

LIFE SKETCH OF EALY MAE McNICHOLS

Ealy Neese McNichols set sail on the ship navigated by Rufus and Liddie Davis Neese in Paducah, Ky.—Oct. 31, 1902, the second of four sisters and one brother.



Ealy McNichols.

Paducah was also where she was educated and met and married John Lathan McNichols in 1919, who preceded her in death in 1961. Their Union was blessed with twin daughters, Rosietta and Henrietta. Rosietta McNichols Crowe, who was married to Elder F.N. Crowe for 35 years, preceded her mother in death in 1977.

The year 1927 found the McNichols family relocating in East Chicago, In. and shortly thereafter in Gary, In.

Ealy's environment was rich with staunch SDAs, so in 1931 she, too, accepted the Three Angels Message, being baptized by Elder Owen A. Troy at the Shiloh SDA Church in Chicago, Il.

Some years later when it became feasible to start a church in Gary, she became one of the charter members of the Mizpah church—one who was an exemplary steward of her time, her means and her energies, all of which were dedicated to serving God. Ealy McNichols was a devoted member of the Mizpah SDA Church serving faithfully as a deaconess for 40 years, 24 as Head Deaconess. Her energies were inexhaustible when it came to rendering services to those in need. She was indeed the A-Model Dorcas worker as she worked diligently with the Dorcas Society.

Her home always had an open door for Adventist newcomers to Gary, especially Adventist ministers and teachers who were called to work in the vineyard of Gary, In. Her home became their home until they had the time to find and relocate in their own home. Many of the single teachers who taught at the Mizpah school made her home their home and thus became and were treated as a part of her family.

Ealy McNichols was the last surviving charter member of the Mizpah church. Many years ago Shiloh SDA Church in Chicago, Il. was the mother church for this area. In order to be able to worship

closer to home and not travel 34 miles each Sabbath to attend church in Chicago, she and her daughters, along with several other charter members, began worshipping in her home. Her living room was the auditorium and her children's bedrooms provided space for Sabbath School classes. Elders Herbert Greene, and Harry Ford were among the ministers who preached the Word in her living room. Other Shiloh officers who spoke on Sabbath to help hold the group together were Head Deacon St. Elmore Bland, Local Elders Manor, C.C. Arburthnott, Baskerville and Brother Lumley.

Ealy McNichols continued to labor untiringly for the church; she supported all aspects of the Christian ministry, ever willing to work, contribute financially, and encourage others to do God's work. She remained active in her church until ill health put a halt to a very busy life.

On Monday, Aug. 17, 1987 after several years of illness, the Life Giver paid her a final visit and in kindness and mercy relieved her of all the cares of this wicked world. God touched her brow and whispered comforting words in her ears causing her to fall into a deep sleep—departing this life peacefully to await the sound of the trumpet on the "Great Gettin' Up Morning".

Left to cherish her beautiful memory: One daughter Henrietta E. Blanchard of Chicago, three grandsons—Michael A. Blanchard, Jr. Chicago, Ronald E. Crowe and wife Sharon of Chicago, Robert S. Crowe and wife Sonja of Nashville, Tn., one granddaughter Irene Ogilvie and husband Garth of Chicago, seven great grands, one great, great grand, two sisters, a host of nieces, nephews.

MRS. RUBY BONTEMPS TROY, wife of the late Dr. Owen A. Troy, Sr., passed away on Aug. 23, 1987 in her home in Huntsville, Al. after a brief illness. She served as clerk of the Oakwood College Church for many years.

Mrs. Troy was a member of one of the first Black Adventist families on the west coast. Her father, Elder Bontemps, was among the first Black men ordained as SDA ministers in California, and her husband served in the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference until his death. Her brother, Professor Arna Bontemps was librarian at Fisk University for more than three decades and was a co-writer with Langston Hughes. Her son, Owen, Jr. presently serves in the Communication Department of the General Conference.

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