

# THE B.C. VOICE

THE B. C. VOW  
NEWSLETTER <sup>JX 1974</sup>  
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by BC VOICE OF WOMEN  
BOX 235, NANAIMO, BC  
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PRES., ED., & TREAS., BOX 235 NANAIMO; MEMB. SEC. 124 E. Kings Rd. N. Van.  
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## WHAT DOES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR MEAN TO VOICE OF WOMEN?--M. Stewart

Do you get tired of explaining the difference between Voice of Women and women's lib.? Do you remember our soul-searchings about environmental concerns? (Were we spreading ourselves too thin?) Is concentrating on the issue of war, as such, an unrealistic over-simplification?

While pondering on International Women's Year I have been visited by a revelation affording me some insight into this tangle of mixed motives and self-doubt. Being by nature a dilettante, I find no way to force myself to concentrate on any single aspect of the human dilemma. I simply have to be involved in the peace/liberation movement, the environmental movement, the women's movement, local politics, the P.T.A.--you name it, I'm interested in it. And I'm sure I'm not the only one in this position.

Perhaps those holding down jobs are better able to focus, while the dwindling few of us still at home are hard-pressed to keep volunteer organisations afloat which once drew upon healthy, active memberships. I suspect that this may be a matter of differing temperaments, complementary in their contributions to the group effort. Thus the specialists among us provide the reliable material for the group to work on, and the organizers with their grasp of the inter-relationships both casual and specific, are needed to bring that material into useful perspective.

I see Voice of Women as the umbrella for our concerns. I see it as that mingling place for so many different sorts of commitment. Groups which see the women's movement, or certain aspects of environmental activism, as "the most important" make me impatient. They remind me of Plato's analogy of hands and feet arguing about which was the more essential.

So these days, when asked "that" question, I say: Our contribution to the women's movement is to by-pass the confines of femininity and act as people, pursuing valid interests. No sense of superiority is implied; the mere fact of membership in Voice of Women signifies a level of consciousness involved to the limits of our energy with the many problems of survival. This includes the status of women. This is our contribution to the women's movement. It is one of which we need not be ashamed.

Have you, incidentally, noticed the acronyms for Voice of Women (VOW), Status of Women (SOW) and Council of Women (COW)? And did you notice that we and the University of Victoria Women's Action Group independently gave the same response to the provincial government's request for advice on International Women's Year? -- Take the Human Rights Commission out of the Department of Labour and set it up as an independent department with an adequate women's bureau.

HIGHLIGHTS from the MINUTES  
(Exec. meetings Sep. 17 & Oct. 15)

\* Trident Submarine: some responses from MP's and MLA's. Bob Skelly (NDP Parksville) most concerned re Trident testing at Nanoose Bay.  
Proposals:- Supermarket display  
Trident ongoing campaign  
Project involving Prof. Epstein of UVic, who travels to U.N. re disarmament etc.. Skelly asked to contact him.

\* Nuclear Power Leaflets: TWO now available from B.C. VOW: our own, and one reproduced from The Nuclear Committee.

SEE PAGES 6, 7.

\* Andrew McKillop, reputed leading person in England on Energy Alternatives (active in organization "Low Impact Technology"), will tour Canada in near future, as far West as Calgary. We hope he will include B.C. Vancouver VOW have offered sponsorship and at least \$25.00 - ANY OTHERS??

\* CBC Viewpoint. Lille d'Easum received congratulations on her excellent performance on this program recently, re nuclear power.

\* National VOW co-ordinator Donna Elliott wrote to Lille, reporting interviews with women MP's. Shocked to find them unaware of any dangers in nuclear fission. Requested Lille to send them material.

\* Environment Information 1974, published by Environment Canada, listing hundreds of books, films etc., mentions VOW several times, e.g. their James Bay material. Listed are Lille d'Easum's "Hazards of the Peaceful Atom", Gordon Edwards' "Open Letter To Physicists", Eve Smith's "Man & Resources".

\* Tiger Cage Displays reported for Week of Concern and after. (See Page 3 opposite)

\* Committee for an Independent Canada (CIC). Coppard reported on their Oct. meeting (see page 7 - Ed.) Lille d'Easum urges VOW members publicize and support CIC.

