

FILLMORE.—Funeral services for Mrs. Myrtle Fillmore, who passed away Oct. 4 at the age of 86 years at the Unity Farm, will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from D. W. Newcomer's First Community church on the Paseo at Robert Gillham rd. Interment Newcomer's estate.

HER FAITH WON MILLIONS

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UNITY BECAME WORLD-WIDE UNDER MRS. FILLMORE'S DIRECTION.

The Death of the Leader in This Religious Doctrine Came After Forty-five Years in Its Service.

More than forty-five years ago a Kansas City woman turned to a new application of Christianity for a solution to many months of illness and financial despair in her family.

Tuesday night that woman, who had inspired a school of religious thought which circled the earth, died. She was Mrs. Myrtle Page Fillmore, vice-president of the Unity School of Christianity.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fillmore moved to Kansas City in 1884, with their three children. Previously the family had lived in Texas and Colorado, seeking a cure for tuberculosis of the lungs from which Mrs. Fillmore was suffering. As a boy Mr. Fillmore had suffered a hip disease and curvature of the spine.

LOST HIS FORTUNE.

Mr. Fillmore was successful in the real estate business here, accumulating \$150,000. That was swept away in the collapse of a boom and the family was destitute and in need of medical attention and nourishment. To quote an article which appeared in The Star five years ago, this was what happened when the family was in the depths of despair:

"Then just when it seemed there was nothing left to life, there came an extraordinary change over Mrs. Fillmore. During the many months of heartbreaking trials, she had reasoned out that there must be a supreme power operating upon fixed divine law, and that this law applied in faith and faithfully, must of necessity set aside all negative or destructive agencies. And she applied her theory with remarkable success. Her tuberculosis vanished, as did the ailments of her children. She treated her friends similarly. Sickness and poverty became only as bad dreams. In their place health and the ability to work reigned. And Charles Fillmore, grasping the full meaning of this divine law, began to help her in her ministrations, reaping much benefit physically, mentally and materially."

It was in 1885 that Mr. and Mrs. Fillmore began to devote a part of their time demonstrating the new doctrine conceived by Mrs. Fillmore. In 1899 they decided to devote their lives to it.

STARTED WITH ONE PUBLICATION.

They started with one publication and in an old residence at 1315 McGee street. Their work grew into what now is known as the Unity School of Christianity.

MRS. MYRTLE PAGE FILLMORE, WHO INSPIRED THE UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY, IS DEAD.



Mrs. Myrtle Page Fillmore, vice-president of the Unity School of Christianity, who died Tuesday night at Unity Farm. With her husband, Charles Fillmore, she started the new religious doctrine about forty-five years ago.

The school is neither a church nor a sect. It has no membership, but it is known that at least 30,000 persons in Kansas City are followers or are interested in varying degrees. "Millions" is the only word the school's officials can use in speaking of the followers all over the world.

From the McGee street residence, the school has grown into an institution which has extensive holdings on Tracy avenue between Ninth and Tenth streets, and the 1,300-acre Unity farm on U. S. highway No. 50. Starting with a small composing room in which type was set for one publication, the school now has a printing plant which issues seven publications. Fifteen bound volumes from the plant now are in print and countless folders and booklets have been issued.

NOW EIGHTY WORKERS.

The silent Unity work started with one worker to assist Mr. and Mrs. Fillmore. Now there are eighty workers. On the Tracy avenue land there is a vegetarian cafe and the school's radio station, WOQ. The school employs about 400 persons.

Five years ago it was estimated that more than 2 million persons were following the teachings of Unity. Today there are more than 1,000 Unity centers and classes.

In bare outline these are the things that have grown out of a woman's attempt to end the despair in her family. The discoverer of a religious doctrine that has gone over the world, Mrs. Fillmore seldom went away from the city. She went to Denver and Chicago a few times, but most of her activities were in Kansas City.

Mrs. Fillmore was 86 years old. She

was born in Pagetown, O. A graduate of Oberlin college, Oberlin, O., she taught school in Clinton, Mo., and Denison, Tex. She and her husband celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage last year.

ACTIVE UNTIL TIEK LAST.

Mrs. Fillmore was active in the work of the organization until her illness a few days ago. Last week she was at her desk at the Unity headquarters and on one day last week she found entertainment in picking apples on Unity Farm.

She never dropped the writing of letters which she started at the founding of the school. Much of her correspondence was with followers in foreign countries.

Funeral services for Mrs. Fillmore will be held at 3:30 o'clock Friday at the Newcomer chapel, Robert Gillham road and the Paseo. Ernest C. Wilson, head of the Plaza Unity Center, will have charge of the services. Music will be by singers from the staff of WOQ.

