

Working woman goes from maid to manager

Series of jobs running hotels follows entry into business in housekeeping

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansas.com

Success stories are common for those who take their responsibilities seriously, and for Martha Brewer, the journey from maid to management didn't take long.

As a girl growing up on a farm near Russell Springs, Brewer learned how to work. She had the responsibilities of most farm kids, with housework and 4-H chores.

In her early 20's, Brewer said, she went to work in housekeeping, making beds and cleaning rooms at the Ramada Inn when Dick Pratt was owner. Her dedication to the job paid off, and after a few months when she was moved up to housekeeping supervisor.

After only five or six years she moved into the position of assistant manager and not long after she became the manager, a job she held for over 15 years.

During that time, with the help of other staff, she was responsible for

booking conventions, banquets, and meetings.

In 2002, she was offered the job as manager of the Holiday Inn Express, which she said was a lot different than the Ramada chain. Fall of 2009 brought her a new challenge when she was offered and accepted the management position of Chance Management.

"It's been a wonderful new challenge," she said, "and the transition is coming fairly easily."

Management seems to run in the family. Brewer's husband Ken manages Pepsi Distribution in Colby. They have three children, Austin Zerr, of Russell Springs; Jill Nichols, of Colby; and Bryan, in his second year at Colby Community College.

Brewer said she started out at the very bottom of the hospitality industry, and throughout it all, the best part has been people she's been involved with, from staff to guests.

She said she has always liked to work, and enjoys being able to show the wonderful side of western Kansas.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Martha Brewer used her drive and determination to rise through the ranks from housekeeping at the Ramada Inn to manager at Chase Management in just a few years.



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Thank You Working Women!



Pictured Front L-R: Heather Woofter, Kathryn Ballard, Marian Ballard. Back L-R: Vera Sloan, Jasmine Stewart, Kaity Wilson, Roxanne Baker, Aubrey Spencer. Not pictured: Robin Tubbs.

155 W. 5th Street, Colby • 785-462-3963
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