



## MENNONITE WOMEN USA

### Celebrating 100 Years

## Dear Worth-While Circle, 1956

by Evangeline Rempel Dyck

Dear Worth-While Circle,

Could it really be thirty years or so, since I, a newcomer and “foreigner” was welcomed and accepted with friendliness and understanding into the First Mennonite Church of Reedley and more specifically into the Worth-While Circle?

It was nice to hear from Helen Zellers that the Circle in cooperation with the 50th anniversary of First Mennonite Church has planned a special anniversary meeting of its own.

How much I would like to be with you in person but I am glad to send greetings by mail and jot down what I especially remember about those Worth-While Circle meetings.

By way of introduction, I am the former Evangeline Rempel, who through the kindness and financial help of my relatives, the William Neufelds, I, together with four younger brothers was able to come to this country and make a home here.

I remember that I had to study the name of the Circle (Worth-While), in my brand new English, and it made a big impression.

Then, the theme song, “I would be true” with all its wonderful verses, meant much to me. The different programs were inspirational and helpful and the refreshments extra delicious.

There were two occasions when I was at the “receiving ends” and I want to remind you of them and thank you again.

The first was in early May, 1927. The meeting was a picnic style supper on the lawn of the old High School. A long cloth was spread under the trees, the food tasted so good, as usual! I believe Elsie Dalke announced her engagement in a very novel way, but I am not too sure. It was the last meeting for me, since I was to leave soon for Oakland to start my nurses training. Nobody can imagine my complete surprise when after the meal I was presented with gifts; handkerchiefs and stationary. In short it was

a miscellaneous going away shower. I wonder if I ever thanked you properly, I was certainly overwhelmed.

The other occasion was a very unexpected bridal shower in November 1929 in Emma Ruth's home, as I recall.

Is the Worth-While Circle worth all the time and effort it takes? If I, in the very few years had the privilege of belonging to it, got such a blessing out of it, how many must have been helped materially and spiritually in these past years?

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless each member and strengthen you in your Christian Faith.

With very best regards,  
Evangeline Rempel Dyck  
Pasadena, California, 1956

*This story was submitted by Judy Warkentin, First Mennonite of Reedley*