

'Everlastingly at it'

'75 Years of Love'



The following is done in scrapbook form, from the collections of the Illinois State Journal and Register and the various newspapers that operated in the area of Springfield in the past 75 years.

I would like to thank the Illinois State Historical Library for their assistance, the Lincoln Library, and the Sangamon Valley Collection and Mr. Edward J. Russo and his assistants for the much needed material that goes into my text.

Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller, former directors of the Mission and to Mrs. Robert T. Brown, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Lucky, Mrs. Denning, and all the wonderful friends who have served on the Washington Street Board.

Also to my great-grandmother, Mrs. Hattie Mathis Tate; my grandmother, Mrs. Grace Tate Danley; my great-aunt, Eve Mae Tate Broonie; and to my mother, Dorothy Mae Danley Woodruff. And last, but not least, my wonderful friend, Mary Fritz and Ted and all her family.

ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 7:30 P.M.

and

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 2-5 P.M.

This photo was taken of the Washington Street Mission during the 1930s when the mission was located at 111-18 South 8th Street. The mission moved into these buildings 1918 and were there until they moved into their present location, 408-10 North 4th Street, in 1974.

Seventy-five candles will be lighted by friends of the Washington Street Mission, who have been active with the Mission for many years. Mary Fritz said, "Let the younger ones light the candles, but I would like to light a few."

A booklet by Jim Woodruff, Managing Editor of The Herald, will be available at the Mission on the 10th. It is free for those interested.

Washington Street Mission Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Washington Street Mission opened its doors on that cold winter night of Jan. 10, 1910 as the rescue mission of the down-hearted levy area of downtown Springfield 75 years ago. They will have their Diamond anniversary next weekend.

On that night in a small hall on the North side of Washington Street near North Ninth, the Mission opened its doors. With an exclusive interview, Mrs. Mary Fritz attended the first service, and with her family has stayed active in all these years. The Herald's interview which follows will also be in the book of the mission called, "75 Years of Love."

"I, Mary Fritz, attended the Mission on the first night of services in the 800 block of E. Washington. There was a large crowd, as the lady I went with and myself had to sit in the back.

Mr. Rice was the new superintendent, and the Mission was there until they moved to the 700 block. Mr. John Astra and his wife were the superintendents then. He had his office upstairs over the mission.

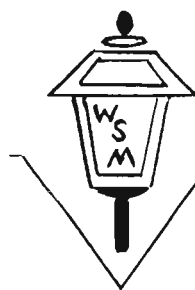
They had a very nice crowd at their services, too. There was a class that met in the rooms back of the Sunday School for Italians. There were mothers and babies along with mens classes. They did not go after people then; you came on your own.

The Astras had two children, and Mrs. Watkins was their faithful piano player. Once a year they would have a picnic and open streetcars would pull up in front of the Mission on E. Washington and take the whole gathering to Lincoln Park. The food was sent from Tom Strong's Cafeteria on E. Monroe. Astra always wanted the best.

There was a few years I didn't attend the Mission when they moved to the 100 block of S. 8th. Brown was superintendent then. Mrs. Brown, for a time, was a matron for the Home for Girls, 3045 Clearlake, where the Southern Aire used to be. This was supervised by the Browns and the Mission.

I taught a class of girls, ages 12-14. I did some help in other churches, and the girls still call me. I visited the hospitals and handed out tracts. My sister, Mrs. Towell, and I helped with the Mission Drive. We made personal calls to the ones we had cards for.

The Mission women held prayer meetings in their homes and prayed for success for the Drive; also that the word of God could be reached in homes where some needed to hear the word. The Washington Street Mission is a lighthouse, and their message is, "Jesus will return."



WASHINGTON STREET MISSION

408-410 N. Fourth St.

