, that if there'd been a chance of a reconciliation before they came in it certainly vanished by the time they left. The Women's Service Guilds also later were successful in getting the Minister for Justice to move the court out of the petty sessions court into a special court which was established in Sherwood Court in very congenial surroundings. This was so people who had no other problem except that they were having difficulties with a marital relationship, would not have to mix with the ordinary offenders. They were closed courts so that it would at least be private, because we did find on occasions where the next door neighbour or the woman across the road who knew that the case was coming up would just come and sit in the court to hear all that was happening and this of course was disastrous for the parties concerned. Almost before the court was moved into Sherwood Court the demand was so great that it became too small and also the lease was limited, and shortly afterwards the courts moved to their present location which is in St. George's Terrace in the building which was the State Government Insurance Building which will probably be part of the Family Court when its established. So the Guilds do feel that they can take some credit for, first of all the forming of the Marriage Guidance Council, and secondly for getting a special private court and thirdly of course for supporting in every possible way, the family unit. It has been one of the basic objects of the Women's Service Guilds, to keep the family intact, to support the family and to realize the importance of the family unit and practically anything which we have felt has needed doing, has been done. But we did share in this formation of the Marriage Guidance Council with at least two other organizations and some church organizations.

In 1957, Dr. David Mace came to Western Australia. He was actually doing a tour of Australia and he was the original founder in Britain of Marriage Guidance Councils. We were having a national Marriage Guidance Council conference in Melbourne that year and I was one of the delegates to attend, with Mrs. Nell Slater, and Mr. White, a psychologist. The three of us went from Western Australia.

Dr. Mace was in charge of this conference which was highly successful. Before departing from Melbourne Dr. David Mace invited me to go to sit on a commission in Brussels. The International Union of Family Organizations, which is a world-wide organization of which he was at that time president. I had to go at my own expense, but I had intended to visit Britain that year to do an inservice course in Citizen's Advice Bureau work, so I was very thrilled to be able to accept this invitation. When I arrived in Brussels I found people from 32 different nations attending this particular conference. We had all been asked to be able to give the details as far as possible of conciliation services available for saving marriages in our particular country. I was amazed to find people from countries where divorce was just unknown, Moslem countries, Hindu communities, Roman Catholic countries, where they were all having this problem of separation even though divorce was not allowed. The marriages were breaking and there was great concern from all the countries as to what was being done in other countries. We wanted to see if there was something we could pick up and take back to our own country which might help. Each country representative was asked in turn to try and state why this particular breakdown was happening in the marriage situation in their country. Each country spokesman gave practically the same answer - that this was due to the raising of the status of the women - yet not one of those representatives said they would turn the clock back. It was generally agreed that because women now have status; because they were no longer tied to the domestic home; because there were ways in which they could earn a living which had not been available to them previously; because a lot of the stigma had gone and because there was a general understanding that getting into marriage was just so easy that it was really rather wonderful it worked as well as it had. But all felt it was the raising of the status of women that was the major cause. But we had no remedies forthcoming from any country. It was a problem which just hadn't been solved. It had grown but it had not been solved and I felt that this was rather a wonderful experience to have heard all these different people. Each talk had to be interpreted, I don't know how many different languages, but it was really a wonderful experience.

From there I went to attend the national Marriage Guidance Council meeting in Buxton in Britain and I was very proud to be able to tell them just how high the standard of our Marriage Guidance Council was in Western Australia. I visited a number of the Marriage Councils there. They had very varied ways of training counsellors. I actually did a Marriage Guidance training course while I was there, just so that I could see where the differences were, but I felt very pleased with the way in which we selected, trained and accredited our counsellors. We always had a very high standard for selecting and accrediting counsellors and I did find when I spoke to the groups of people in Britain, that they were very impressed with what we were doing here and I would think probably the same situation would still apply.

