

HISTORY ----- ATLANTA Y. W. C. A.

(As gathered from the minutes of the Board of Directors from 1901-1942)
by Margaret Richards

In 1855 Miss Emma Roberts, a young woman residing in England, and believing firmly in the miraculous power of prayer, asked some of her friends to pray on Saturday evenings for girls of all classes -- princesses, middle-class daughters, young wives and mothers, governesses, shop women, servants, heathen and the fallen. From the twenty-three women who composed this Prayer Union, grew the mighty Young Women's Christian Association.

Forty-eight years later this same consecrated desire for an association of thoughtful, Christian women was felt in Atlanta, Georgia, and in 1901 a group gathered at the home of Mrs. A. McD. Wilson and organized the Atlanta Young Women's Christian Association.

These women were aided in the process of organization by the Gulf States Association functioning in the southeast. Mrs. Ralph Van Landingham was the first president and Miss Adele Disbro was selected as the first employed secretary. Through their staunch loyalty, determination in the face of difficulties, ingenuity and courage, the infant Association was guided through its first tremulous days and foundations were laid for lusty growth.

Records of the first annual meeting, written by Miss Grace M. Landrum, recording secretary, show that it was held April 3, 1903, at 8:00 o'clock, 6½ Whitehall Street, with Mrs. George Howard, vice-president, in charge. Due to inclement weather, there were only 24 guests present. Miss Disbro gave an inspiring devotional and the treasurer's report was acclaimed "phenomenal". Great was the rejoicing when the ladies learned that their precious infant was 77% self-supporting during the "difficulties of a first year".

Setting a precedent for many years, reports were given by the social chairman, Miss Kitty Roberts and Miss Georgina Pennington, the first calisthenics teacher. The officers suggested by the nominating committee were elected by acclamation.

During the months and years which followed "Finance" was the greedy wolf which lurked near the door of the Association, forever threatening the scope of work; always jerking back the adventurous souls who were so eager to explore into the realms of social service. During pioneer years leaders bravely tried to shoulder the burdens alone. An entertainment committee was appointed to raise money for current expenses; new members paid small fees for the privileges of rest rooms, lavatory, etc. and from the earliest days, membership was stressed as one of the most important factors.

From the beginning, Board members were conscious that before there could be impetus to the movement, there must be understanding, and their keenest efforts were expended in interpreting the Y.W.C.A. to the citizens of Atlanta. The first move was to place greater emphasis on the spiritual features and have each minister in the city present the annual report from the Y.W.C.A. once a year. A publicity committee was appointed to furnish the daily papers with statistics and news about the work.

In May 1903, that confusing Nemesis "Membership Basis" was encountered. Conferences were held with Y.M.C.A. officials, who regarded \$1.00 per year as too small for membership fee. According to the men, "it cheapened the work, for people appreciate privileges largely in proportion to what they cost them". However, the women remained firm in their belief that "Y" membership should be open to the masses and should impose no financial hardship upon the woman of small means. So, today the fee is still \$1.00 per year, general membership. It is to be noted that in the early days, the Y.W.C.A. was largely supported by contributing or sustaining memberships and Board members made their approaches with this in view.

In 1903 the staff consisted of Miss Disbro, general secretary; Miss Pennington, gymnasium teacher, and Miss Margaret Whiteside, assistant to Miss Disbro. A circulating library was organized and this, together with the lunch room, gym and plans for more commodious quarters, kept the staff in a continual buzz. Added to their routine duties was the responsibility of settling such heated discussions as to whether or not men, pardon, gentlemen, should use the lunch room.

In September 1903, the "Y" moved into new quarters in the Steiner-Emory Building where the Peachtree Arcade now stands. The assembly hall was rented to parties giving music or elocution lessons. Proud of their new home, the "Y" invited the Gulf States Convention to meet in Atlanta.

About this time a devotional committee was formed with Mrs. W. F. Clarke, chairman. The Bible classes, meeting Monday evenings, were to be furnished with free suppers, the expenses coming out of \$50 already appropriated for this work.

In 1904, Miss Disbro resigned and Miss Pennington assumed charge temporarily. In April 1904, there were nearly 300 women and girls enjoying the gymnasium and enrolled as members. Miss Florence Williams was appointed as assistant secretary. Later, Miss Disbro went to Augusta to organize an Association there.

