



EACH GIRL HAS A CHANCE TO TELL THE OTHERS WHAT SHE HAS DONE DURING THE WEEK
Here Denise Smith Tells What She Has Done; The One Hour Meetings Ususally Stretch To Two Or Three

A Second 'Mom'

Marietta Girls Learning Through Club

By FAITH HILLS
Features Editor

What started as a charm class for a group of Marietta girls a year ago has become a close-knit ongoing club. The preteens aged nine to 12 paid an \$6 fee to learn hair care, poise, posture; they had such a good time they decided to keep meeting after the official class ended.

They couldn't have continued without instructor Deane Bonner, however. A Marietta career woman and homemaker with two children of her own, Ms. Bonner agreed to meet with the girls each Thursday at the TAC (Total Activities Center) for an hour each evening.

More often than not, that hour stretches into two or three. But Ms. Bonner feels it's time well spent.

On Thursdays she rushes home from her job as an assistant manager in the lingerie department at Rich's downtown store; she sometimes manages to gobble down a quick dinner, then she's off to pick up "the girls."

Most live in Kennesaw Village; many come from single-parent families and have no means of transportation. So Ms. Bonner's an unofficial taxi driver.

Each meeting opens with a prayer, followed by an informal "rap session" where each member tells what she's done during the week.

The girls then line up for exercises to practice "ladylike behavior" and modeling techniques.



Staff Photos By Judy Ondrey

EX-MODEL DEANE BONNER Holds Charm Classes For Girls

With Ms. Bonner's encouragement, some have participated in Parks and Recreation-sponsored talent shows and pageants; some have modeled in fashion shows.

Recently, the girls put on a

show for a youth club sponsored by the Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department. Next week, the Marietta club will host the Atlanta group at the TAC.

During their Thursday evening sessions, the girls often bring records to practice dancing. "Most of them do the 'boogie,' no set routine," Ms. Bonner said.

In an effort to show them other kinds of dance, she brought eight of the youngsters to a dance recital at the Cobb Civic Center where students did ballet and tap. "They got so excited; they didn't want to leave," she says with a smile. She's hoping the Parks Department will offer a tap dance program in the future; she's sure club members will participate.

Because of the success of this program — she works with some 20 girls during the school year — Ms. Bonner has started a similar charm class at the Montgomery Street Recreation Center which is now in its third week. Signups for the new eight-week program range in age from nine to 15.

Girls from both groups will be involved in the Talent Show coming up August 8 at the Cobb Civic Center.

Why does Ms. Bonner do it? Despite the hassle of working full-time and taking care of her family as well, Ms. Bonner finds working with young people rewarding. "The kids I work with are looking for something productive to do. It's a



KENDRA SHOWS HOW CLASSES ALWAYS OPEN WITH PRAYER
The Girls Will Model In August 9 Talent Show

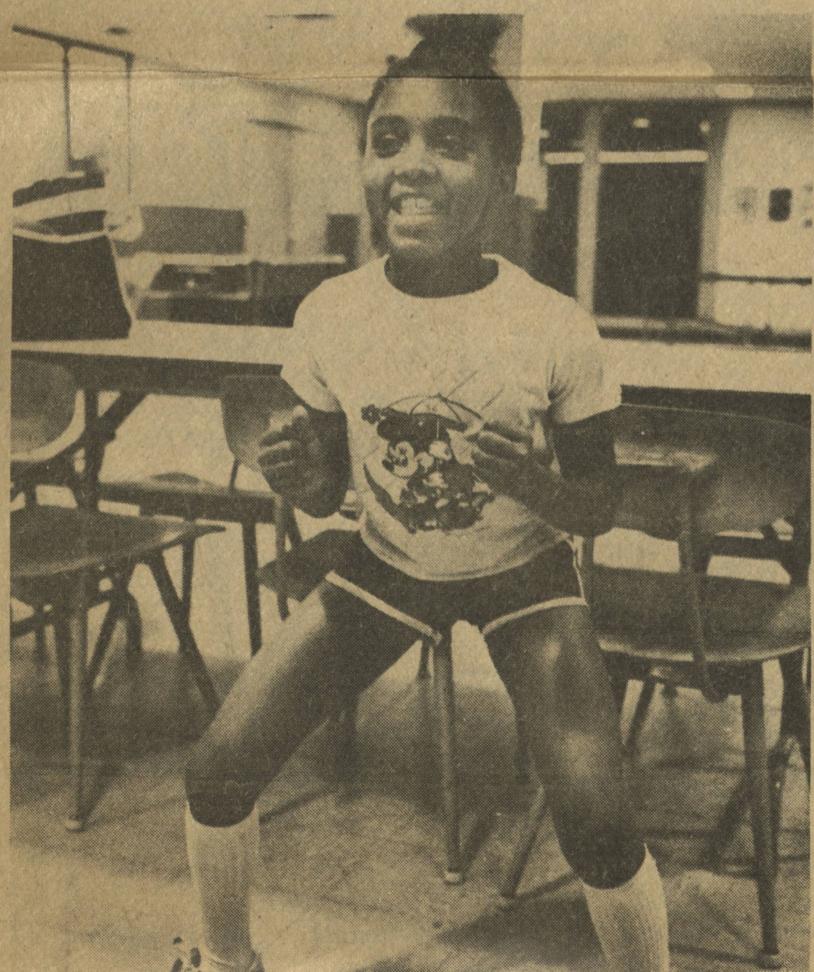
were in their early teens. Now they're 18 years old and can really deal with fashion," she said. Scene II models will be traveling to Memphis, Tenn., in early August for a show.

As if a full-time job, teaching charm and managing a modeling school weren't enough, Ms. Bonner is also active in civic affairs. A charter member of the Ladies Of Essence service club in Marietta, she also is active in Democratic politics locally; assistant secretary of the Cobb NAACP; a member of the Cobb Mental Health Association and an active volunteer for school and church groups.

With all her activities, she has no trouble maintaining her "model-slim" figure. Though she's not now modeling herself, she's encouraging young people with the talent to try it.



The girls line up to practice 'ladylike behavior' and learn to walk like models.



Exercises are regular part of program, and here Kendra Sandes shows her enthusiasm