During the War years I was approached to do some special work with the Girl Guide Association. I was at that time a member of the Council of the Girl Guide Association and it was felt that there was a need to give the girls some training in order that they may or probably would, many of them, enter the services, this being of course during the War time period, and it was considered that a company could be especially established for girls between the ages of 15 and 16. We formed a very good group. I had an excellent offsider and we were able to train these girls in first aid, home nursing and A.R.P. work. (Editor's note - Air Raid Precaution). This was I think very helpful to the girls apart from the fact that they may enter the services. However the end of the War came fairly soon and this company was disbanded. Shortly afterwards I was approached by Mrs. Sally Carlton and Lady Lee Steere to take over as adviser for the Girl Guides with handicaps. There were a number of these companies throughout the State and there was also a company being run at the Princess Margaret Hospital of local children who needed some help, some particular help and I undertook, I think with great reluctance and humility, this task of trying to form a club or a company, with such scattered children and of course children with such varied handicaps. However we got this off the ground and during my term as captain or adviser I felt that it was serving a very great purpose, but because of other

commitments I had to eventually hand this on to Miss Mauldon who was at that time the Deputy Principal of the Kindergarten Teachers' College and she did I believe a very excellent job in this regard.

I had been teaching at various kindergartens for some time, principally at the Margaret Kindergarten and also at the Presbyterian Ladies' College Kindergarten and I had to resign for a time due to illness. Then I was asked by the Kindergarten Association (Editor's Note - Then known as Kindergarten Union) when I recovered, whether I would be willing to start or launch a kindergarten at the Government Receiving Home for the children who were admitted to that reception centre. These were mostly the children from homes where for one reason or another they could not be cared for. Perhaps where the parents had been cruel to them; where the parents had walked out on them or where the parents for one reason or another were just not able to cope. Pretty well all these children were emotionally disturbed. Very often a whole family of children would be brought in at short notice, quite young children. There were no facilities whatsoever within the Government Receiving Home for entertaining or giving any special help to these children because it was very limited staff. The Director of the Child Welfare Department (Ed. Note - now Community Welfare Department) was very anxious for the best possible facilities to be made available to these children. I undertook to do this to the best of my ability and I think perhaps it was the most rewarding part of my life. These children came, as I said, from all sorts of backgrounds. There were a number of small children who had been almost abandoned at birth and they had been living their entire lives within the precincts of the Government Receiving Home. They were very well cared for physically, but there was just no time to either teach them to talk or walk or do any of the things which children learn mostly of course from mothers. They were given to me at the age of two and they saw what to them was a new world with space, play equipment and someone to give time. I was given virtually an open cheque by the Child Welfare Department and a large room which had been built for a store room and had been found to be a little too far away from the ordinary building. The children would go along a

corridor and through a door for we wanted them to feel that they were just like ordinary children in that they were going out to a kindergarten or something that was quite different. I was able to get the best equipment. This is one of the things of course that my husband and I have always been interested in - equipment. I think there was more joy brought into the lives of these children during that period than I've ever been able to bring into the lives of any children. They were so excited to come into this kindergarten and it was described as a fairyland. It was later acknowledged as the best equipped kindergarten in Western Australia, because as I say, I was asked not to spare expense and to create something that was really rather wonderful. Sometimes I would start the morning with perhaps eight or ten children and finish with eighteen or twenty, because as they came into the institution, they were brought straight in to the Kindergarten without going through any of the procedures which would have to be gone through later. Even school children came to the kindergarten, so it was a very mixed, varied family. Pretty well every child had an emotional scar and I think perhaps those children needed the kindergarten, the stability and of course all the equipment which was there, to help them through their particular problem. We had children with weals from straps from shoulder to ankle; children who were so cowered that they wouldn't dare to take a toy from a shelf; children who had found the mother perhaps with her throat cut in the bath the night before. It is too impossible to describe all the backgrounds from which these children came. I did feel that it was perhaps one of the most rewarding times in my life, and when I see these children now in their thirties, they still remember me. They're grown up adults but they never forget you, particularly slow learners, this is rather wonderful I think. I always feel it's one of the greatest tributes when I go to perhaps a fete which is run for the slow learners of Nathaniel Harper and these children come - women now, and they come running over and I do feel that is one of the rewarding parts in my life. It was a position without an assistant, it was just a one person job and of course these children really needed at least two or three people, because normal children, if two decided to run away they run away in the same direction, but with these children, if they decided to run away they go in opposite directions. It was rather

hard for one person. It was from this kindergarten at the Government Receiving Home that Bridgewater was established which is a very wonderful improvement in facilities and space, and I'm sure its providing, fulfilling a very great need.