The second annual meeting, held in Steiner-Emory Building, April 2, 1904, at 5:00 P.M. was attended by 40 guests who heard quite remarkable reports. The Association boasted of a class in sociology, taught by Dr. L. D. Morse; a Bible class; social evenings at which the gym classes entertained.

Gospel meetings were held each Sunday afternoon and at the lunch hour daily. 1786 lunches had been served during the month, bringing \$54.94 profit. Twenty devotional meetings had been held by ministers. It was about this time that extension work was begun in two mills, thus laying the foundations for the fine industrial work done by the Y.W.C.A. throughout the years.

In April 1904 there was a felt need for a boarding home which would aid and protect girls on small salaries. After much discussion and prayer, it was declared feasible for the Y.W.C.A. to take over the "Co-operative Home" so in June "The Co-operative Home" board gave over all their possessions, goodwill, etc. to the Y.W.C.A. to have and to hold ever afterward and to be used as a sacred trust."

The matron of the home was asked to use her influence in getting the girls to the "Y" dormitory. "After breaking up the home our consternation can be imagined when it was found that the girls had scattered and few, if any of them, knew the Y.W.C.A. plans." However, all obstacles were subdued and the Home was opened June 21, 1904, with four boarders who had successfully passed before the Eligibility Committee. The "Y", working in cooperation with Traveler's Aid Committee, agreed to reserve one room, bed 25¢ per night, for their girls in need. Hot baths were 10¢; cold baths free, with guests furnishing their own soap. By August the dormitory was full, and things were running as smoothly as could be expected, according to the first matron, Mrs. Cater.

In June the following new committees were added: Traveler's Aid -- Mrs. W. F. Clarke; Boarding Home -- Mrs. H.E.W. Palmer; Domestic Science, Mrs. T. S. Lewis; Rooms Committee, Mrs. Elijah Brown.

Consternation again reigned when the President reported there was a plan on foot to open a bar in the Steiner-Emory Building. Predicted defeat.

In February 1905 a class in Social Economics was organized, with Mrs. Burton Smith, teacher, at \$5.00 per course. Miss Evelyn Orme formed the Philadora Club, composed of 20 young women. There was also a collar and cuff class busily engaged in tucking, pleating and hemstitching. There were 9 classes per week in gymnasium; a class in Civil Service; Spanish, stenography, millinery, cutting and fitting and embroidery.

The social affairs growing out of the comradeship enjoyed by "Ladies of the Gym" proved so delightful that Miss Pennington suggested that a club be organized to perpetuate these pleasures. Thus in 1904 came into being the famed SISP club which has wielded a potent influence in moulding the present Y.W.C.A. Miss Sara Alexander was the first president and each year the club holds a banquet at the Winecoff Hotel, gathering together the city's leading business and professional women who chat gleefully of by-gone days.

The boarding home, located at 141 Spring Street, was practically self-sustaining after a few months and now was added a Boarding House directory and Employment Bureau. In a short time, 76 girls were directed to satisfactory boarding houses and 16 positions were secured. There were three devotional meetings held per week; three Bible classes; one fortnightly club, and girls from the Nunally's Pants Factory were meeting every Saturday for recreation and group study.

Miss Porter was selected as Bible secretary and Extension worker and Miss Harvey of Washington, D. C. was the new physical director. Miss Schenck was the new Boarding Home secretary.

A Prayer Circle was organized by Mrs. Clarke, with Mrs. Wilson suggesting that the members have the following subject: "That God would raise up a man or woman who would erect a building for the Y. W. C. A." Also, that the ladies pray for a larger attendance at the Bible classes.

In December 1905, the Atlanta Association was honored by a visit from Miss Florence Sims, who was the first National Industrial Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. She visited factories here and emphasized the opportunities for "Y" service in this field. Association membership of 60¢ per year was granted industrial club members. Girls from Foote and Davies Book Bindery had formed the second industrial club.

In 1906 fencing was added to the Health Education classes, with Mr. DuPoint, the excellent teacher. Excitement in this department was at a high pitch for the Savannah "Y" team had challenged the local "Y". The game was played on the Marist College court, the home team winning 6 to 1. After many pros and cons advanced by Board members, it was decided that no men would be admitted. Regardless of this unchivalrous decision, the teams had a grand time and were entertained, following the game. The next morning a party of 20 enjoyed a Tally-ho party out Peachtree Road. Tennis was also popular, with Mr. Staunton's court used.

The Clover Club (which still meets regularly) was organized in October 1905, with fifteen members. By the next spring this number was almost doubled. Miss Kate Sutherlin was the first president.

