

Reserve Code of Behavior:

Gracious in Manner
Impartial in Judgement
Ready for Service
Loyal to Friends

Reaching Toward the Best

Earnest in Purpose
Seeking the Beautiful
Eager for Knowledge
Ready for Service (Reverent to God)
Victorious over Self
Ever Dependable
Sincere at all Times.

We believed this! I wonder if young girls today would feel better about themselves if they said this code once a week!

Miss Belle Jones, Allen Boarding School for Girls Administrator, and Mrs. Elinora Walker, wife of a prominent physician and sister-in-law of the principal of the largest Negro school in the community, counseled the girls and checked their routine performances. Counseling gave the girls enhanced personal Hygiene, good grooming, observance of the social graces. No gum chewing in public when rendering community service and developing hobbies, for example music, art appreciation, and crafts, especially those that utilized natural materials such as honey suckle vines for baskets, pine tree cones for wreaths, corn husks for dolls. They could also learn embroidering, crocheting and knitting. Mrs. Lelia Michael, a talented Tuskegee Institute Alumna and YWCA volunteer symbolized the Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee philosophy of self sufficiency in her guidance of the mastery of craftsmanship. She also taught folk dancing and clogging.

Phyllis Wheatly facilities were always available. It became customary to go there as soon as after school chores were done. These daily visits reduced delinquently and eliminated the rise of today's drug culture problems.

Before dawn each Christmas morning, girls reserves assembled at the branch to be escorted on a city wide singing tour. These girls went street to street and house to house singing carols to the sick and the elderly. This was a self-satisfying expression that strengthened the bonds of togetherness and gave the shut-ins a felling of being loved and remembered.

About 1923, the National YWCA started the South Eastern Atlantic Girl Reserve Conference at Kettrell College, Kettrell, N.C. girls from the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida were there, girls came from Richmond, New Port News, Norfolk, Roanoke. They came from Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Columbia and Augusta. At the first conference only three girls attended, they were Berry Chandler,

Ruth Evans and Amanda Lee Walker whose families could afford to send them.

The report from the conference was so inspiring and the desire to attend the next conference so strong that ways of self help were envisioned. Money raising projects began to help finance applicants to the second conference. Vivian Howell, Norma Michael, Gladys Porter, Berry Chandler, Ruth Evans and I attended the 2nd conference. At first my father wasn't going to let me because I had disobeyed him. I don't remember what I'd done but my dad told me I was too old to whip so I could just walk to the conference. Miss Norris intervened and I got to go. What an experience! The Asheville group was teamed with girl's from Augusta. Each cabin had to decide on a name. We chose WO-HE-LO, standing for work, health, love. We were rated every day on attitude, behavior, cooperation and neatness because we were learning that our behavior affected everyone else. What an important lesson that was!

I remember the time that our cabin did not pass inspection. The counselor was just ready to give us an ok when a fly flew against the window. This attracted her attention to a watermelon seed stuck in the corner of the window. We didn't get a perfect score!

These first conferences were a beautiful introduction to race relations, human relations and the importance of cooperation and caring.

Voice of Lucy Harrison