

CQG #202 - Cranbrook Regional Hospital Auxiliary 1901 - 2001

Quiltmaker: Noreen Aikman (#400) and Judy Wright (#043)

Quilt Owner: Cranbrook Health Care Auxiliary

"... February 15, 1949, special meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary. These woman have always been admirable in their devotion to the Hospital. Since their organization in 1901, their zeal has been relented. By different enterprises and different social events, besides the donation every autumn of canned food and pickles, the sewing for hospital needs and help where help is needed, they contributed more than \$11,000,00 for the support of the hospital, and their charity continues."

(St. Eugene Hospital, Cranbrook, BC. December 11, 1897 to August 30, 1970. Précis of the Chronicles by Hortense Quesnelle, S.P.: Providence Centre, Edmonton, AB; October 8, 1975, p.12)

This quilt, like the United Church Anniversary Quilt (#077), is an example of the guild members using their quilting talents to support other groups they are connected with. It hangs in the foyer of the East Kootenay Regional Hospital near the elevators/stairs to the patient care units.

To commemorate the generosity and the *100th Anniversary of the Cranbrook Regional Hospital Auxiliary*, two guild members who were members of both organizations, Noreen Aikman and Judy Wright, created this photo quilt. Noreen was the Vice- President of the Auxiliary that year and immediate Past-President of the Guild. Noreen searched the records for pictures of Auxiliary members in their volunteer roles. Judy scanned the photos to her computer, then printed them on fabric using the 'bubble-jet' method (see FN1 #144). This was done in the early days of photo transfer to fabric - 2001- so Judy had to scan and adjust the pictures, then create the fabric sheets to use in her printer. Today's computer/cell phone software and "inkjet printable fabric" make the process "quick and easy" (Printed Treasurers by Dritz ®) . "Photo Quilts" are still a style used to commemorate events, similar to how signature quilts are used. Most, like this quilt, are wall-hanging size. Noreen created the top and quilted this piece.

In its beginning days the guild was closely associated with the Auxiliary. Baby size quilts were given to the Auxiliary to sell in its gift shop at the hospital to add to the Auxiliary's fund raising. That practice stopped after a few years and the quilts were simply donated to the Maternity Unit for the staff to give to families as needed, mainly because folks were not buying the quilts.

A number of guild members volunteer with the *Cranbrook Health Care Auxiliary*, previously called the "Cranbrook Regional Hospital Auxiliary" or simply the "Ladies Auxiliary". Current volunteers who also have (had) guild membership are: Jackie Brennan, Karen Baden, June de Groot (#087), Peggy Salvador (#021), Bev Higgins, Deidre Gold, Linda Wesley (#041), and Julie Laird (#026). A few guild members were born at the old "St. Eugene Hospital". One member, Catherine Meeks (#400) was a graduate of its "School of Nursing" in 1950, and then employed at St. Eugene and at the 'new' hospital when it opened in 1968. A few other members worked at the old and new hospitals - Ellen Stapleton (#092), Darcy (Tootie) Gripich, Wendy Litz (#055), Susan Little (#020). And of course, a number had their babies in the maternity units. And many were patients. All benefitted from the tireless fund raising of the Auxiliary so state-of-the-art equipment could be purchased.

[picture with the two side framed panels - sent by me]