In November 1905 the so-called lunch room was transformed into a cafeteria, with the self-service plan proving most popular and practical. A little later the 2 cents guest fee was established.

Dark clouds hovered over the Association in May 1906, for it was thought the "Y" would have to close its doors due to lack of funds. The entire Board resolved itself into a finance committee and each member wrote 20 letters to influential friends. These were followed by a personal appeal. Two hundred letters were sent out by the Board and three hundred by the president, resulting in \$300 in less than a month.

Miss Porter resigned and Miss Pennington presented her resignation in an informal way, which the Board declined to consider, begging her to remain. During this fall, there were tribulations galore. It was the custom of the Board to contribute a Thanksgiving dinner for the Boarding Home. But, the young ladies resented this method and protested vigorously and wrote the president, declining to partake, if the dinner was to be obtained through subscriptions. After much discussion, the Board decided to instruct Mrs. Passmore, the matron, "to provide a little better dinner to distinguish the day as a Christian observance from other days."

In November 1906, Miss Mays, National City Secretary, visited the Atlanta Association and in an impressive talk declared the main qualifications of a Board member to be spirituality and culture — "a broad culture which will enable her to grasp and solve the many perplexing problems which continually present themselves. It would be impossible for one woman to combine all the necessary qualifications, but with one possessing that gentle and sweet personality, Christ-like in its influence and another that culture obtained from travel and study, with the executive ability of another, a Board may be formed which will be a power for good".

Miss Mays frankly stated that the Association had reached the limit of its usefulness in its present quarters, the approach of which was the worst she had ever seen anywhere. "Why did we not have a suitable building? The money was here just waiting for God's spirit to touch some man or woman's heart to give it, and only by prayer could it be obtained."

The Agnes Scott Y.W.C.A. was formed June 1906. Miss Porter also made a trip to Wesleyan College.

In January 1907 Miss Berryman, of Washington, D. C. was appointed general secretary, and Miss Disbro returned to aid in a finance campaign. In March the Board learned, through the Gulf States Committee, who was aiding with the financial situation, that a Miss Agnew of New York had presented the Association with \$1500. The Board rose and sang fervently, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow".

Nevertheless the stalking gray wolf "Finance" proved too terrifying and in April 1907 it was voted to suspend temporarily. A Committee was appointed to reorganize the fall work. The Boarding Home was closed, the furnishings auctioned and the lunch room was to be operated under the name of Gulf States Committee. The religious work was to be continued during the summer and a subscription list opened in the "Georgian" soliciting fifty men who would give \$100 for five years.

Soon, however, diligent work and fervent praying brought results. The financial condition was a source of great rejoicing and thankfulness. By September, the Association was entirely out of debt and could boast of a balance of \$1,041.

Two houses were being considered by the Boarding Home and the President very wisely decided to find out from the girls themselves the most preferable. In November 1907 the home on Baker Street was opened with 28 girls present. Just as this was settled, a committee was appointed to seek suitable location for the city association.

Miss Hanson was the general secretary from January 1908 to July and was succeeded by Miss Julia Burnard. Miss Mabel Herrington was physical director; Miss Lawson, lining room. In February 1908, Mrs. Wilson moved that the general secretary be authorized to employ someone to secure delinquent members at a commission of 10%. The motion was carried.

During this year, 1052 were present at the noon day meetings; many applications were turned away from the home and a committee was appointed to search for larger quarters. Membership numbered over 700 and was increasing rapidly. Keen work was done by the Membership Committee, as was shown in the offer to give a trip to Asheville as a reward for securing 80 memberships. Also, a dinner was given by the Board honoring the Young women who were working to increase membership. It was decided that all board members should become sustaining members.

The S. I. S. P. Club gave a play in 1911, clearing \$50 for the building fund.

In September 1911, Miss Howe was physical director and Miss Daisy Eckert, general secretary. Mrs. Wilson succeeded Miss Cox as matron of the boarding home. (Mrs. Dunwoody, dining room).

A Christmas bazaar was arranged. Each Board member contributed 20 articles and \$300 was cleared.

In the fall of 1912 there were classes in millinery, embroidery, music, stenography, French, German, Bible, for girls meeting in the city association, in the boarding home and girls from the factories. There were now six factories represented in the extension clubs.

(Miss Era Betzner, director of Health Education was attaining an enviable record.)

