
Mckinley Brown

From September 1954 to June 1955 McKinley Brown lived at the Judson Student House while attending New York University. _____

I had come to New York from Franklin, Virginia, to continue my study of business economics. The housing division at NYU suggested Judson House as a convenient place to live.

At Judson House each student had his own room. There were both male and female students. Most were out-of-state and foreign students. Many were doing graduate and postgraduate work and were therefore older than the average undergraduate.

Each student was responsible for his or her own room. In addition, we were required to do general chores, such as doing dishes and cleaning the windows, stairs, and garden. We did most of the work at night and on weekends, as we were all busy during the day.

Hyla Converse was in charge of the Student House, and Betty Murphy was her assistant. Mrs. Converse was a minister and she took her job very seriously. Our initial interview with her was very strict and sober. We sensed that our conduct would be under observation at all times. Betty Murphy, on the other hand, was very relaxed and could be approached on any issue. We were all very fond of her.

Our only obligation, other than house cleaning, consisted in attending a Sunday evening social gathering, often with guest speakers. We were not required to attend church, although many did. I joined the Judson choir and sang in it long after I was a student. I remember Ed Brewer, the choir director, Dora Schively, and Al Carmines well. Through its eclectic environment, Judson House had a great influence on me. I studied cello, piano, and voice.

After I graduated from NYU, I completed a master's in business education at Columbia University. My last postgraduate work was at Harvard, from 1974 to 1977. I worked for the New York City Board of Education and at the State University of New York, teaching business education. For medical reasons, I had to take early retirement.

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lives in New York City.