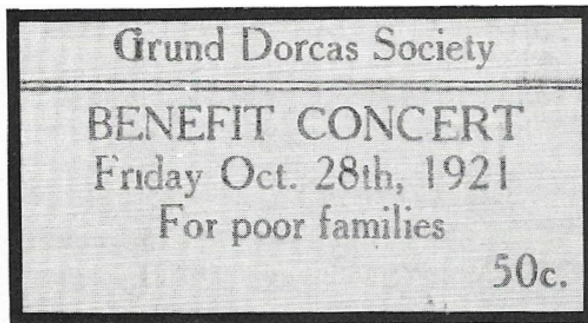


Dorcas Society



On Aug. 19, 1916, a group of young women met at the home of Mrs. B.S. Johnson with the idea of forming a new society - with the main object being to work and send parcels to the soldiers - both food and clothing. A very large number of young men had left the Icelandic settlement to fight in WW 1. Of course there were other good causes that they would work for such as helping poor and needy in time of sickness and also the church community projects as they arose.

After much discussion the society was organized and named "Dorcas Society". Miss Gudbjorg Goodman was chosen president.

At their first meeting, their first project was to prepare to send clothing and food parcels to all the Icelandic soldiers from the community for Christmas 1916. They also wrote a lot of letters, all through the war years.

From then on they worked feverishly - they bought yarn and knit socks, sweaters, touques, scarves, mitts and gloves, and also sent other clothing and baked fruit cakes and cookies for the food parcels.

When the war ended the Dorcas Society had around \$200.00. At following meetings their thoughts turned more to church needs and community affairs. After much discussion about giving money toward an altar for Frelsis Church, a committee was chosen, being Gudbjorg Goodman, Lauga Johannesson and Anna Sveinson to meet with a committee from the congregation and Ladies' Aid to discuss this matter. It was whole-heartedly agreed on and a beautiful altar was bought for the church.

The Dorcas Society was instrumental in starting a fund to raise money to send a young mother of three small children, who was hopelessly crippled from arthritis, to Soap Lake, Washington, U.S.A. for treatments. They contacted the Ladies' Aid and together they went ahead. The whole municipality and other organizations became very enthused and contributed generously and a total of \$2,000.00 was collected and this little young mother was sent to Soap Lake for treatments.



Dorcas Society members, 1916-1917. Back Row: Sigrun Finlay, Sarah Schultz (guest), Anna Sveinsson, ? , Runa Hall, Hilla Johnson, Sena Anderson, ? , Tina Hannah. Second Row: Jennie Peterson, Kristin Christopherson, Mrs. Chris Sveinsson, Jennie Johnson (guest), Gudborg Goodman, Arora Arason, Olga Arason, Becky Goodman. Front Row: Bjorg Swainson, Borga Isjeld. Carrie Helgason is missing from the picture.

The Dorcas Society also donated to Jon Bjarnason Academy, Betel Old Folks Home, and all Icelandic patients at Ninette Sanatorium. They helped in many ways in the community - to widows when in need and always at time of sickness.

In 1927, their membership was low - and even fewer in the Ladies' Aid. In August, 1927, the Dorcas disbanded and joined the Ladies' Aid and so the two societies carried on their good work in the name of Ladies' Aid.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF GRUND

The Grund Young People's Society was organized in Skjaldbreid Hall on July 9, 1930. Heimir Thorgrimson was elected chairman, and introduced Mr. Edgar Smith of Glenboro, who spoke on the work and activities of such clubs. As a suitable program for each meeting he suggested the four-fold plan, namely four periods: devotional, intellectual, social and physical.

Officers were then elected: President - Arni Sveinsson; Vice-President - Chris Helgason; Secretary - Veiga Christopherson; Treasurer - Sigrun Sveinsson.

The four-fold program was adopted and was followed thereafter. Short programs, sing-songs, games, square dancing, badminton and lunch were all popular.

On July 20, 1930, 40 members were present, as well as Rev. and Mrs. E. Fafnis, who were made honorary members, and Mrs. Lauga Johanneson, who was elected leader of the group.

Also active at the time were the "Amicus Club" of Glenboro, "Bru Young People's

Society" and "Baldur Community Club", and in 1931, the trend toward one club entertaining another as guests at their meetings was started.

In July, Grund and Bru sponsored a Sunday picnic at Ninette Sanatorium, and in March, 1933, a meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Thorsteinson. Mrs. Thorsteinson who was totally crippled with arthritis, spoke her thanks and appreciation for this gesture.

The activities and projects of the Grund Y .P .S. included tidying up in the graveyard; house cleaning Argyle Hall, presenting mixed programs at gatherings and sponsoring dances - or "Tombola" and dance to raise funds.

In retrospect it seems evident that these four organizations contributed greatly to the social and cultural elements in this area of Argyle, and brightened the lives of their fellow citizens, as well as their own, by thoughtfulness toward others and unselfish diligence in their efforts.