In April 1913 it was decided to ask Miss Casler, who had been speaker at annual meeting to establish a training school for board members. It was about this time that club members were given representation on the board. Miss Genevieve Saunders, Miss Caroline Thomas and Miss Kate Sutherland from SISP and Clover Clubs were elected.

Mrs. A. McD. Wilson was elected first honorary president and later Mrs. Jackson.

In May 1913 the name was changed from "Boarding Home" to "Association Residence".

The business of "shelter" for this Y.M.C.A. was again presenting a vexing problem. So in May 1913, Mrs. Charles J. Haden, president, told of the offer from Wesley Memorial Church of free use of some very acceptable rooms. Acting favorably upon this offer, the Board decided on immediate removal. Strong publicity was needed at this time to counteract the impression that the "Y" had discontinued its work, when it gave up its old headquarters. The "Constitution" offered space for a "Y" column of news notes and a Publicity Committee was appointed.

Due to continued overflow at the Residence, it was necessary to open another building on Ellis Street, in August 1913, with Mrs. Cornelia Osborn, director. At this time Miss Wingo was general secretary.

After a joint finance campaign with the Y.M.C.A. in 1913, the "Y" purchased property at Williams and West Baker Streets, which contained two good, 3-story buildings for which they paid \$37,000.

The next year there was much discussion about combining the two boarding homes on Ellis and Baker and establishing an additional one at the south side. Plans were made to begin a campaign to have the administration, gym, swimming pool and everything combined in the Baker Street Building. Again, these roseate plans fell thru and again, the so-called temporary quarters were opened at 52½ Houston.

Classes were continued throughout the summer. Gym people were enthusiastic over the new headquarters, partly because they had helped with finances by winning \$1000 in a contest conducted by the Atlanta Journal. In addition to gym and tennis classes, there were classes in domestic science, Spanish, music, with Bible classes carried on in seven factories. Prompted by

the expressed desire of the girls themselves, religious services were held in the Kress stores each morning from 7:30 to 7:50 o'clock. A group of Personal Workers was formed to go around to other stores and buildings.

(Moved to new Boarding Home, October 1915)

"The High School Girls Club" of the Y.W.C.A. was organized October 1915 by Mrs. Norton, to be followed by the Pollyanna Club from Davison-Paxon-Stokes Co.

In April Miss Betzner and Miss Wingo resigned. Miss Courtenay was secured as employment secretary and assistant general. The Board refused to accept Miss Wingo's resignation and she was prevailed upon to stay a while longer. Miss Katie Sue Moore, the new physical director, soon organized a Hockey Club, which played at Piedmont Park.

A "Whirlwind Campaign" for new members was instituted in 1916, with the Junior League pledged to help. 1005 new members were secured and it was planned to have an annual "Whirlwind".

Not to be downed by persistent discouragements and failures, the Board continued to anticipate the day when the Y.W.C.A. would have a building "all its own". In November Mr. M. C. Williams was employed as Building Fund Campaign manager, provided initial gifts to the amount of \$50,000 were raised. In the event of failure of the finance committee to obtain these gifts, the contract was void, and sad to relate it was void, because it was declared impossible to raise this amount, due to unsettled war conditions.

In 1915 the board began to hear insistent rumblings demanding "camp". In July to quote "the main work of the month has been opening a summer camp". And Mrs. Harrington's tea room.

April 1917! Wherever used, this date seems to pull at heartstrings, as memory goes back to the tumult and terror of those dark desperate days, months, years. However, in spite of the darkness, horror and unbelievable cruelty of these years, the Y.W.C.A. is proud of its fine, brave record and glories in the service it gave to soldiers and their bewildered, grieving families. As National Board has pointed out, the Y.W.C.A. was one of the seven organizations, the only one composed entirely of women, working directly under the Government during World War I, both in this country and Europe.

Almost overnight, Atlanta was recognized as a sort of demonstration center, occupying a strategic position. It is thrilling to read and know that the Atlanta Y.W.C.A. was "measured and not found wanting". Immediately upon the realization that the local staff was not sufficient to meet the trying demands, the National War Work Council was requested to give two trained "Y" secretaries for special work.

The general plan was to foster the religious life of the soldier and his family. The Y.W.C.A. worked in close cooperation with the Y.M.C.A. both in raising war funds and providing programs.

The Employment Bureau was overtaxed, placing women in positions vacated by men and giving vocational counsel which was sorely needed. Housing problems were acute and again "Y" training and advice was recognized for its highest value and greatest service.