Well perhaps the next move I should talk about was when I went to work for the Slow Learning Children's Group. The Women's Service Guilds had of course launched the Slow Learning Children's Group in (I think) 1951 when it was felt that not enough was being done for parents with children with a mental handicap. A very small group of parents who had gone from doctor to doctor, from hospital to hospital, trying to find a way of helping their own particular child and keeping it within the home, asked the Women's Service Guilds if they would call a meeting together of interested parents. This was formed as I said, in 1951 and in the early days I did a lot of voluntary work for them. In 1956 or 57, I was asked to go on to the staff as a welfare officer and I was very interested in this position. It was something quite new and very challenging. The numbers of children enrolled with the Slow Learning Children's Group was around about 600 at that time and there was of course a need for co-ordination for home visits and for helping the family to make it possible to keep the child in the home. There were no hostels, no short-stay places, no tangible relief for parents in times of great need and it was felt that a person should be available to go and see these families. Having done quite a lot of the ground work with the Citizen's Advice Bureau and knowing where all the social agencies were that could help, and knowing which string to pull at the right moment, I felt that perhaps this was something that I could do and also of course having a very great sympathy and I hope some understanding of the needs of handicapped children and especially of the families, I was very glad to be able to do this. In due course we were invited to look for a suitable place for what was going to be called a Clinic where we could employ, or the Government could employ doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and all the therapists, occupational, physio and speech. It was rather a pipedream at the time. It seemed as though it would never be possible, but we did find suitable premises opposite the Princess Margaret Hospital and we were given an assurance by Dr. Moynagh who was at

that time the Superintendent of the Mental Health Services to go ahead. Three of us, Mrs. McGillivray, myself, and Dr. Hockey were appointed to open up Irrabeena, Mrs. McGillivray to do the inside work, I was to do the field work and relieve Mrs. McGillivray when she had to be relieved and Dr. Hockey was to come in on a sessional basis (Editor's Note: Dr. Digby Moynagh was appointed Inspector General of Mental Health in 1958). Dr. Audrey Little gave one day a week with psychological help. This was a very small beginning but very much appreciated by the parents, and we did a tremendous job there with the slow learning child and the family. As the centre staff grew we were able to do more and more for the children. At that time I was the only person doing the welfare work and the home visits. I was on call day and night. When we heard of a child, or when a child first appeared at Irrabeena either with or without a doctor's referral. Before the file was set up I used to endeavour to visit the home to try and get a sort of assessment of the possibility of the family, as to whether they were going to be able to keep that child in the home; whether it was going to cause conflict between parents or the parents and the siblings and whether the help of the mother was going to be good enough. We had to get some rough idea, so that we would know what facilities would be needed, whether it would be hostel facilities or just occupation centre or minding centre. We also had to know the attitude of the family towards the child. I would write up this case history briefly and then of course the child would be seen by a doctor to see if there was a physical reason for the retardation, then by a psychologist to assess the mental capacity of the child. Irrabeena was, as Dr. Moynagh wanted it to be, a service from birth to the grave, so that when a mother was able to contact Irrabeena, or when we were able to contact the mother, we were able to tell her all the services that were available so that she wouldn't feel that she was out on a limb. These services were not only for the mentally retarded child, with such things as short-stay hostels, camps and being seen regularly at the clinic, but I was there to support the whole family, to try and help them through any particular crises. I was most interested and thoroughly completely absorbed in this job, which as I say, was seven days a week. I used to leave a card with

a family, with my home phone number and the Irrabeena phone number. I was available at any time, day or night. Quite often you know, I'd have perhaps a distracted father sitting on my doorstep on Sunday morning telling me he needed a housekeeper before Monday when he had to start a new job, or I'd be rung in the night from one of our short-stay homes to tell me a child was running a temperature and I would have to go up and pick up the child and take it to Princess Margaret Hospital or if we knew where the mother was I'd find her and take her to the short-stay hostel and then she could make the decision. Most of the children in the hostels at that time were from the country and we had to make the snap decisions ourselves. It was a job with many, many sides, many varieties, very stimulating and I spent 8½ packed years I think with Irrabeena which I wouldn't have missed for anything.

