

**Manuscripts Collections
South Caroliniana Library
University of South Carolina**

Records of the YWCA (Greenville, S.C.)

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Young Women's Christian Association (Greenville, S.C.)

Records, 1917-1989

Volume: 5 linear feet

Scope and Content

The records of the Young Women's Christian Association (Greenville, S.C.) document the organization's activities from its inception in 1917. Consisting chiefly of newspaper clippings, photographs, and administrative papers, the collection records the YWCA's locations and building campaigns, its involvement with racial and other social issues confronting Greenville, and its operation of Camp Burgiss Glen.

The Building Fund Campaign of 1962 is a prominent feature of the collection, detailing not only the campaign but also the YWCA's history through its previous sites. This campaign resulted in the construction of two facilities--the Augusta Street and Birnie Street centers. The YWCA took an early interest in the matter of racial bias, going as far as serving interracial groups in its dining room despite municipal laws against such action in the 1950s. The organization also helped to underscore the need for community assistance to improve conditions in "slum" areas. As one of the founding members of the Community Chest in the 1920s, the YWCA exhibited and continued its concern for citizens living in poverty and need. The YWCA also provided for the "working girl" by establishing clubs in local textile mill villages and by operating the "residence" for working women in need of a home.

In addition to its sponsorship of the usual clubs and classes, the YWCA opened its own summer camp in the mountains of North Carolina in 1925. The history of Camp Burgiss Glen is represented through papers, clippings, and photographs and encompasses a significant portion of the collection. Located at Cedar Mountain, the camp became a retreat for city girls as well as families and continues so today. In the 1920s, the YWCA joined with the Kiwanis Club to offer a day camp for girls, known as Ki-Y, which continued for many years.

One cassette audio tape (T74) accompanies the collection. Recorded at the 1986 annual meeting during "A Program from the Archives," the speakers are Dorothy Welborn, former President, Peggy Davis, former Program Correlator and Executive Director, Marie Huggins, former Birnie Street Center Director, and Eula May Stockman, former Executive Director and Board Member.

Description of series

- Box 1** **Administrative, 1926-1989, undated**
Consists of annual reports, building fund campaigns, electors assembly, membership, public affairs committee, and general papers.
- Box 1** **Camp Burgiss Glen, 1933-1988, undated**
Includes camp committee minutes, general papers, fund raising, "Top O' the World", and two guest books.
- Boxes 1-2** **Programs, 1940-1979, undated**
Contains special programs such as Child Development, Greenville's Big Idea, International Leadership Training, and World Fellowship Celebration.
- Box 2** Publications, 1930-1075, undated Consists of flyers, single item mailings, and annotated class schedules.
- Box 2** **Ethel Simpson (d. 1980), 1950-1966, undated**
Contains information on Ethel Simpson who served as Industrial Secretary, 1925-1927, Executive Director, 1931-1966, Camp Burgiss Glen Director, 1926, 1933-1946, and was active with the YWCA in other capacities.
- Boxes 2-3** **Scrapbooks and Newsclippings, 1917-1988, undated**
Fourteen volumes, bound and unbound, of newspaper clippings 1917-1934 and 1957-1984, including scrapbooks on "Mill Village Work" and decentralized clubs like Donaldson Air Force Base Luncheon Club, and loose clippings, 1917-1988 and undated. Also includes a scrapbook of brochures and other publications, 1917-1926.
- Box 4** **Photographs, 1922-1980s, undated**
Most date from the 1950s and 1960s and are divided according to general YWCA activities and staff. Also includes photographs and four albums of Camp Burgiss Glen.

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Administrative Notes

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