In June 1917 Miss Wingo resigned and Atlanta asked National Board for one general secretary and two extension secretaries to organize the wage-earning girls into club work and to help with the Billy Sunday campaign, which was to be the headline attraction of the year.

Owing to the serious responsibility resting upon the "Y" it was decided to borrow \$8,000 from the National Board and the Atlanta Board to pledge \$2000 before January 1, even if it had to give sacrificially, so as to move into new quarters which were adequate to reach the girls of the city.

Disney resulted on National Board's refusal, but the Finance Committee was instructed to borrow it elsewhere. In August approval was given for raising \$12,000 necessary for the gift of \$15,000 from the War Council, which would make possible the opening of suitable headquarters. The fourth floor of the Peachtree Arcade was rented.

Miss Miriam Shepard was extension secretary and Miss Leona McGeorge, of the South Atlantic Field, acted as general secretary, until the arrival in October of Miss Irma Finley, the able executive who was to pilot the Atlanta Association thru the stormy war period. Miss Overall was secretary for county and out-lying districts visiting Chamblce, Doraville, Decatur, Norcross, forming Patriotic League units and presenting the work before many churches and clubs. Miss Sammis was the Girls Work Secretary and organized many clubs among the 1993 girls of high school age in the city. Miss Rea was also an extension secretary.

"Soldiers Frolics" were given each Saturday evening and vesper services were held each Sunday afternoon. There were classes in Red Cross First Aid, semaphore, French class for nurses, circulating library, etc. From January to April there were 150,102 guests registering at the Hostess Houses; 102,719 at the Hostess House cafeteria. Lodging was secured for 500 soldiers' families; 5100 telephone calls were put through locating soldiers, etc; 400 packages were delivered for soldiers and 2231 letters were written to soldiers' families.

The younger girls were doing their bit heroically, and were organized into Student and Victory girl departments of the War Fund Campaign. 2,300 high school and 500 grade school girls were present at a meeting at the auditorium and raised 15,000. The Junior War Work Council was organized September 1917, with a membership of 1600. Miss Elizabeth Gregg was chairman.

"A wide scope of subjects appealing to the interest of varied types" was offered by the many clubs in the Y.W.C.A. The Victory Club was studying "Customs and Courtesies" as taught by Mrs. Benjamin Elsas. The "Wide-A-Wake" club learned how to "Keep Healthy" with Dr. Hauck's advice; "Shur-Nuff" club, dramatics, under the leadership of Miss Sara Adelle Eastlack; "Over the Top" club studied millinery under the guidance of Miss Eulalie Foster; "Blue Ribbon" "First Aids to Beauty" by Miss Sally Clayton; "Jubilee Club" "Personal Efficiency" by Robert Gregg; "Jean Witham" club had a "Course in Travel" conducted by Mrs. Arthur Adams. The recreation department sponsored regular Saturday night parties for the soldiers and Sunday afternoon "at home" for them, as well as numerous special entertainments.

In the years immediately following the war, these Leagues were organized into regular "Y" clubs, carrying on more constructive programs.

In June 1918 discussion centered upon the selection of a permanent camp site and after considering several selections, it was decided to rent Dr. Earnest's farm place, about 12 miles north of Atlanta. The opening house party was given by SISP club, whose members had worked untiringly to secure a suitable camp site. 111 girls were present the first three weeks, despite the inconvenience and "rawness" of the new facilities.

In January 1919 Atlanta was asked to contribute \$2400 to the "Blue Triangle" campaign launched simultaneously all over the country in order to raise a million dollars to carry on field work and to extend Association work in Utah, Hawaii, Arizona and to the movie girls in California and Mexico.

Again, in the summer of 1919, plans were brought forward for a new building. Mr. Bert Adams was secured as manager of Building Campaign, which was to be launched in 1920. He later resigned, as trustees did not approve of a campaign in 1920.

At this time, the Board held morning and afternoon sessions, with luncheon recesses. The Negro women of the city, visualizing the need and opportunities for a Branch Association, began laying foundations for the establishment of a Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. The Board received their request for \$3000.

Mrs. Emma R. Schaeffer gave \$500 as a fund for girls in need of rest and recuperation, which was to be known as the "Harvey Schaeffer Fund".