I have always been interested in migrants and the Women's Service Guilds became involved with the Good Neighbour Council when it was first formed. I have been a member ever since the foundation of the Good Neighbour Council, holding executive positions for many years and also serving as a vice-president. I have done voluntary work as an interviewer in the office on many occasions and I have also relieved the permanent welfare officer when she has been on holidays. I have done home visits to newly arrived migrants who have had problems with housing and homesickness. We've tried to help them in every possible way and this is something that I'm still doing in some small measure as a member of the Good Neighbour Council.

I am also still a member of the Young Women's Christian Association which I mentioned earlier. It was one of the first things I did, when I came to Western Australia, to join the Y.W.C.A., the day of my arrival. I was then a member of the Girls' Club and I am now the immediate past president of their Retired Business and Professional Women's Club. So many of us in our young days had such a wonderful time and we formed such close links that we felt we wanted to keep together; this was a particular club, and throughout the years we have met at intervals, perhaps three or four times a year at each other's homes and kept a contact. We met people from other clubs



who had the same feeling and who have now grown beyond the club stages and so it was decided, and I'm not quite sure of the year, to form a club where all these members who felt they had now grown past any of the operating clubs could still form themselves into a group to help the Y.W.C.A., and to keep the friendships intact and this was done. I didn't join that at the beginning because it was formed while I was at Irrabeena. When they invited me to join I pointed out that I was not retired and they said this was not essential. I did go as a speaker on several occasions on various subjects and when I retired I did become an active member. I only attended five meetings when I was made president and I held that position until a few months ago when I handed it on to Miss Rita Jones. We do find that this club serves a very special need because a lot of our members would perhaps be lonely without the associations that they've had together throughout the years and we are able to perform a service to the Y.W.C.A. because we have perhaps more time. Some of us wonder why we ever retired because we have less time, but I'm very interested in the Y.W.C.A. and I don't think I will ever lose my interest in that organization.

I did belong to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Actually I represented the Citizen's Advice Bureau from the Marriage Guidance Council and had in its earliest years gone over to Britain and done a course of study, intending the Women's Service Guilds to launch this but shortly after I returned from Britain I started at Irrabeena in a full time capacity so I wasn't able to do it. But when I retired I did join up with the Citizen's Advice Bureau and I did work as an interviewer and adviser over the phone as to what services were available, for two or three years. Then I went on to the executive and this rather divorces you from the actual bureau work, so I have been an executive member and I am the Deputy Chairman of the Citizen's Advice Bureau. We were offered through the Public Trust the organizing or the carrying out of what they call the Distressed Persons' Relief Trust. A fairly large sum of money had been set aside and we were offered this to help people in need who could not be helped by any

other organization. This was administered by a small committee under direction from the Trust. Miss Ethel Scott, Sir Thomas Wardle and Mr. Cross plus two others are on the Committee. A case sheet is filled out by an officer of the C.A.B. and sent to this Committee who make the final decision and hand over a cheque to the officer who then pays the bills or debts or makes the necessary arrangements. The person seeking help does not handle the money at all. This is a fairly new thing this Distressed Person's Relief Trust and we only see people by referral from social workers, sisters in Shire councils, Welfare officers etc. We have numerous referrals for all manner of things. Most are people in dire need or people who through no fault of their own have accumulated debts they are unable to cope with. We had one woman who had refused to pay a contractor's bill because the workmen had burnt a hole in the bathroom wall. She was taken to court and lost the case and could not pay. Another woman on a pension had a child dying of an incurable disease and to please the child had spent money on luxuries and bus trips and was deeply in debt as a result. Another pensioner was trying to pay for the funeral of some relative who had died while in a nursing home and the funeral director was suing for the full amount. We were able to help all these people in some way. I am amazed at the numbers of people in this State who suffer real hardship. There are many sad cases, often women on a deserted wife's pension. Most are worthy cases who desperately need some financial help. I worked with this section from the beginning when I helped launch it, perhaps for fifteen months or so until I went to hospital. There are enough funds to provide help for some time to come.

