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History of the Sisterhood by Frances Smith (1919-62) (brief version)

Frances Smith

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Throughout the notes taken from the Women's society secretarial books, there is the matter of money collected and spent. Money was being systematically saved for a House of Worship from the beginning. This was important to the group in the early days. It is still important. Their efforts to raise money are fantastic. They used raffles continually. Some were confined to the group and some included the outside. The meetings were very small at times, 7 or 8 attending. They were even held weekly in the early days. This was perhaps the only contacts socially that these people had. Most of them had families and worked along side their husbands in whatever business they happened to be in. Everyone seemed to be on friendly terms with the other, at least at meetings.

The women did a great deal of handwork and offered it for sale and for raffling. This included yokes for blouses and dresses, mittens, sweaters, scarves for bureaux. Community suppers were popular and every one is accounted for down to the minutest detail. Everyone seemed to enjoy attending. The Passover orders and candle orders weave in and out of the early years like a gentle persuasive refrain. It almost lulls one to sleep.

Beginning with the 30's a few of another generation appeared and you notice in the secretary's books better and clearer notes though often an explanation is omitted. You can see why this is so. It was a matter accepted and so noted. The newer generation had the advantage of schooling.

The 40's are concerned with the war years and stamps needed for meat purchases. The after-war years are important as the group adjusts to a new kind of living.

~~The 50's are read.~~

The 50's are ready @urs and who needs to discuss them. We are of age literally. Today, our organization is 40 years old. We are mature. We have gone thru adolescence and early years bearing all the scars but at 40 years of service to ourselves and the community no one need feel we had missed much. We have seen a world shattered, a people partially destroyed and a new nation born and risen from the ashes of an older civilization to take its place in the world with other nations following and using ours as an example. We have seen much and I hope we all live a long time, to see more.

E. Frances Smith

Mrs. Joe I.