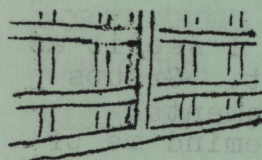
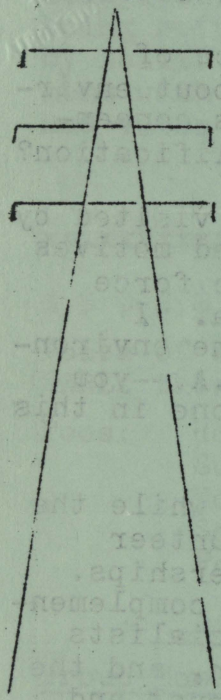
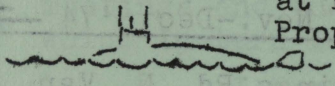
\* National VOW meeting in late Sept. reported on by F. Handford. Motions arising from Freda's report:

(a) B.C. VOW to continue 50-50 fee-sharing with Nat'l (motion to rescind our June 18 motion was defeated).

(b) All B.C. VOW members to be encouraged to send annual pledges to National.

(c) We wish Nat'l VOW every success in their re-organization of Nat'l office in having a Nat'l co-ordinator, and we hope all vice-presidents & council members will continue in office.

\* Vietnamese Orphan: Ven. Thich Man Da La to visit Canada in late Nov., including Vancouver and Victoria. Burnaby VOW sponsoring visit, B.C. VOW contributing \$20; Nanaimo, Powell River and Courtenay groups interested. Marjorie Toren (Rec. Sec.) is writing to Phuong this month. SEE ALSO PAGE FIVE



CIC





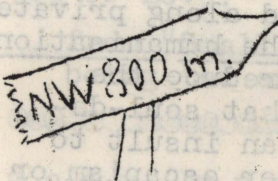
\* New Island Trust Committee: Marion Shipley to write chairman Hilary Brown with a number of suggestions supporting Hilary's premise that the Islands, islanders and non-islanders all must be considered, without wrecking the Islands.



\* Bank Balance as of September 30th: \$353.46  
\$68.13 to be received from convention.  
\$200.00 to be transferred to Savings at 9 1/2% interest.

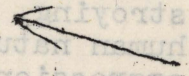


\* Membership: 1 new member during summer, 2 more in September.

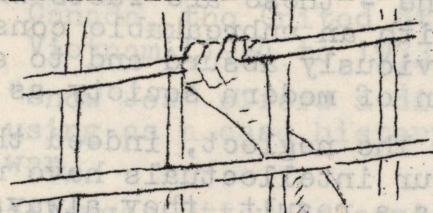


\* Newsletter: Newsletter Reports were conspicuous by their absence! This, because your editor is spending the winter in Edmonton - but she is still trying to produce the B.C. Voice anyway. For greater speed please address all correspondence (until further notice) to

Mrs. Deeno Birmingham, Editor B.C. Voice,  
c/o Siesta Motel, 17817 Stony Plain Road,  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA. T5J 0K3



# TIGER CAGES



VANCOUVER: Claire Culhane displayed the Tiger Cage at Simon Fraser University and Capilano College.

VICTORIA: Ruth Miller's husband built a second Tiger Cage (paid for anonymously) which appeared in front of the Parliament Buildings and elsewhere in the city. It was hoped it would be displayed on church parking lots (no news of this at press time - Ed.).

NANAIMO: The NARMIC slide-show, "The Post-war War", shown to an audience of 65; VOW's Tiger Cage leaflets\* were distributed.

\*Write Mrs. T.M. Cox, Bowser, B.C. for these.

POWELL RIVER: P.R. VOW had tiger cage and torture movie project, after COURTENAY VOW. Martin Rossander writes: "My impression of the public is they generally wish to not know about prisoner torture so that they'll not be judged come Judgement Day. Anyway I'm sure that anyone who doesn't know what a tiger cage is (where it's been shown) will be quickly put down as a dummy who's not in the know. So we've done our work."