Miss Jellerson was extension secretary; Miss Bemis, mill village worker; Miss Overall, Girl's Work; Miss Scott and Miss Tucker, employment; Miss Adams, physical director; Miss Shaw, industrial; Miss Pelleng, Rooms Registry, Mrs. Parmelee, cafeteria and publicity.

November 1919 saw decided improvements in Camp Highland, with dining hall built by the general help of Mr. Ten Eyck Brown, who drew the plans and Mr. Bon Padgett, who rendered valuable assistance with the building. The total cost of \$2500 was donated.

In May 1920, two National Board secretaries made a survey, finding out how business girls in Atlanta lived. This survey pictured how they lived, what they made, their recreation, religion, how many lived away from home, etc. It formed a basis for the wide-spread reach of the Business Girls Department, as well as providing valuable publicity material for the public, previous to launching the Building Campaign.

Phyllis Wheatley Branch moved into new quarters November 1920.

Mrs. Archibald Davis, who was president 1917-25, visited Y.W.C.A.'s in New England and attended conference at Mt. Holyoke and Blue Ridge. She contributed valuable services to National Board, especially by her work on "Membership Basis". Miss Finley was asked to serve on National Board Finance Commission.

(Mrs. Tucker resigned as matron, to be succeeded by Mrs. McHan. Mrs. Metcalf resigned as cafeteria head and was followed by Mrs. Ramsay.)

The annual meeting of 1922 was described as being a complete change from the usual program, as work of each department was portrayed by "Y" girls.

Because of the high standard of local industrial work, Atlanta was chosen as demonstration center for Student-Industrial experiment, known as "The Student Body in Industry."

The swimming pool at Camp Highland was dedicated June 1922, when Mrs. Charles Conklin was chairman. The diving board was given by Mr. Warshaw in September. Previous to this the SISP club house had been built. Old Glory shack was opened June 1922.

Camp for Phyllis Wheatley girls was held for four days at Howard Farm during the summer.

In May 1922, the Y.W.C.A. became affiliated with the Community Chest and was no longer dependent upon its own campaigns for finances.

There were gala Association days in October 1922, when the National Y Regional Conference brought to Atlanta such illustrious guests as Mrs. Robert E. Speer, Miss Mabel Cratty, Mrs. Edward Townsend and other notables, who contributed much to the growth of the Association.

A letter from Mrs. Trawick, general secretary of Nashville, and an executive of the Assurance campaign, who had been invited to address the Atlanta Association, replied that it was unnecessary for her to come, for "Atlanta has the best informed Board in the United States".

The Lewis Beck YWCA fund, which was to prove so precious later, was created February 1923.

Mrs. Davis made three trips to New York in the interest of the YWCA in 1923. Attended the Hot Springs convention; served on various national committees, in addition to Endowment and New Membership Basis. She also attended the Blue Ridge conferences and meetings in Delaware and Birmingham.

In February 1923, the Employment Agency moved into the Chamber of Commerce, and though it was still identified with the YWCA, it was called the Co-operative Employment Office.

In June 1925, the following secretarial changes were recorded: Miss Mayna Brace, Girl Reserve secretary resigned for a year of study; Miss Eujonia Johnston, assistant Girl Reserve secretary to be married; Miss Elizabeth Wilson,

assistant employment to become Associate Editor of THE WOMAN'S PRESS; Miss Ruth Scandrett, assistant industrial, to head the industrial department elsewhere.

Just as elaborate plans were being arranged for a building fund and teams had been selected (September 1923) the Community Chest insisted that their drive be given preference, so with deep sacrifice and disappointment, the YWCA Board agreed to postpone their drive until April 1924.

In October 1923 plans for a Recreation Hall at Camp Highland were begun and \$350 was raised for a Counselors' Hall, with Mrs. Olive Hall Shadgett and the late Elizabeth Speer instrumental in securing this splendid contribution.

During Mrs. Davis' six year administration (1917-25) Camp Highland was bought, equipped with 12 bungalows, swimming pool, tennis court, dining hall and lighting system. The "Y" staff was increased from two to eighteen secretaries. The Phyllis Wheatley Branch was opened. In all, Mrs. Davis had visited 39 Associations in 16 states and had attended numerous conferences and conventions.

At the resignation of Mrs. Emily MacDougald, who had served so long and so devotedly, honorary life memberships were created, carrying the privilege of attendance at all Board meetings, privileges of the floor, right to serve on Committees, etc.

