

Superintendents of W.C.T.U Home

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Carrie A Nation

Superintendents of W.C.T.U. Home.

Kansas City, Kansas [c. 1937-1938]

When the members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union conceived the idea of establishing a home for aged women in the building bequeathed by Carry A. Nation, to any worthwhile charitable cause, one of the very necessary requirements was the services of a kind, gentle, loving, Christian woman.

The duties of this woman were to look after the general maintenance of the Home in a careful, economical manner and most important of all her duties were guarding the health, comforts and well being of the ladies who had become residents of the Home. This lady being known as our Superintendent.

The first to fill this responsible position was Ms. S.C. South, of Burlington, Kansas. Jan. 27, 1919 Mrs. South began her duties as Supt. Of the W.C.T.U. Home.

Feb 19, the first meeting was held there. The Home being opened to the public with the State Officers present, and a huge gathering of people attended this meeting

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Mrs South had been a faithful W.C.T.U. worker for a number of years, a lovely lady, very refined and, as I remember her quite artistic.

We might designate her as the Pioneer Mother of the Home for she, assisted by Mary E. Hart, were there while furniture, bedding, dishes, curtains, etc were being assembled to get in readiness for the ladies who were fast making application for residence

I was no small, responsibility to assemble the furniture and equipment, that was being sent in at that time. It being an idea, new, good and worth while that was being worked out to the glory of God, for the comfort of His children, and everyone was interested.

So Mrs South spent several months during this wearisome time climbing stairs, hanging pictures & curtains, getting the Home in readiness for occupancy, from January until Nov. of the same year, when she resigned on a count of physical inability to continue her work.

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Mrs Mari King of Wichita, Kan. then took up the work as Supt. She serving in that capacity one month.

In December, Louise Ackerman assumed the duties as Supt for a month when Mrs King returned and remained at the Home until Feb. 10, 1920

It was Mrs. E.S. Wilkinson of Girard Kan. who then became Superintendent. Mrs. Wilkinson was a very efficient, industrious lady. Also one who had spent years of her life in W.C.T.U. work. She proved to be very capable, kind, gentle and sympathetic and was loved both by the ladies in the Home and the Local Board.

She served faithfully. More than three years, until Oct 1, 1923, and it was with regrets she was forced to leave on account of ill health.

Mrs. Hafley then served from Oct. 23, to Feb. 15, 1924, with Mrs Christina Holwick filling in until Mar 1, 1924.

Our next Superintendent was a very wide awake, energetic and capable woman, Mrs. Margaret A. Jones of Kansas City, Kansas.

Mrs Jones was not only an expert home maker, very solicitous of the needs and wishes of the ladies, she was also

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A good business woman. She liked to keep the Home in excellent condition and knew how to secure the money to help pay for these repairs and improvements.

Under her management a large room was added to the main building making room for more residents.

She took the growth and maintenance of the Home very seriously and conscientiously and the Board regretted having to let her go when she resigned two years later in April 1926.

Mrs Della Price then assumed the duties of Superintendent. She was a Kansas City woman also and came well recommended.

By her kind and gentle manner her sympathy and understanding, she soon won the confidence of the ladies in the Home and was much beloved by all of them.

She spent three years in this capacity and proved to be an excellent manager, a wise and capable Supt. and with regrets we accepted her resignation in April 1929.

Mrs Jettie Anderson took over the management of the Home for a short time. From April until Dec 1, 1929.

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The present Superintendent, Mrs Minerva Russell, then took charge.

Mrs Russell, also had been an ardent worker in the W.C.T.U. She having served in the capacity of County President aforetime. She came with a heart filled with love for all things connected with the W.C.T.U.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell have not only won their way into the hearts of the resident of the Home, but into the hearts of the people of Kansas City, Kan.

Mrs. Russell has been able to not only manage the Home in a most efficient manner to care for the ladies in looking after their every comfort, but in the eight years she has filled this very responsible position she has also guarded and guided the W.C.T.U. in this city and county in the capacity of County President.

The Board of Managers, the superintendents and their co-workers have wrought well