## Good News

Death Penalty WASHINGTON - U.S. Roman Catholic bishops Thursday declared their opposition to capital punishment, the first time they have taken such a stand. The action by the chief religious guides to America's 48.5 million Catholics came in the midst of various state and federal legislative moves to revive the death penalty in this country.

- Edmonton Journal, Fri. Nov. 22/1974

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→ ARROWS → in the B.C. Voice → are always for → ACTION →  
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## THE REAL CAUSES OF WAR

"War is a judgement," said Dorothy L. Sayers, "that overtakes societies when they have been living upon ideas that conflict too violently with the laws governing the universe.... Never think that wars are irrational catastrophes; they happen when wrong ways of thinking and living bring about intolerable situations." Economically, our wrong living consists primarily in systematically cultivating greed and envy and thus building up a vast array of totally unwarrantable wants. It is the sin of greed that has delivered us over into the power of the machine. If greed were not the master of modern man - ably assisted by envy - how could it be that the frenzy of economism does not abate as higher 'standards of living' are attained, and that it is precisely the richest societies which pursue their economic advantage with the greatest ruthlessness? How could we explain the almost universal refusal on the part of the rulers of the rich societies - whether organised along private enterprise or collectivist enterprise lines - to work towards the humanisation of work? It is only necessary to assert that something would reduce the 'standard of living', and every debate is instantly closed. That soul-destroying, meaningless, mechanical, monotonous, moronic work is an insult to human nature which must necessarily and inevitably produce either escapism or aggression, and that no amount of 'bread and circuses' can compensate for the damage done - these are facts which are neither denied nor acknowledged but are met with an unbreakable conspiracy of silence - because to deny them would be too obviously absurd and to acknowledge them would condemn the central pre-occupation of modern society as a crime against humanity.

The neglect, indeed the rejection, of wisdom has gone so far that most of our intellectuals have not even the faintest idea what the term could mean. As a result, they always tend to try and cure a disease by intensifying its causes. The disease having been caused by allowing cleverness to displace wisdom, no amount of clever research is likely to produce a cure. But what is wisdom? Where can it be found? Here we come to the crux of the matter: it can be read about in numerous publications but it can be found only inside oneself. To be able to find it, one has first to liberate oneself from such masters as greed and envy. The stillness following liberation - even if only momentary - produces the insights of wisdom which are obtainable in no other way.

They enable us to see the hollowness and fundamental unsatisfactoriness of a life devoted primarily to the pursuit of material ends, to the neglect of the spiritual. Such a life necessarily sets man against man and nation against nation, because man's needs are infinite and infinitude can be achieved only in the spiritual realm, never in the material. Man assuredly needs to rise above this humdrum 'world'; wisdom shows him the way to do it; without wisdom, he is driven to build up a monster economy, which destroys the world, and to seek fantastic satisfactions, like landing a man on the moon. Instead of overcoming the 'world' by moving towards saintliness, he tries to overcome it by gaining pre-eminence in wealth, power, science, or indeed any imaginable 'sport'.

These are the real causes of war, and it is chimerical to try to lay the foundations of peace without removing them first. It is doubly chimerical to build peace on economic foundations which, in turn, rest on the systematic cultivation of greed and envy, the very forces which drive men into conflict.

How could we even begin to disarm greed and envy? Perhaps by being much less greedy and envious ourselves; perhaps by resisting the temptation of letting our luxuries become needs; and perhaps by even scrutinising our needs to see if they cannot be simplified and reduced. If we do not have the strength to do any of this, could we perhaps stop applauding the type of economic 'progress' which palpably lacks the basis of permanence and give what



... DID YOU KNOW ...these simple undisputed facts about

NUCLEAR POWER IN CANADA?