Springfield

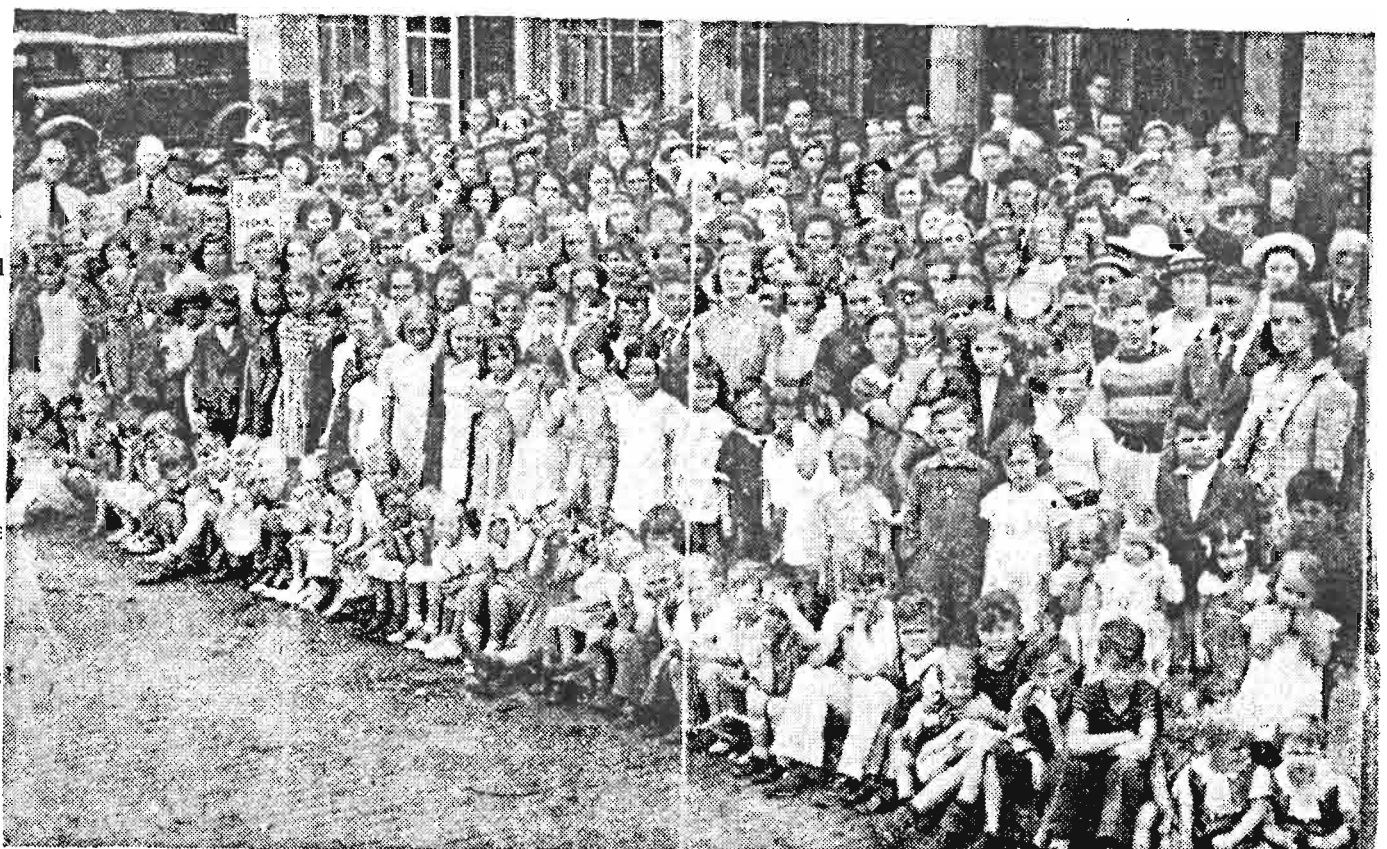
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

TO ATTEND OUR

Saturday evening Jim Edgar, Secretary of State, and Henry Soles, President, Inter-sports Association and chaplain to professional athletes, will be the featured speakers. We'll also have tours of the Mission and serve refreshments.

Sunday afternoon outstanding musical groups will perform. We'll also have tours of the Mission and serve refreshments.

"Everlastingly at it since 1910"



This photo was made in 1938, showing the large crowds that attended Sunday School during the Great Depression

Founded Jan. 10, 1910

WASHINGTON STREET MISSION 111 SOUTH EIGHTH ST. SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS