

Woman Helps Found 5 Churches

Frank Cates in Dayton Daily News

A Tribute

Many of the churches in the United Missionary Church were begun and first served by sacrificing young ladies known as City Mission Workers. The denomination will be forever indebted to them for their godly lives, their undying zeal, their loyalty to the Church and its doctrines, and their labors of love more abundant.

Typical of these former mission workers is Miss Edith Schryer of New Carlisle, Ohio. The following article appeared in the Dayton Daily News earlier this year and was written by one of the paper's staff writers.



NEW CARLISLE, OHIO—A local woman who is credited with helping to found five churches in this area while serving as a home missionary half a century ago, is finding it difficult to retire at the age of 72.

Miss Edith Schryer of 212 North Scott Street isn't organizing churches any more, teaching school, or nursing—all of which have taken big chunks out of the years of her life.

But she is still teaching Sunday School at the United Missionary church here for her 22nd consecutive year. She corresponds with 150 foreign missionaries, belongs to two book clubs, and is the only woman member on the church board of the New Carlisle U. M. Church.

Miss Schryer came to this area 53 years ago at the age of 19 as a mission worker to help found the local U.M. church. She preached, made house calls, and performed funeral rites—all in a day when women, like children, were supposed to be seen and not heard.

In the years that followed she was credited with founding four

she preached in a tent, sometimes in a building, but wherever it was, the people listened, forming the nucleus of one of Springfield's strongest churches.

"We were successful because we were doing things other people would not do," she says.

In 1917, however, the Church felt it had enough men to carry on the work, and women mission workers were taken out of service.

Miss Schryer then turned to school teaching, working in the local educational system until 1924. She then went to work for a church publishing house here, and later worked for another church publication in Dayton. For seven years during this time she was Sunday School superintendent of the local United Missionary church.

In 1934 she was called out of missionary retirement to help with the Fairborn church, coming back to New Carlisle in 1936. In the years since then she has served as a practical nurse, helped rear two homeless children, and until their recent deaths, taken care of her father and Miss Vianna Lange-

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Toronto, Ontar
Rev. S. D. Hineg
Greenville, Oh
Rev. F. R. Rother
Los Angeles, C
Rev. N. H. Schwa
Kitchener, Ont
Rev. F. A. Holde
New Carlisle,
Rev. H. M. Metz
Bronson, Mich
Rev. Simon Moor
Wakarusa, Ind
Dr. J. A. Huffma
Winona Lake,
Rev. S. H. Kreutz
Port Huron, M
Rev. J. G. Groul
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Rev. G. D. Clink
Brown City, M
Rev. Albert Tay
West Milton, C
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Miss Schryer came to this area 53 years ago at the age of 19 as a mission worker to help found the local U.M. church. She preached, made house calls, and performed funeral rites—all in a day when women, like children, were supposed to be seen and not heard.

In the years that followed she was credited with founding four other United Missionary churches, the last one at Fairborn, started in 1934.

She also helped found a mission at Mishawaka, Indiana, from 1907 to 1909. The following year she served a mission in Dayton, then established a Springfield congregation from 1910 to 1917. Sometimes

she preached in a tent, sometimes in a building, but wherever it was, the people listened, forming the nucleus of one of Springfield's strongest churches.

"We were successful because we were doing things other people would not do," she says.

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In 1934 she was called out of missionary retirement to help with the Fairborn church, coming back to New Carlisle in 1936. In the years since then she has served as a practical nurse, helped rear two homeless children, and until their recent deaths, taken care of her father and Miss Vianna Longenecker, a life-time companion who helped her at the Springfield and Fairborn churches.

"The Lord always has been good to me," she says. "He's preserved my abilities. When I was ill 34 years ago, the doctor said I had only two years to live. I'm still here."

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