I do also belong to the Council of the Ageing. I represent the Women's Service Guilds on that and I feel that in view of my own ageing, I should perhaps be putting some effort into that. I'm simply a member at the moment. I have also been a member for many years, but not at the present time, of the Business and Professional Women's Club. They changed the night of meetings to a night that was impossible for me to attend and I have since joined the Soroptimist International which of course is a service club and I am quite active in that particular club. We try to raise money for very worthy

causes such as providing talking books, wheelchairs, electrically operated wheelchairs, so that children who have almost total incapacity can be mobile with the help of these chairs, and can get themselves around. Anything which, is really necessary in the way of aids, is worked for by the Soroptimist Club.

Going back a few years, I should perhaps mention that I was a foundation member of the Telephone Samaritan Service. We had seen the need for this in pretty well all the organizations I've belonged to, because the time always comes in everybody's life when they need advice and they would rather have it from someone who is not closely connected. Also many are in a state of despair and they think they've come to the end of the line and many of them are contemplating suicide. In fact some who ring have already taken the steps to do this and there seems to be a moment of realization that they have taken over a certain number of pills or they have done something which unless there is help available, is irreparable. Well this need to help had become obvious to the Reverend Woodroffe when he came to Western Australia since he had worked on the Telephone Samaritan Service in Manchester in the north of England. But he said when he came to Western Australia and asked to be shown the slums, he was taken to see something that he didn't consider slums at all, all he saw were the lovely homes and climate and he realized that everybody seemed to be in a fairly good position with very little unemployment. So he felt he was not going to be able to start a Telephone Samaritan Service here. However he then read in the paper that the number of suicides in Australia, was the second largest in the world. This alerted him and he really got busy and did a tremendous amount of spade work in forming this group of Telephone Samaritans. I think perhaps this is the most wonderful service because it is offered 24 hours, 7 days a week. The telephones are manned day and night. There's never a break and it goes through Christmas Day and every holiday. It is a tremendous job trying to get people to man the telephones, so that there is always a listening ear for a person if they're just absolutely desperate because they're lonely or depressed. I used to get calls from people who would say, "look I'm not going to commit suicide but I just must talk to someone, my husband died three weeks ago, the house is empty.

I've begun to drink at night to make me sleep and I realize I'm going to be an alcoholic and I just want somebody to talk to. I haven't heard a human voice or been outside for awhile." They're not all suicides but we have had a number of people who have rung and said "I want you to know I have taken 15 or so tablets". We have heard and I did twice in one night, the telephone drop. Each time we were able to get the telephone people to trace the call and get there in time. On one occasion the parents had arrived home and found their child had taken an overdose, but this of course is happening all the time. I did Saturday night duty. This was my night, and I wouldn't say that all the worst things happen on Saturday night since I only know what happened when I was on duty. About once a month, we would stay all night. Well at first, because we were very short of helpers, I would go on at five in the afternoon and stay as long as I could. We didn't have the all night service, we'd perhaps knock off at two or three in the morning, or whenever we felt we had to. Now of course they have the definite rosters and if you go on at night you usually go on at eleven o'clock and stay until eight the next morning. This is something that I'm not doing actively now but I did this until 1971, very actively. I still help when I can with constitutional matters and organization and so on. I'm very proud to think I was a foundation member though a rather unwilling one at first I must confess.

