



3-15-1983

Clintora Byrne-Harris: Riches in Her Touch

Margaret Friedrich

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

Recommended Citation

Friedrich, Margaret (1983) "Clintora Byrne-Harris: Riches in Her Touch," *Westview*: Vol. 2 : Iss. 3 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol2/iss3/13>

This Nonfiction is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



CLINTORA BYRNE-HARRIS

October 24, 1925 — January 24, 1983



Clintora Byrne-Harris

(Managing Editor's note: Clintora Byrne-Harris was an active WESTVIEW contributor. Following is a loving tribute from a good friend.)

RICHES IN HER TOUCH

— by Margaret Friedrich

(Margaret Friedrich is a retired teacher who lives in Clinton. Her days are filled with useful service to her church, Trinity Lutheran, and to other organizations such as the Weatherford Wordhandlers and the Custer County Retired Teachers Association.)

She first touched my life almost four years ago. I did not see her often during those years; but every time we were together, her philosophy made a deep impact upon me. Her smile sparkled and danced as if it came from a sunlit center somewhere within her being. Yet her life was not one of sunshine. Her heartaches were many. What then, I wondered, was the source of the sun within her? Very quickly I learned. She revealed it by her every act and word.

Her faith emerged as a deep and unshakable knowledge that, despite any vicissitude life might hand her, she could always draw on a fountain of strength. Once at dinner she remarked that she had prayed for the steak to be just right. I was amused by her seemingly casual use of prayer. To this she replied, "Oh, I always pray about everything." It was true. Her mind was continuously receptive to prayer.

She prayed for strength to endure her heartaches but was quick to point out her blessings as well. She loved her four sons and five daughters and all her grandchildren. They were her great treasures. She appreciated her many loyal friends; she felt blessed among her church family where she could turn to others for comfort and support. Each day's gifts brought a spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving.

She loved poetry and had a talent for writing it. Published numerous times, her poems usually dealt with the magnificence of nature and

its inner meaning. She loved nature and was happy when pursuing it with her camera. She had developed a careful eye for shapes, colors, perspectives. Sunsets were of special significance to her. She gloried in the soft rose, the blazing red, the delicate pink, the mauve, the deep purple.

Hope lived in her every breath. She looked forward to adventures never yet experienced. She delighted in people. She could see and appreciate their good qualities almost instantly; still, she was aware of human shortcomings. But whether they were good or bad, she could and did love the people who touched her life. She knew her own inadequacies, but she did not let them depress her. She had the ability to ask God's forgiveness and then to forgive herself. She lived abundantly with faith, hope, and love.

When cancer struck, another quality surfaced — courage. Gradually, as the months went by, she came to accept the fact that death was drawing close for her. She did not recognize her own calm courage in facing it.

She added so much richness to my life in the short time I knew her. I shall always be grateful because she touched me with her own particular quality of wealth.

Yesterday we gathered to say goodbye to her. The funeral was for us. The beauty of the music, the loveliness of the flowers, the profound simplicity of the words spoken by the eminent clergyman — all were for us who survive. They all soften our inevitable loneliness and encourage us to live as she did with faith, hope, and love.

Margaret Friedrich
427 South 15 St.
Clinton, OK 73601
of

Weatherford Wordhandlers



Margaret Friedrich