1. That Canadian production of nuclear power, like any other, creates deadly radioactive wastes WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OF WITH PRESENT TECHNOLOGY?
2. That these wastes include Cesium 137, Cobalt 60, Iodine 125, Carbon 14, Tritium, Plutonium 239 and Strontium 90--and that radiation from these wastes has been found to produce acute radiation sickness, heart disease, and many types of cancer and birth defects?
3. That some of these wastes must be kept out of the environment for MORE THAN 100,000 YEARS? The current Canadian disposal plan provides storage in concrete structures the size of a city block, above the water table, the contents to be transferred to new storage facilities every 100 years.
4. That the cooling process of nuclear fission produces vast quantities of hot water which can seriously upset the natural environment?
5. That Plutonium, produced by hundreds of pounds in Canada's Pickering plant annually, is the stuff that Hiroshima-type bombs are made of?..that it takes only 11 pounds to create one?..that thousands of persons have the know-how?
6. That the ECONOMICS of nuclear power ARE NOT YET CALCULABLE, and are complicated by large inflationary tax-fund subsidies?
7. That NO INSURANCE COMPANY WILL WRITE A POLICY TO COVER THE OPERATION OF A NUCLEAR FISSION PLANT?..that your homeowners policy disclaims liability for nuclear radiation damage?..that through the Canadian Nuclear Liability Act the government of Canada absolves all operators from carrying such insurance--but will resort to federal tax support (your dollars) should the need arise?

\*\* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\*

Given these facts, WE MAY WELL ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- ⊙ Why are we, the people of Canada, repeatedly being "sold" the idea of nuclear power as the inevitable "power of the future"?
- ⊙ Why is our national government involved in a campaign to sell nuclear facilities to other countries?
- ⊙ Why are we not entitled to a moratorium on nuclear development, at least until the current problems of radioactive wastes have been solved?
- ⊙ Why is so little attention--and funding--given to the RENEWABLE, NON-POLLUTING SOURCES OF ENERGY: SOLAR, WIND, GEOTHERMAL, METHANE FROM WASTES, ETC.?

VOICE OF WOMEN ASKS FOR ANSWERS FROM OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

NUCLEAR POWER LEAFLETS

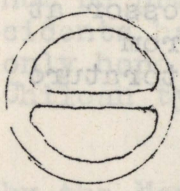
Two are available from our Literature Committee: our own "Nuclear Power in Canada" which is reproduced in its entirety on Page 6 (opposite); and that of the NUCLEAR COMMITTEE, 1907 River Drive, New Westminster, B.C. - "Nuclear Committee Fact Sheet".

The latter, one sheet printed both sides, is excellent educational material, fuller than ours, embodying very alarming and persuasive quotes from eminent personalities including AEC officials. It urges us to INFORM OURSELVES, AND TAKE ACTION.

National VOW finds a shocking ignorance among MP's on this vital subject. Betty Mardiros, active Edmonton VOW member, after hearing Terry Padgham report on the September meeting of National VOW, feels the nuclear education of MP's, MLA's and the public should now be a TOP PRIORITY of VOW.

→ Why not start now - yes, you! - by ordering a quantity of both leaflets (ours 1¢, the Committee's 2¢) from Mary Cox, Bowser, B.C., and getting them into the hands of politicians and voters everywhere? ←

.....



"We will either create an ecotopia based on ecological principles, or we will simply go under as a species. In my view this is a judgement that is validated daily by the very law of life of the prevailing society."

- conclusion of Murray Bookchin's article "Towards an Ecological Society", available in pamphlet form (5pp, 5¢) from Mary Cox, Bowser, B.C.

.....

Committee for an Independent Canada

"UNLESS WE WANT TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE U.S. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WE SHOULD PUBLICIZE AND SUPPORT C.I.C."

- Lille d'Easum

Why? Because, apart from Waffle, Walter Gordon, and Eric Kiernan, C.I.C. (a non-partisan group) have been working almost alone to halt the foreign takeover and control of Canadian land, industries, universities and media. In the last four years about \$15 billion have "gone foreign".

Two well-known members are Pierre Berton and Jack McLellan.

Time and Readers' Digest: In response to C.I.C.'s request that VOW work on the problem of Time and Readers' Digest, Gayla Read's brief (against the tax exemption privileges given to these two magazines) has been sent to Prime Minister Trudeau, Sen. Keith Davey and Sec. of State Hugh Faulkner; Vancouver VOW sent a telegram to the same persons; and individual members are asked to write also.

MacKenzie Valley Pipeline: C.I.C.'s new chairman Dr. Bob Page, History Professor at Trent University, spoke in Vancouver on Oct. 8th, blasting MacDonald and the Liberal government. He strongly suggested individual VOW members write Ottawa (Resources Minister) asking for a ten-year moratorium on the MacKenzie Pipeline. (NOTE: always send copies to both opposition leaders and Environmental Minister and counterparts.) He pleaded for an independent, preferably government owned, company to prevent oil control getting into hands of petroleum corporations.

# MORE LITERATURE

-8-

- by Mary Cox

✎ ALTERNATIVES - a small magazine published quarterly at Trent University Peterborough, Ontario at 75¢ a copy: prints articles dealing with the conflict between the popular (and I hope growing) struggle for planetary harmony and the growth-oriented economic pressures of the industrial nations.

✎ British Columbia Public Forum on NUCLEAR POWER (Dec. 1, 1973): Transcripts of entire meeting, including submissions by 6 panelists, discussions among same, questions from public and results of questionnaires (tapes now being processed for use in B.C. public schools). Write for copies to Mark Holtby, N.D.P. Caucus, Parliament Bldgs., Victoria.

✎ EXPERIMENT WITHOUT PRECEDENT: Some Quaker Observations on China Today. Report of an American Friends Service Committee delegation's visit to China in May, 1972. Contains very thorough information, presented in the Friends' typically careful appreciative style. 75¢. 58pp. Order from Fellowship of Reconciliation (F.O.R.), Box 271, Nyack, N.Y. - or from B.C. Literature Committee (Mrs. T.M. Cox, Bowser, B.C.).

✎ THE MAKING OF THE NEW HUMAN BEING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: three articles by Dr. K.T. Fann. A fascinating series dealing with the philosophy of the cultural revolution, education, and Chinese liberation generally, it provides my first real grasp of the singular Chinese relationship to Marx. Dr. Fann, after wide international experience, is a professor at Atkinson College, York University, Canada. 75¢. 48pp. Order from Far East Reporter, P.O. Box 1536, New York, N.Y. 10017 - or B.C. Literature Committee (see previous paragraph).

And Two Publications by B.C. VOW Ecology Chairperson Eve Smith:

✎ WORKER AND ENVIRONMENT: Eve argues that the world's labor force is largely to blame for the destruction of our total environment, and must now shoulder much of the responsibility for its salvation and preservation. She outlines courses of action open to industrial workers, citing successful actions in the past. 10pp, 35¢, from Mrs. Eve Smith, R.R. 1, Port Washington, South Pender Island, B.C.

✎ HUNTING AND THE PRESERVATION OF ALL LIFE: Well-supported arguments for the preservation of wildlife, wildlife habitat and natural ecosystems from the predations of fun-seeking humans whose actions destroy the environment upon which all life depends. Suggested for schools. Single sheet, 2¢, from Eve Smith (as above).

A N D

Have you read SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL, by E.F. Schumacher??? Don't wait any longer! Order it at your library, tell your friends. Quoted at length p.4,5.

GEORGE WALD's address to the 20th World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Tokyo, Aug. 2, 1974, contains much that VOW is hammering at daily. One paragraph says "It is too late for declarations, for popular appeals, here or anywhere. All that matters now is political power."

(Underlining ours. Ed.)

Especially PROJECT JONAH - from 629 Lonsdale Road, Toronto, M5P 1R8.  
Good For We should endeavour to see that school boards  
Elementary in our own areas have a copy.  
School  
Children



RECENT TRIP TO MEXICO AND ONE WEEK IN CUBA

by VOW member Beryl Wheeldon

IN MEXICO there is definite progress; many more schools than a year ago, and clinics or hospitals in even small towns. A massive campaign to encourage citizens to bring their children for inoculation especially against polio.

There is now a basic hourly wage - meagre by comparison with Canadian standards, but at least cutting out the major abuses of labor. However, the unscrupulous get around this by putting regular employees on salaries! There are old age pensions but not as a federal right; merely if provided for in industrial contracts. The Unions are now syndicated in one body, regionally - a move in the right direction. Echevarria seems to be doing his best for the workers within the limits of a social democratic government; but there are disadvantages to weigh against the advantages of a Constitution which allows only one presidential term. He has trodden on the toes of the right bourgeoisie, repossessed some U.S.-controlled enterprises, etc., and it seems likely these will work to find a successor who will favor the far right.