One first that I'm going to claim is that I was the first woman in Western Australia to appear on live television. Television had been in Western Australia for some little time, but it was all films. Very few people had television sets and they would congregate in front of shop windows. They would take the chairs and sit in groups watching. Then the announcement appeared in the Saturday's paper that there was going to be a live panel on a Monday night, who would discuss some matter dealing with legislation. It didn't say just what but that the panel would consist of at least four men and one woman. The Monday morning's paper indicated that this panel was really going to take place and gave the names of the four men and the chairman. One was the head of police, one was a Member of Parliament, one was a Minister and one represented the Licensed Victuallers Association or

the Hotelkeepers' Association but it didn't give the name of the woman. I remember musing over the morning paper, as to who that would be. At that time I was doing voluntary handicraft teaching at an old people's centre in Cleaver Street under the League of House Help during the lunch time I had to go into town. We'd run out of cane and when I came back, I just came through a back door into the room where all these bustling people were. Around about fifty or sixty old people all waiting for this cane, and someone came in to tell me I was wanted on the phone. When I went in to the phone they said, "It's the Daily News here. We want to talk to you about your interview tonight on T.V." And I said, "Oh I'm not on T.V. tonight." This voice said "Oh, is there another Mrs. Winifred Kastner?" and I said, "Well not that I know of." And he said, "Well you are you know." And I said, "Well you'd think that I'd know." There was this dead silence and he said, "Haven't you heard from Mr. so and so, I said "No." There there was this awful pause and I looked down and on the desk where there was a note to say, "When Mrs. Kastner comes back, get her to ring the name of the man he'd mentioned." "Oh, I said, I beg your pardon, There's a message here. I've been out for over an hour and there's a message here for me to ring this man." So he said, "Oh well, I'd better get off the phone, The Daily News can ring you later." I don't know how they ever found me here because I had left no trails behind me, I don't know how they had located me and I've never found out who nominated me either. They did ask me if I would take part in this panel but were unable to tell me what the discussion was about because it was going to be quite spontaneous. "The only thing I'm going to tell you is not to wear black and not to wear white and just to come at eight o'clock or nine o'clock and we'd take it from there " Well I was a little bewildered because this was round about two, two or three in the afternoon. My hair was like a bird's nest, so I almost immediately excused myself from the centre, left it to my helpers, and got my hair done. That was stage one. When I got home my husband had gone fishing so he wasn't here to tell and I certainly couldn't look anything up because I didn't know what it was all about. I arrived at the studio in due course, very, very nervous as to what was going to happen. I was taken through into this room where the experiment was going to

take place. It was a hive of activity because I think all the technicians were interested in what was going to happen. We were seated behind this sort of oval setting with the chairman in the centre and I was sitting next to him. There were two of us on either side and we all had our name in front of us. Of course all the lights were blaring and there were men everywhere. Then a man came round the front of us and looked into our faces - peered into our faces. He said to the first one who happened to be a minister of religion "I think you'd better come with me," then he said to the next one, "I think you'd better come with me," and when he got to me I realised it was for make-up and I said, "Oh I think I'll probably need two coats of house paint." And he said, "Well as a matter of fact, you're all right." But he took the four men away and I was very amused to see them coming back with their heads down and with their lipstick on and a little bit of colour in their cheeks and with make-up. We still didn't quite know what it was about until they told us it was to be in connection with introducing the liquor laws, the ten o'clock closing and on Sunday trading. The Licenced Victualers Association were very anxious for it and so were the Hotelkeepers' Association. The Member of Parliament was a man who was going to introduce the legislation and I was there to speak for the home and the family. What would this do to Sundays, for families, what would it do to the women, what would it do to the pay packet, this was my angle. The show went on for an hour and ten minutes actually, not an hour. This is something that would never ever happen now.

The funny part was that my husband was coming back from his fishing trip and had called to see a friend. He was coming back in the car on the road and there were these crowds in front of the V.V. and as he went past he glanced at the set. He thought, "Gee, that looks like Win." The next shop he came to, he stopped the car and line up with the crowd and that's how he saw me on T.V. As I say I wasn't able to tell anyone about it before hand. Anyway I wasn't game to in case it was a complete wash-out. I felt I had to speak against the legislation on behalf of families, because Sunday I did feel, was one

day when the family should be together and I felt it would take husbands and fathers out of the home. I didn't think the pay packet could really stretch to seven day drinking and we had read the statistics where it was introduced in N.S.W. where the accident rate and the rape rate had gone up very much after the introduction of ten o'clock drinking. Once I knew the subject I completely forgot I was on T.V., except for these terrible lights and all these people crawling on the floor in the background trying to get a look. Afterwards they took us to look over the building because it was very new. They took me into the beauty parlour and the powder room and said "Now you can always say you were the first star to go in there". They invited us to supper and then found they had nothing but beer. Having been the one to speak very much against the extension of hours I couldn't very well drink any so they borrowed a bottle of coke from one of the technician's supper case. Next day this was all put in print in the paper that they'd had to search in the supper cases to find a bottle of coke to give the lady who was against the 'legislation!

Just a word on Women's Liberation before we finish.

I think Women's Liberation has gone a long way from what we anticipated. For instance when the Women's Service Guilds were formed it was an entirely different basis. Although they were set up to bring about equality between the sexes, I'm quite sure it was very far removed from the Women's Liberation Movement. I doubt very much whether many of those pioneer women would agree with what's happening at the present time.

I think they've got away from the original aims. The things that the Women's Service Guild asked for in 1909 and continuously throughout the years, have pretty well all come about. I mean equal pay, women sitting on juries, accepting the responsibilities as well as the privileges and Marriage Councils. I mean the very many things that they worked for have come about but they were not the sort of things that the Women's Lib. are asking for. They were not asked for in quite the same way. I think we would consider the present Womens' Lib. Movement perhaps a little bit extreme. I doubt that

the Women's International Year has helped the position of women. This is something I've thought about quite a lot and I've listened to the comments and you can only really go by comments and I feel that it hasn't helped. It wasn't what the women expected really. I don't feel that it's helped the situation that they set out to celebrate in International Women's Year. I don't think that when the end of International Women's Year comes we will be able to look back and see that it has achieved anything worthwhile.

The general standards have changed, even in my day as president of the organizations, we didn't have to discuss things like abortion and contraceptives and all this sort of thing. I think its necessary. They've got to now but they were not there when we were discussing things. I mean the scope is so very different and I think probably its very worthwhile, but I don't quite agree with the way its being donw, probably a lot of good is being done but I don't know. I'm reserved, about my decision. Its not an organization I would want to be closely associated with at the present time, I think I'd be trying to moderate some of the ideas. I've never called myself a feminist because I don't believe I am. I still see the home and I still feel the mother should be with the children, at least until such time as they go to school and I think if she chooses marriage she's got to accept the first few years to give to her children. I'd be the last one to say, you can hand them over to a creche, you can do what you like, you can go back to work, you don't have to stay home if you don't want to. But I think when we enter into marriage freely without pressures and I think the roles can never be equal. We could never have equal roles. A man could just pack his few clothes in a case and go and he's as free as air. But a woman cannot. We produce the children, we carry them inside us for nine months and when they're born, they'r just part of us and you just can't detach yourself, if you're a normal person, from that responsibility. Therefore the roles can never be absolutely equal. They can be complimentary with the equal opportunity that we're always asking for. No home is considered a perfect, or a full home unless there's a mother and a father and I think Parliament and Councils need the male and female ideas. You wouldn't think any home was



complete without a mother, with just a father or even a father and his brother, or with several men running the home you would never feel it was complete and yet we're satisfied to let the councils and the parliaments and all the sort of power organizations be run by men. It still makes headlines if a woman breaks into it. I'm quite in favour of women taking a much greater part in community affairs because I think there are certain issues that affect women so much more than they affect men and I think that we're going to notice this so much more when this new Family Law Bill comes in. I think it's going to make a tremendous difference to family life and I'm not sure whether it's going to be for better or worse. I have my doubts. I think marriage will become unnecessary and just what's going to happen then. No country has ever come through this and maintained it. They've always modified it and I think we're just going to go through the same awful pain and then have to modify, because we must have a family unit. We must have some stability. We must give our young people some preparation for marriage so that they don't run off from high school to be married by a celebrant under a tree. The stability of family life will go unless we safeguard it.