

# The Dorcas Ladies Aid

1969

Mrs. Ruth Ainsworth

Mrs. Ida De Jong

Mrs. Dora Harbers

Mrs. Hilgonda Harbers

Mrs. Dena Havinga

Mrs. Jennie Hobbelink

Mrs. Bernice Hofman

Mrs. Minnie Plomp

Mrs. Nellie Plomp

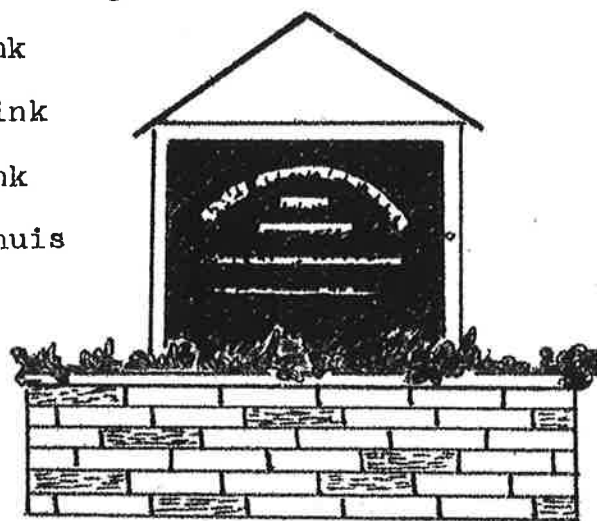
Mrs. Annabelle Titsing

Mrs. Dena Warmink

Mrs. Fanny Warmink

Mrs. Rika Warmink

Mrs. Effie Veldhuis



THE HISTORY OF  
THE DORCAS LADIES' AID

Our Ladies' Aid was organized in the year 1921 by Mrs. C. Van der Schoor, wife of the Reverend Van der Schoor, Classical Missionary at that time. The name "Dorcas Ladies' Aid" was chosen by a group of women in the church, and the purpose of this group was to raise funds for the Children's Christmas program.

The first bazaar was held in November of the same year at the home of Mrs. R. Van Dyke, who was also our first President. The meetings were held at the various homes, until an addition was built onto the church; and it is here we now hold our meetings every other Wednesday afternoon.

In 1929, under the leadership of the Rev. and Mrs. D.A. Elings, the constitution was revised and changed to the English language. The main purpose of this society was to give financial support to the work of God's Kingdom on earth through the making and selling of various goods, to encourage one another in deeds of mercy and to enliven one another in the use of the talents given each member of God.

The membership fee began with ten cents a month, and was later changed to one dollar per year per member, to be used toward material for handiwork, which when completed and sold, would double the dollar in value.

In 1930 a motion was carried that the proceeds of each year be divided for two purposes: half of the proceeds to go to Mission work; and half to be spent at home.

In 1931 our first chicken supper was introduced amid trials and tribulations. As there were not always enough young tender chickens, we had to fall back on old hens; and the success of the supper depended on whether the person you asked had been served old or young chicken!

## 2 - Ladies' Aid History

A new idea to raise funds was introduced in 1934. A basket with pantry articles was sent from home to home in the community, each person taking out their choice of contents and paying for it, then replacing some speciality of their own and passing it on. From year to year various ideas for raising money were suggested and carried out; some were successful, others were not.

More recently we have held teas, bazaars and cake sales as well as sold cake plates. In 1963 the Dorcas Ladies' Aid prepared a booklet of favorite poems and the history of early Monarch entitled "Down the Trail of Memories" which received congratulations in the Alberta Historical Review. During 1967 our projects included the sale of Centennial spoons and the making of three Centennial quilts for Korea. We also make baby quilts which are sold during the year. Perhaps our most popular item, however, has been our "Favorite Recipes" cook book, of which we have made 1,308, some of which are used in kitchens from California to Michigan, and only the wearing out of stencils has brought this project to a halt.

Lest we take all credit to ourselves, we herewith pay tribute to those honorary members without whom we could not succeed - our long suffering husbands! Husbands live silently at home on bowls of corn-flakes while the latest Aid project is in progress. They munch on burnt cookies and fallen cake as they watch platters of rich delicacies carried off to teas and bake sales and they still bear the scars on their sides from bazaar nights when they are encouraged to raise the bidding by a good sharp nudge in the ribs!

The money spent throughout the year has been used on such projects as helping to renovate the church and furnishing the parsonage with a few items. We have supported our Foreign and Domestic Missions, also other charitable purposes such as Woods' Christian Home, Care Parcels, Cancer Crusade, help for the Blind, Tuberculosis, flowers and gifts.

### 3 - Ladies' Aid History

Our books show that in the past forty-eight years we have given approximately \$8,830.00 to Home Missions, including our local church and \$5,640.95 to Foreign missions. In all this we are grateful to the members of our church and to others in our community without whom our small ventures could have had no success. Then, too, we are humbly aware that only through God's goodness and mercy has any of our work been possible. We can say with the prophet of old, "... Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (1 Samuel 7:12)

The first part of our meetings consists of Devotions and roll call, each member responding with a favorite text. The rest of the afternoon is spent in sewing and handiwork. We also have our special occasions such as: Community socials, Visitors' Day Tea, Mothers' Day Tea, Heart Pal Party, summer picnics, and we cater for Classis Cascades whenever they meet in Monarch.

At present we have fifteen members of which two are charter members - Mrs. Gertie Hofman and Mrs. Jennie Hobbelink. With the faithful cooperation of each of our members we hope to carry on. Though our efforts often seem inadequate, we pray that - like the widow's mite - our work too may have a useful place in God's Kingdom and that He will continue to help and bless us in whatever we undertake and to His Name be all the Glory.

History Committee:

Mrs. Minnie Plomp