

## Tribute to our dear "Aunt Sybs"

From as far back as we can remember, "Aunt Sybs" was the smiling face, the shining Light at not only our church, Church of God, Chapel, but especially at our family's business, H. O. Merren & Company, Ltd.

"Aunt Sybs" worked mainly in the Dry Goods Store but she was the person in charge of all displays. We remember her walking around the huge display windows of the Dry Goods Store, Shoe Store, and Grocery Store where, if she had to, she'd even crawl around to make sure each item was EXACTLY as it should be so everything could be viewed well from not only the outside, but the inside, too. She was meticulous with the toy displays, jewelry, and perfume! As children, we were her little assistants. Whenever material was purchased, she made sure us children who always had our chores to do, put the material back on the roll neatly. "Aunt Sybs" had a wonderful relationship with Aunt Syl Coe (the Dry Goods Store Manager) and all the staff members. Everyone worked as a team and "Aunt Sybs" was always the most jovial. Her gentle manner, smile, and chuckle would calm anyone who may have gotten a little frustrated, especially if a deadline was looming and the work had not yet been completed.

"Aunt Sybs" attended the Chapel from her early childhood. She also taught the toddlers Sunday School class and sometimes assisted other teachers, especially our Aunt Ena, with her classes. She used lots of visual aids to get the lessons across to our young minds.

Our familial friendships had long been established because "Aunt Sybs" mother, Mrs Lula, was one of our grandmothers best friends and prayer partners. In fact, in the 1930's when our grandmother, Katie (McCoy) Merren, was stricken with blindness as a result of glaucoma and was told she needed to go to Jamaica for surgery, Mrs. Lula was one of the handful of Christian prayer warriors who joined our grandmother in fasting and prayer in her bedroom at Merrendale. That fasting and prayer time lasted almost 2 full days!!! At the end of the 2nd day, those faithful prayer warriors emerged from the bedroom, singing hymns and praising God because our Grandma Katie's eyes had been COMPLETELY HEALED!!! Her vision was fully restored for the remainder of her life.

Now, when we found out that a possible romance was brewing and there was love blowing in from East End, we just HAD to find out more about who this man was!!! We were inquisitive children and had to be told about this romantic story! It was a relief to know that gentleman was none other than Mr. Will Jackson, whom we already were acquainted with because of our trips up to the H. O. Merren & Company East End Branch Store. We didn't know him well, but we knew who he was because he was just as sweet, kind, and jovial as our "Aunt Sybs". Although we were all very sad when "Aunt Sybs" resigned to get married and move up to East End, we would look forward to her visits to town because she ALWAYS came to the store to see everyone! As adults, our visits to East End always included a stop to visit our "Aunt Sybs".

Thank you, "Aunt Sybs", for your love, patience, friendship, kindness and dedication at H. O. Merren & Company, Ltd and to our family. We will never forget you! May you Rest in Peace.

With love and affection,  
Pansy, Maureen, Maxine, and Cathy