

BRIEF HISTORY of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Carry A. Nation Home

Once upon a time there lived in Missouri, not far from Kansas City, a beautiful, happy young woman. Her prince having arrived, a goodly, handsome appearing young man, a physician, he, with many protestations of love and loyalty sought and won her as his wife.

Only five days after the marriage this young husband came home, threw himself upon the bed and fell asleep. His old mother bent over him and left the room weeping. The young wife witnessing this from an adjoining room passed to her husband's side and found him in a drunken stupor. O, the pity of it! O, the anguish of it!

In a little more than a year he died from delirium tremens, leaving his wife penniless, with a tiny baby and with his old mother to care for. Then did the iron enter into her soul. From that time the great burning desire of her heart was to provide a home where destitute wives, mothers and children of drunkards would be cared for.

Her hopes were fulfilled when later, this young woman married David A. Nation and became known as "Carry A. Nation, the Kansas Saloon Smasher." From the wealth that poured in upon her as the result of her crusade she purchased the property known as the B. N. Simpson home, a substantial twelve-room house with two commodious porches, beautifully situated on a high elevation, with one and one-third acres of land at 738 Grandview now Broadview Ave. in the southeast part of Kansas City, Kansas. Members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Wyandotte county, and several churches assisted in furnishing this home and soon it was filled, several dear old mothers and wives with children were made welcome and happy.

Then came the great wave of prohibition and law enforcement led by C. W. Trickett which swept over Kansas City, and men who had neglected their mothers and families now provided for them. Soon Mrs. Nation found that with the great demands made upon her for lectures which kept her traveling constantly, she could not properly care for the Home. She offered it to the Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union as a gift but at that time it did not seem wise to accept the offer. She then deeded the property to The Associated Charities of Kansas City, Kansas. For some time it was used as a Shelter House, being all that the name implies, and many friendless people found this home a place of refuge until in time it was abandoned.

A little later, Mrs. Jennie M. Combs and Mrs. Emma Hinton, called on Mrs. Sena Hartzell Wallace who was slowly recovering from a long and serious illness. They urged upon Mrs. Wallace the importance of securing this Home for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. One day having sufficiently recovered to be in the street, she met Mr. W. E. Barnhart, president of the Associated Charities. The thought of the Home flashed into her mind and she said "What are you going to do with the Carry A. Nation Home?" He replied: "I wish you would tell me what to do." She said, "Why not give it to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union?" He asked, "Do you think they would take it?" She replied, "I do not know. Our state convention meets soon and we could ask them."

Soon after a committee from the Wyandotte County Union, Mrs. S. H. Wallace, Mrs. Hattie I. Sparks, Mrs. D. E. Livingston, Mrs. Mary E. Rose and Miss Sarah Jacobs met with a committee from Associated Charities. Mr. G. M. Pfeiffer, secretary of the Association offered to present this splendid property to the Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union as a free gift, provided they would use it as an Old Ladies Home or some other charitable purpose. Members of this committee presented the proposition to the state convention which met in Wichita in September, 1918. After much discussion and prayerful

deliberation the offer was accepted and committee appointed consisting of Mrs. S. H. Wallace, Mrs. Hattie I. Sparks and Mrs. D. E. Livingston to report the action of the convention to the Associated Charities and carry forward the work of renovating the building. Mrs. Emma Hinton was appointed custodian of the property.

October 3, 1918, the above committee formally accepted the property from the Associated Charities. The deed was executed and, with the abstract accepted, after having been submitted to Lawyer L. W. Keplinger for approval.

October 11, 1918 the keys of the building were delivered to Mrs. Emma Hinton, custodian. It will be readily understood that a custodian was needed when it is learned that the building had been practically gutted, the furnace and plumbing were a total loss. The story had gone out that Mrs. Nation had gold hidden on the premises and a number of holes were dug in the yard. After Mrs. Hinton had spent three nights in the house armed with a revolver (one night Mrs. Coulter staying with her) it was deemed necessary to employ a watchman.

In the meantime a legacy had been received by the Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union from Mr. Wisner of Medicine Lodge the home for a number of years of Mrs. Nation. Three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) of this fund was appropriated for repairing the building and the money was deposited by Mrs. S. H. Wallace in the Commercial National Bank, Kansas City, Kansas.

The many difficulties encountered, the anxious days and sleepless nights experienced by this committee can never be adequately described. But bravely they went forward with the work as rapidly as possible. Finding it necessary to have some one person constantly on the premises to superintend the work of rehabilitating and furnishing the Home, at the request of the local committee, Mrs. S. C. South of Burlington, Kansas, was sent by the State Board. She arrived November 25, 1918. Her services proved invaluable.

After the building was ready—then the furnishing. Where and how could it be obtained? A call was sent out to the local unions, and what a response. Cash, furniture, bedding, linen, china, canned goods, etc. Several local unions and one or two county unions assumed the furnishings of an entire room, for which they are still caring. Citizens of Kansas City were most generous. Both county and city officials conferred many favors. The Kansas City Commissioners remitted all improvement taxes against the property. The water and light departments made generous concessions.

January 23, 1919, Mrs. S. C. South was appointed the first superintendent of the Home and took charge January 27. February 4, she took up her residence at the Home. Mrs. Mary Hart of the Jennie M. Combs union accompanied her.

February 19, 1919, all being in order from garret to cellar and comfortably furnished throughout, the Home was thrown open to the public. What an occasion it was! Fully 400 people responded to the invitation and none came empty handed.

Mr. G. W. Pfeiffer, secretary of the Associated Charities expressed the general sentiment when, after visiting every nook and corner of the Home he said: "I have no words with which to express my delight. I'll just say this: 'Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what a woman can do with a little money.'"

Special guests at the Home on Opening day were:

Mrs. Lillian Mitchner, state president.

Mrs. Emma W. Grover, vice president.

Miss Mary E. Dobbs, corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Ida Walker, recording secretary.

Mrs. Sadie E. Lewis, treasurer.

Mrs. Margaret Munns, national treasurer was also an honored guest.

The local committee, having completed its task creditably, paid all bills and rendered satisfactory reports to the State Board, was discharged with a most hearty vote of thanks and appreciation of their work.

A committee to be known as the Board of Managers was elected: Mrs. Hattie I. Sparks, chairman and treasurer, Mrs. D. E. Livingston and Mrs. J. C. Penrod. Mrs. Sparks who was chairman of the First Board of Managers of the Home, served continuously for six years, and until her call to a higher service. Her loyalty and faithfulness, and devotion to the Home were unbounded, her accounts found to be accurate to the smallest detail, as attested by the committee appointed by the state to examine her books before they were transferred to her successor, Mrs. Eugenia L. Penrod.

September 15, 1921, a year and a half after the opening, when an appeal was made to the women over the state for funds to enlarge the Home there were ten W. C. T. U. women in residence, filling the Home to capacity, with a waiting list.

Since that date several rooms have been added, notably a well-equipped hospital room. There is accomodation now for sixteen residents and still there is a waiting list.

The present members of the Board of Managers are:

Mrs. Eugenia Penrod, chairman, 32 South 16th, Kansas City; Mrs. Stella Barnes, secretary, 14 S. 11th, Kansas City; Mrs. Emma Ephraimson, gift secretary, 533 Everett Ave., Kansas City; Mrs. Rhoda Williamson, 4222 Cambridge, Kansas City; Mrs. Linda C. Early, 1310 Grandview Blvd., Kansas City; Mrs. Grace Fuller, 715 Minn. Ave., Kansas City.

The present superintendent is Mrs. Della Price, who took charge of the work April 16, 1926.

Mrs. J. M. Enochs who has been a resident of the Home longer than any other, has long desired to build a room and dedicate it to the Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union as a memorial to her husband and herself. Last year she decided to do this, and at the state convention held in Topeka in 1927 her plans were accepted and she gave \$1,200 for this memorial.

Upon representation of Mrs. Penrod, chairman of the Board of Managers of the Home that it would be a matter of economy to build a second room at the same time, it was decided to use the \$400 given by Mr. H. A. Chamney as a memorial to his mother who had been tenderly cared for in the Home. These rooms are completed and add very materially to the appearance and convenience of the Home. The first room is named the Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Enochs Memorial Room; the second is to be a memorial to Mrs. S. C. South and Mrs. Ella May Chamney and is to be called the South- Chamney Memorial Room. It is confidently hoped that friends of Mrs. S. C. South will be glad to contribute to her memorial. During the years a large number of "little mothers" have been tenderly cared for in life and many of them in death. Many more would be glad to become members of the Home family if they could be accommodated. Are they happy and contented? Let one of them answer the question. She says, "When we are well it is Home; when we are sick it is Heaven."

And this is the Home for which white ribboners of Kansas give and pray and for which

increased gifts and continued prayers are needed in order that enlargement may be made commensurate with the demand.

And it is for the carrying on of this blessed ministry to some of Christ's little ones that men and women anywhere- everywhere, are asked to contribute much or little. WHAT IF IT WERE YOUR MOTHER?

APRIL, 1928.