In June 1924 the "Y" moved from Peachtree Arcade to the Baker Street Annex, which had been closed. A temporary gymnasium was built and a central location secured for the cafeteria in the Calhoun Bldg., Alabama and Broad Streets.

Mrs. Martha T. Gereke came to Atlanta as industrial secretary; Miss Ruth Martin, business girls secretary and Miss Polly Stone, assistant employment; Miss Angell, Girl Reserve. Mrs. Ramsay resigned November 1924 and was succeeded by Mrs. W. E. Saunders (cafeteria). Mrs. Duncan was dining room director at the Residence.

In the fall of 1924 it was decided to temporarily abandon the cherished plans for the long-dreamed of YWCA building. In December plans were introduced considering the Atlanta Athletic Club.

In March 1925, Mrs. Hume resigned as Rooms Registry secretary, to be succeeded by Mrs. Robina Gallacher. Miss Genevieve Saunders was made honorary board member in appreciation for the numerous valuable contributions she had made as Board member, treasurer and organizer and leading spirit of the SISP club and in every other capacity where she could lend a hand. A history of the YWCA in Atlanta would not be complete without mention of "Sandy" who has proven a loyal and inspiring friend through the years.

Interest in the Phyllis Wheatley Branch grew, and in 1925 much enthusiasm was evidenced for the classes in mandolin, handi-work, business etiquette, salesmanship, etc.

The Health Education department and Camp Highland, under the direction of Miss Lucy Marvin Adams, had received distinct recognition both in Atlanta and

elsewhere. Camp Highland had the reputation of being a model camp and had many visitors from other Associations who observed the methods used, for this was one of the few self-supporting camps. In 1925 Miss Adams was given a four months leave of absence to assist with the Health Education Department of the National Board.

In June 1925 Miss Finley resigned and Miss Elizabeth Gregg, one of the most faithful board members, who had been active in various phases of "Y" work and whose leadership had been outstanding during the war period, became business manager of the "Y" in the absence of the general secretary.

The "Building Spirit" of the "Y" would never say die. Again, February 1926, plans were formulated for a campaign. All Atlanta ministers were to call attention to YWCA needs on a certain Sunday and women were to stand ready to accept pledges. The mayor was to blow whistles at 12:00 o'clock each day of the campaign, when a moment of prayer would be observed. WSB was to broadcast a program of music and prayer.

Miss Ruth Martin resigned April 1926 and Miss Mildred Wells, Atlanta girl, who had been a Girl Reserve and later a leader in the Business Girls Department as well as an enthusiastic camper, was selected for this post. Miss Sara Ezell, who was Girl Reserve secretary, was succeeded by Miss Daisy Hoover. Miss Mary Moss, industrial, resigned to take position of Religious Education Secretary, Paterson, N. J. Miss Julia Ewing White, general secretary, was later succeeded by Miss Clara Nolan. Miss Jean Paxton, who later went to the staff of the WOMAN'S PRESS, was Membership Secretary. Miss Constance Rumbough was industrial.

The spring of 1926 saw further improvements at Camp Highland. A new three-room cottage was built for the caretaker and the log cabin was remodeled for camp office. In 1928, the Southern Physical Directors conference was held at Camp Highland, and it was during this year that the lodge was completed.

In July 1926, the YWCA discontinued its employment service and it was established as a separate agency of the Community Chest.

In 1924, Captain James W. English gave, through Miss Saunders, \$5000 for the YWCA.

(An interest event of December 1927 was the tea honoring the beneficiaries of the Beck Fund. Six of the girls were present of the 57 who had received their business training and secured positions through Mrs. Beck's generosity. "It was a memorable occasion because Mr. Beck and trustees of the fund were present also.")

One of the most valuable acquisitions of the past few years is the Ford car presented to the Association by the Business Girls, particularly those of the Old Glory Club. This "Glory" Ford has traveled innumerable miles on errands of joy and goodwill.

In February 1926, intensive work of organizing committee women for campaign funds was begun. In April \$105,000 had been pledged to the campaign

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and \$30,000 had been actually paid on the Atlanta Athletic Club. A fire occurred in the club building, but did slight damage. The \$7,217 insurance money was turned over to the Building Fund.

Finally the great Moving Day drew near and instead of committees being appointed for campaigns and funds, they were appointed for such delightful work as "making curtains for the new building" and asking florists to decorate for opening day.

The program for "Open House" was to include a swimming demonstration Saturday afternoon December 17 and on Sunday afternoon, the "Hanging of the Greens" by Girl Reserves. Members of the Board, trustees and clubs formed the reception committee, with Girl Reserves acting as guides.