The body will remain temporarily in a vault at the Newcomer chapel.

HERITAGE ROOMS
COPY
PRESERVATION

REST FOR UNITY FOUNDER

CHARLES FILLMORE TO TURN OVER
LOCAL WORK TO E. C. WILSON.

An Extensive Vacation Is Planned
by the Religious Leader, but He
Continues as Head of the
Movement.

Charles Fillmore, founder of the Unity movement, announced to his congregation yesterday morning his resignation from the local work of the movement, and the appointment of Ernest C. Wilson as his successor in the ministry to the Unity congregation here. Mr. Fillmore is 86 years old.

"My resignation has been accepted by the board of the Unity society, to take effect the first of the year," he said. "My final meeting, after forty-five years of continuous ministry, will be December 31. Mr. Wilson, whom you all know and like, is the man to continue the work."

TO TAKE A VACATION.

Mr. Fillmore explained that he had had such a move in mind for some time, and that he desired to have a change, to take his first extended vacation in many years, and possibly to visit Unity groups in other parts of the country. He plans to go to California for several months. But he will continue as active head of the Unity School of Christianity, and will address the local congregation from time to time on special occasions, after his vacation.

Mr. Wilson has been identified with the metaphysical movement for seventeen years, the last seven of them here at Unity headquarters. Coming to the Unity organization as editor of one of its periodicals, his responsibilities have increased to include supervision of all the Unity publications, the writing of several books on Unity subjects, and a daily radio program.

HAS AIDED MR. FILLMORE.

For several years, Mr. Wilson has assisted Mr. Fillmore in the Unity Sunday morning meetings, and has had charge of the Unity Sunday evening services.

Commenting upon his appointment, Mr. Wilson said yesterday: "Charles Fillmore has made a place for himself in the life of his followers which no one but he can fill. I am deeply conscious of the honor that he confers upon me, and will take inspiration from his devoted and selfless ministry. We shall feel deeply the loss of Mr. Fillmore's close association with the local work, but cannot deny his right to a rest and change after so many years of untiring work. We cannot refuse to attempt whatever task he assigns to us, but hope that he soon will be back with us, and will be in his pulpit often, as in the past."

UNITY STARTED IN 1889.

Mr. Fillmore and his wife founded the Unity movement here in 1889. They had come here with their three children several years before from Colorado, where they had been living for Mrs. Fillmore's health. She had contracted tuberculosis while living in Texas.

Mr. Fillmore accumulated \$150,000 in the real estate business here but it was swept away in a general crash of business. He was ill and his wife still suffered from tuberculosis. Their three children were ill. Mrs. Fillmore, a graduate of Oberlin college, Oberlin, O., reasoned that there was a supreme power and that it must set aside destructive agencies. She was faithful to it. She began recovering. The children became well and her husband became better.

A GRADUAL GROWTH.

Mrs. Fillmore began demonstrating her newly conceived doctrines. Her husband helped her. In 1889, they decided to devote their lives to the doctrines. They opened a small office in the Hall building and began issuing a magazine, the Modern Thought. Later they moved to a cottage at 1315 McGee street under the name of the Unity Tract Society and subsequently organized the Unity Society of Practical Christianity, having twelve directors.

A building committee was appointed, a site at Ninth street and Tracy avenue selected and a small structure built. Larger buildings were erected and Unity Farm of 1,200 acres acquired as the Unity movement grew until it became known over the world. Mrs. Fillmore died October 6, 1911. She was 86 years old.

A Tribute

From Mrs. Gladys Selby, Box 234, Gallatin, Mo.
To Charles Fillmore

Dear Friend in Unity:

Please accept my sympathy in the passing of your beloved wife. I do not know you in flesh but feel that I know you in Spirit. I have been studying Unity about six months and will say that it has made a different person out of me. I have always been a faithful attender of church but have never been satisfied with my religion until after I studied Unity and now it is all very clear to me. I think so many people have been misled as to how to pray and how to go about getting things that they wanted and I feel that Unity has done so much for the world that I only wish every one could come to know it as I have.

I know that you will be able to sing praises the rest of your life for the work that this dear woman started so many years ago. It must give one a real satisfaction to feel that they have been so unselfish as to give their whole life, time, and money for the good of others and I feel that is what you and your wife did. My prayer is that the work of this beloved woman will be carried on forever and that you may be permitted to go on with the work, as may many others just where she left off.

Yours in Unity,

Mrs. Gladys Selby