

Reminiscence of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the Y.W.C.A.

By Mary Jane Kelly

The Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the Y.W.C.A. held various services on Sunday afternoons in the 1920's. One Sunday afternoon Ollis McCool (Reynolds), and I, Mary Jane Kelly, were on a program, each of us played an instrumental piano solo. At that time, Ollie was a pupil at Stephens-Lee Elementary School. Also, during the late 1920's classes from Stephens-Lee High School held bazaars at the College Street YWCA. The YWCA was a place for various club events.

In 1941, the Nazarene First baptist Church was partially burned, destroying the roof, the organ and damaging the interior. During the renovation project the congregation worshipped in the YWCA on College Street. On February 17, 1958, the church was completely destroyed by fire again. Services were held in the YWCA on College Street. Due to the revamping of the highway, the YWCA along with many other dwellings on College Street were demolished and the YWCA was moved to a building on Asheland Avenue.

During the early 1930's I played the piano for a birthday party given by an S. & W. Cafeteria co-worker at the YWCA (white) on Grove Street.

In addition to the trips made by the Boosters; an overnight trip was made to Tuskegee, Alabama to visit Tuskegee Institute and the museum of George Washington Carver.

M. J. Kelly