January 1927, Miss Genevieve Saunders turned over to the Board a check for \$1,388.42 which a group of young women in the gym had raised in a grocery label contest. They requested that it be applied to the expense of the swimming pool. A most interesting story is recorded in the minutes about this contest and the excitement thereof.

The building was completely renovated, changing it from a man's club to a home essentially feminine and charming. We of 1932 need no description of the convenience of our remodeled home, but now after six years, again there hovers the dream of an adequate plant, where Residence, gym and administration are housed under one generous roof. Already, club girls are finding 37 Auburn Avenue cramped and new clubs cannot be organized when present facilities are taxed to capacity at least three evenings per week. Perhaps the YWCA will be ruled by "divine discontent" until the dream is actually realized. When depression days are over, Atlanta may again think, talk, plan and pray for a grand and glorious YWCA.

In 1928 Mr. J. H. Handley gave grounds to be used for Phyllis Wheatley summer camp, which was known as "Camp Sunshine".

Mrs. Ashcraft furnished a room at the Residence in memory of her mother; Mrs. W. H. Flowers also furnished a room.

Miss Lee, Residence secretary, resigned September 1927; Miss Lucille Crabtree from Health Education. Miss Nannie B. Crow became Health Education director in 1928 and Mrs. Gladys Walker took charge of the cafeteria. Mrs. Verna Lawrence was Rooms Registry and Membership Secretary.

In December 1930 the cafeteria was permanently closed.

In May 1931, the Elizabeth Speer Memorial tennis court was given to Camp Highland and was made possible through the efforts of Miss Lucy Marvin Adams and friends of the late Elizabeth Speer.

In September 1931, new additions to the staff included Miss Anne Pridmore, Girl Reserve; Miss Flora Hatcher, Business Girls Secretary and Miss Elizabeth Boykin, Assistant Health Education. Miss Carrie Lou Allgood was industrial secretary.

During the latter part of 1931 when depression and unemployment threatened the industrial department, various schemes were devised to enable these girls to continue their YWCA activities. Board members agreed to act as sponsor for their suppers as an emergency measure, so all fees were eliminated. Girls who were working for even a meager wage, however, desired to pay, so a coin box was arranged and those who could, paid a small sum. Board and committee members and other "Y" clubs were keenly interested in this plan and contributed gladly.

In the latter part of 1931, the Lewis Beck Fund of \$2,500 was available and it was voted to build a stage and install a modern heating system in the gymnasium and to build a bridge over the Southern Railway gorge at Camp Highland.

The annual meeting held February 1932 celebrated the christening of the new stage and over 500 people were seated in the warm, comfortable gymnasium, where an elaborate program was presented. The stage enabled the "Y" to become more of a community center, as the gym, seating 500 or more, was rented at a nominal sum to clubs and organizations.

The Lewis Beck Memorial Bridge was dedicated with great ceremony, June 25, the opening day of the 1932 Camp Highland season.

In September 1932, secretarial changes were: Miss Frances Keller succeeded Miss Crow as director of Health Education and Miss Aurelia Williams came to direct Phyllis Wheatley activities.

In August 1932 the Board decided that a deficit in the budget could be met only by cutting the salaries of staff members, and although the professional standards in Atlanta were considered low, it was nevertheless accepted as the only alternative by the Personnel Committee.

No history of the YWCA would be complete without mention of the influence on legislative measures which the Association has exerted. The beginning of interest in economic conditions was evidenced in 1904 when classes in sociology and economics were organized.

The YWCA led a movement to close department stores on Saturdays and in 1911 endorsed petitions to City Council for proper housing of the Cyclorama. A child labor bill was endorsed in 1914, followed steadily by other endorsements signifying the active and alert interest of YWCA members.

In 1924, Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood became a member of the National YWCA Legislative committee for the State of Georgia and outlined a study series for local Associations. After bending every effort to be of service during the war and seeing the stark horrors and devastation, it is small wonder that the YWCA became one of the most ardent advocates of peace. Telegrams have been sent to Congressmen protesting against increased naval expenditures; many delegates have attended Cause and Cure of War conferences and letters to senators have urged accession to World Court. These methods, together with World Fellowship study programs do their bit toward molding public opinion and creating a real international friendship which will be the most potent weapon against future wars. Disarmament petitions from Atlanta were sent to Geneva.