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loving support

Pioneer Saint

By Cari Reinart

The greatest pioneers of Oklahoma are not the people who are famous and written about in books. They are the men and women who help other people in need by giving them food, clothes, medicine, love, and support. They are the people who care about needy people as if they were their own family. One Clinton person who cared for others was Mrs. McClain Rogers.

Bessie E. Alexander and Dr. McClain Rogers were married in 1907. The couple moved to Clinton a few years later when Dr. Rogers started a hospital.

Mrs. Rogers was always active in the First Methodist Church of Clinton. One of her special concerns was the parsonage, residence of the preachers and their families. Mrs. Rogers believed that it should be furnished as fine as possible, so she repaired and cleaned the parsonage as best she could so it would be a good environment for the ministers and their families.

Mrs. Rogers also taught children in Sunday School about fifty to sixty years ago. At one time she was superintendent of the Sunday School.

She was, in addition, active in the kitchen; for instance, she and other women saved Betty Crocker coupons to buy the church a set of silverware. Since her husband was a doctor and they were financially secure, she personally bought the church a set of china. In fact,



the china, now worth thousands of dollars, is still there. Mrs. Rogers' ministry was extensive--she and some of her friends often cooked supper for unfortunate people and served them at the church.

The doctor's wife helped people away from Clinton, too. For example, she was active in a state organization for crippled children. She served as a representative for Western Oklahoma.

Mrs. Rogers was always helping people. She helped with a joyous mood. She was never unkind or unjust. She encouraged people and never degraded them. She gladly did good deeds.

Mrs. L. T. Madison, a close friend, and Mrs. Rogers frequently went to "Black Town" if there was an epidemic of some sort and gave vaccinations to the little children.

And Mrs. Rogers sometimes grocery-shopped for her husband's employees; she didn't tell her husband, however, because he had too much pride in himself.

As these details illustrate, Mrs. McClain Rogers was a very great person. She did much good for Clinton. One example is what she did for Mrs. L. T. Madison. She got Mrs. Madison interested in nursing, and Mrs. Madison became a nurse. Mrs. Madison considered Mrs. Rogers a saint, and I do too. I think there should be more people like Mrs. Rogers; I wish I had had an opportunity to know her personally. ■

CARI REINART plays flute in the band and the piano and is a member of the scholastic team. Daughter of Dale and Karen Reinart, Cari is 14.