But there are restive groups in the hills, well-organized, who may not be prepared to await the fulfilment of the promises of this term. Incidents have occurred which point to a search for arms and money, and one can only hope that precipitate action does not bring about a civil war of the Chilean type.

MY SHORT TIME IN CUBA was spoiled by the massive red tape required by the Mexican Government for re-entry into that country... However, in the little time left me I did get these facts:-

There is far more in the stores than when I visited Havana 5 years ago. There are Toyotas, Volkswagens; with Leyland trucks and Czeck busses in place of the U.S. makes of car! The port of Havana is full of ships from many lands; oil rigs from Bulgaria are working the oil fields off the coast; the fishing fleet has been augmented by shrimp boats from Portugal; and other shipping needs from Poland.

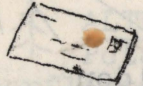
Although certain items are still rationed - meat, for instance - the people have an adequate standard of living: their work clothes are free, including footwear (tell that to our loggers here in B.C.), and rents may not exceed 10% of the wage-earner's pay.

The Government has had to make the product of the alligator farm into an export one, to pay for more urgent necessities of an economy which aims to become self-sufficient as far as possible; and good Cuban-made footwear is available.

There is not sufficient emphasis on vegetables in the diet (the same applies to Mexico)... but the main difficulty in this regard - aside from educating the people to new standards for health requirements - is that vegetable harvests require available harvesters at specified intervals, and the transport to bring them to market. Priorities have had to be considered for the little island to have a viable economy. Castro's problem may be the people of the cities who were for so long exposed to the Kultur of the U.S. (the spelling is no accident!).

...Television has excellent programs, including a documentary of the Chilean coup taken at the time and smuggled out to Cuba, which should be shown world-wide....

- Okanagan Falls, B.C., April 1974.



FROM POWELL RIVER: Reporting on local VOW: they held a very successful bazaar in the Log Cabin, raising over \$100.00. They have paid for gas and ferry on both my recent trips to B.C. VOW Executive meetings. Also, they have provided 2 interesting travel companions on each of these trips. The result: these ladies bring back glowing reports of the meetings and the impressive personalities of which the Exec. is constituted - which in turn impresses more people and gains more people to the cause.

I don't know what special interest P.R. VOW is likely to undertake next - wonder about Women's International Year and suggestions for suitable projects. "How to put over the message"? November Chatelaine has an article about suffragettes in Manitoba, asking the Premier for women's votes but being refused in a very polite and cunning speech. Anyway the ladies (led by Nellie McLung) rented the local theatre and spoofed up a women's parliament with a delegation of men coming in to beg for the vote. Big hit. They had votes for women the next year in that province. 'Nuff said.

- Martin Rossander, Powell River, B.C.

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F E E S

\$\$\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$\$\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Voice of Women fees for 1975 come due on New Year's Day. Please renew EARLY this time. Thank you!

Fees: Regular.....\$5.00 Sustaining.....\$12.00 Youth (under 25)\$.1.00 Senior (over 65)\$.1.00 Family.....\$7.50	N.B. You may pay fees to your Group Sec. OR directly to B.C. VOW Membership Sec., 124 East Kings Road, North Vancouver, BC V7N 1H5
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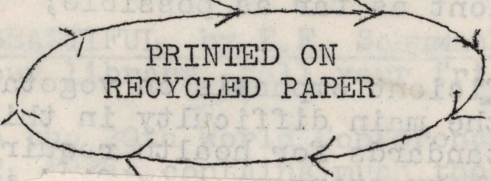
Cheques payable to "Voice of Women"

Group Membership Chairmen:

- BURNABY - Mrs. A.W. Hyde, 5507 Gilpin St., Burnaby 2, B.C.
- NORTH SHORE - Mrs. W.I. Craig, 3714 Dollarton Hwy, N.Van (Regular fee \$6.00)
- VANCOUVER - Mrs. A.P. Hewett, 3543 W. 26th Ave., Van. 8 (Regular fee \$6.00)
- VICTORIA - Mrs. Iva Jellicoe, #207 - 915 Cook St., Victoria

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