

MRS. EDITH MOORHEAD BRYANT

by Miss F. Hull

Back in the gay 90's a young woman by the name of, Miss Edith Moorhead, walked into the Central YWCA of New York City and volunteered her services in the YWCA work. Miss Moorhead was asked if she would like to teach a sewing class. So she brushed up on her sewing and for several years taught many young girls to sew. This was her introduction into the various things one can do to further the good work of the YWCA.

Then Miss Moorhead became Mrs. C. S. Bryant and moved to Asheville, N. C. After getting settled in her new home Mrs. Bryant looked up the Asheville YWCA -- became a member and volunteered her services.

In 19__ Mrs. Bryant helped in the YWCA cafeteria. This was housed in an old home where the First National Bank is now located.

In 1923 Mrs. Bryant, along with many other volunteer workers, started a campaign to raise funds to erect the present YWCA administration building -- 13 Grove St. This building was opened in 1924.

In 1925 Mrs. Bryant served as president of the Asheville YWCA -- and she and her mother, Mrs. Jenny S. Moorhead became Life Members of the YWCA.

After serving on the finance and membership committees Mrs. Bryant again became president of the YWCA in 1932 -- holding this office until February 1940. At the first Board meeting under the leadership of the new president, Mrs. Charles Owen, the president suggested to the Board that Mrs. Bryant be made honorary president of the Asheville YWCA. The vote was unanimous. On March 9, 1940 Mrs. Gibson Packer, vice president of the YWCA honored Mrs. Bryant, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors at a luncheon at the Biltmore Forest Country Club. A full front page of pictures of the new executive committee and Mrs. Bryant and a lengthy article depicting the various committees in the YWCA -- appeared in the Asheville Citizen-Times paper Sunday March 10, 1940.

In 1932 Mrs. Bryant's first concern, as president, was to re-open the YWCA pool which had been closed for several years. Talking the matter over with several

business men and interested friends, money was made available and the pool was again opened to the women and girls of the city. It has remained open -- and has become a vital part of the YWCA program to this day.

Realizing Asheville did not have a home for young business girls Mrs. Bryant talked to her father about this need. In 1933 when her father, Mr. Samuel E. Moorhead, passed away the YWCA learned that he had left \$100,000.00 to erect such a home, to be approved by and sponsored by the YWCA. Moorhead House, as the home is named, was opened November 21, 1934.

During all her years with the Asheville YWCA Mrs. Bryant has given much time and energy to the membership and finance work -- as well as looking after Moorhead House.

Since 19__ Mrs. Bryant has served as President of the Board of Trustees.

During 1938 the membership committee and Mrs. Bryant made an effort to secure Life Members for the YWCA -- Eighteen such members paid \$100.00 each. The \$1,800.00 was placed in a special account in the bank. This money was labeled "endowment fund for the Adm. Bldg., to be used only in emergency for need repairs".

Not only has Mrs. Bryant been active in the Central YWCA but has been a loyal promoter for the Phyllis Wheatley Branch. Just recently Mrs. Bryant, with great joy, dug the first spade of ground for the new Phyllis Wheatley Branch, now under construction on S. French Broad. ✓

Out in the little cemetery at Venice, Ohio stands a simple -- yet impressive marble marker bearing the name of Samuel E. Moorhead. At the base of the marker are the words "He helped make others happy". Instilled with the same philosophy and desire as her father -- our Mrs. Bryant continues to live a full and useful life -- giving of her time and finances -- "to help make others happy".