

THE REST ROOM LEAGUE

Fine Property Purchased and Being Paid For by the Energetic and Progressive Lady Managers.

In October, 1914 at the Baton Rouge Free Fair at the request of Mrs. L. U. Babin, chairman of the Women's Department, was created Woman's Day to ask women to meet at a certain hour and at that time was the birth of the Rest Room League. From this gathering of women from town and country, presided over by Mrs. Babin with Mrs. James Clayton especially urging closer co-operation came the determination of standing together for mutual good. In November of that year in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce was organized the Rest Room League which formed plans resulting in renting a house and large grounds, 311 Main street, and furnished as to provide a place to which out-of-town shoppers or rural people to see doctors and dentists, in fact any visitory can find rest and the home comforts gratis. Here they can bring lunch or purchase same, with milk, coffee, tea or cocoa. Waiting at the Rest Room for those with whom they came to town. Yes, a great improvement over the old way of getting the crowd together; packages kept by the matron in safety and vehicles in readiness on the grounds are things also appreciated.

Five years at this place and then it was sold at a high price because of its commercial value. No other place close-in could be rented, so to buy was the only thing left. The purchase price of \$6000 was raised by subscription and in May, 1920 the property at 550 Lafayette street was bought. The \$5000 borrowed of a Bank for enlargement and repair is being repaid, \$100.00 monthly by our own efforts.

There being more rooms than needed for the function of the Rest Room, these are rented reasonably to working girls and our cafeteria furnishing a wholesome mid-day meal to the ones with us and many other working girls at only 25 cents.

The Woman's Exchange conducted by the league sells fancy work and hand-made articles charging 10 per cent commission.

A shed in the rear of the grounds was re-arranged to rent as three garages, one at \$6.00 and two at \$7.50 per month.

Since the beginning there has been no change of matron; more economy, tact and love of work could hardly be found than in Mrs. Kate Tempel and no one could be better loved than our "Aunt Kate."

Primarily the Rest Room is just what the name implies—a rest room for shoppers from the country who come to the city for shopping and do not care, or are unable to go to a hotel.

One great feature in the Rest Room is the help to the poor working girls. It is a place for girls who come to Baton Rouge to work and receive such small salaries that they cannot afford to pay high board. The cafeteria department is one of the greatest good to the working girls. At noon, each day are crowds of working girls who come to eat and rest.

No other institution has done more to bring the town and country together. The business men of Baton Rouge, the people from the country and the working girls have all reaped and are reaping the benefits.

Officers are: President, Mrs. L. U. Babin; first vice president, Mrs. N. B. Brown; 2nd vice president, Mrs. I. D. Wall; secretary, Mrs. Robert Morgan; assistant secretary, Mrs. Horace Wilkinson; treasurer, Mrs. James Clayton.

The house committee is composed of Mrs. Elmo Badley and Mrs. W. C. Young.

Past Presidents: Mrs. B. A. Bass, Mrs. John Laycock, Mrs. Elmo Badley and Mrs. N. B. Brown.

ST. MARGARET'S DAUGHTERS. (Mrs. L. U. Babin).

St. Joseph's Circle, No. 21, St. Margaret's Daughters, is now into its eighth year of existence, having been organized March 19, St. Joseph Day, 1914, and its services have been faithfully and continuously carried out.

St. Margaret's Daughters is an incorporated body under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church with the objects of "planning, undertaking, financing and executing good works, whether charitable, eleemosynary, educational, benevolent or others of a like character, in behalf of humanity, as well as those which the betterment of social, civic and religious conditions may demand."

Realizing the need of such an organization in our midst a number of women determined to form one and by invitation of Mrs. D. R. Barfield, met in her North street home, March 19, 1914, at which time St. Joseph Circle was organized.

The first officers were: President, Mrs. W. C. Joubert, (deceased), first vice president, Mrs. D. R. Barfield; second vice president, Mrs. L. U. Babin; third vice president, Mrs. L. P. Amis; recording secretary, Mrs. Fred Bowers; financial secretary, Mrs. A. Grouchy, Jr., (deceased); treasurer, Mrs. S. T. Dupuy.

Among the early works was the Circle's gift of a memorial window to St. Joseph Church; assistance given in reading to the children of the school for the blind and helping finance literature used in catechism classes. Gifts of magazines and books have been made to the city library. From the beginning it has been and is now the custom to give an Easter hunt to the children of both orphanages as their complimentary guests.

Cooperation of efforts and financial

aid has been given by the circle to the organized charities of the city and since this work is covered by the Red Cross the same conditions exist. Good Fellows christmas cheer to the poor children of the town is a favored thing with the circle, a "Good Fellow" too; this is a great pleasure as well as when helping see that the orphans of both homes are well taken care of at the Knights of Columbus annual christmas tree to these little ones. The Knights let the ladies work but they furnish the money.

The movement to better conditions of working girls was assisted in in that the circle donated refreshments in turn for their gatherings and assisted some in the initial furnishing the home for working girls.

During the war the circle was among the first organizations to take up war works, meriting special mention. Nourishments were systematically furnished soldiers convalescing at the L. S. U. in the epidemic of flu.

As a means of bringing Catholics together at the invitation of the circle the Daughters of Isabella and the Children of Mary met at the home of the Knights of Columbus, the Knights furnishing the home gratis, an entertainment was given to the Catholic boys and girls attending the L. S. U. and the circle also entertained the Catholic boys and girls who attended the short course at the University.

Jointly with the D. of I., now the Catholic Daughters of America and St. Margaret's Daughters a series of entertainments are being given to furnish St. Vincent Hall.

The main work undertaken, because of so many young ladies coming into our city for school and the present difficulty in housing them, the circle will rent and furnish a large house to accommodate co-eds. The name of this house is "Varsity Manor," and it shall be under the supervision of the dean of women of L. S. U., Mrs. A. M. Herget, whose rules will be Varsity Manor rules.

A business meeting of the circle is held the first Tuesday of each month in the parlors of the rectory and on alternate Tuesdays combined work and social meetings are held at the homes of the various members.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. J. S. J. Otto; first vice president, Mrs. J. N. Ogden, Jr.; second vice president, Miss Mitt Klempeter; financial secretary, Miss Nellie Costello; recording secretary, Mrs. Felix Gaudet; treasurer, Mrs. Harry Hobert.

The past presidents have been: Mrs. W. C. Joubert (deceased), Mrs. D. R. Barfield, Mrs. S. T. Dupuy, Mrs. L. U. Babin and Mrs. H. J. Redditt. Among those whom the circle particularly likes to think of are Rev. Father Drossart, once pastor, now Bishop of San Antonio; Brother Charles, whose death was deeply mourned for he was always a good friend; Miss Louise Whitaker, once director of the organized charities; Supt. and Mrs. W. W. Bynum; Prof. W. B. Clark during the circle's work with the blind; Miss Amie Manuel, teacher of catechism classes; Miss Maud Chambers, director of the organized charities and now in charge of Home Service Section of the local Red Cross; Miss Ella Graham, once circle of local Red Cross and now again; Miss Hilda Fryoux, so long executive secretary of the local Red Cross and her services as secretary of St. Margaret's Daughters was the longest of any one officer; and to our recently appointed spiritual director, Rev. Father Colbert, with his untiring encouragement, co-operation and advice proving of invaluable assistance to the circle.

Many local business concerns and charitably inclined individuals have contributed liberally to the circle's various undertakings have helped inestimably in making the work successful in its various forms of endeavors.

Now that building prices have gone down, some new buildings ought to go up.

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