

cared for in the large, well-appointed barn on the southern end of the campus.

Many traditions were born and cherished through the years at Ward-Belmont. In 1948, Pres. Robert Provine stated that he was amazed at the way "the girls still cling to the customs of commencement and chapel that they have heard their mothers and grandmothers talk about." If innovations were initiated, it was the students, not faculty, who rebelled longest at the change, he said.

Among the traditions was May Day with its May Pole and the horse-drawn carriages to deliver the Queen and her maids, the George Washington's Birthday celebration complete with period costumes and dances, chaperones for dating and outings of any kind, dressing for dinner, special formal dinners on holidays, monthly birthday dinners, senior skits, interclass competitions, club weekends to Dunbar Cave and Edenwold, and annual tours to Europe.

Some of the most pleasant memories of the beloved school centered around the food service. Delicious meals were always

Dating on the campus was one of the more serious matters. Benedict, Cannon and Cayce recall, "Arranging for a date on the cloistered campus compared in process to getting behind the iron curtain." They describe how the young man was screened by the home department after the girl's family filed written permission for her to have a date with a certain young gentleman. If he checked out all right, the girl was issued a pink permission slip.

The date, from 7:30-9:30, was conducted in a Victorian parlor, complete with full-length mirrors at strategic points, hard horse-hair sofas, and a chaperone who walked through the rooms, continually making her presence known by clearing her throat. On the appointed evening, the gentleman caller arrived at Acklen Hall and gave his name to the distinguished butler. For many years, Whittaker was the butler who invited the young man in and reported his arrival to the home department. They summoned the young lady of his choice to the reception rooms. Gilbert's saying, "Truly, faint heart never won fair lady!" was certainly true here.

than a decade. After she had closed that school, Dr. Blanton convinced her to come to Ward-Belmont in 1925.

She came as a Latin teacher, but soon became principal of Ward-Belmont's high school. Her students, lovingly referred to as "my girls," long remembered her lectures on a good mind and godliness. She also was remembered for her emphasis on manners, morals, physical exercise and erect posture. When she died at the age of 78, thousands of her "girls," mourned her passing and treasured her memory.

Often mentioned in accounts of the school during those years were outstanding teachers and administrators. Some were: Martha Ordway, Elleen Ransom, Louise Gordon, Amelie Throne, Louise Herron, Pauline Townsend, Mary Norris, "Jackie" Hay, Ivar Lou Duncan, Mary Armstrong, Susan Souby, and Emma Sisson.

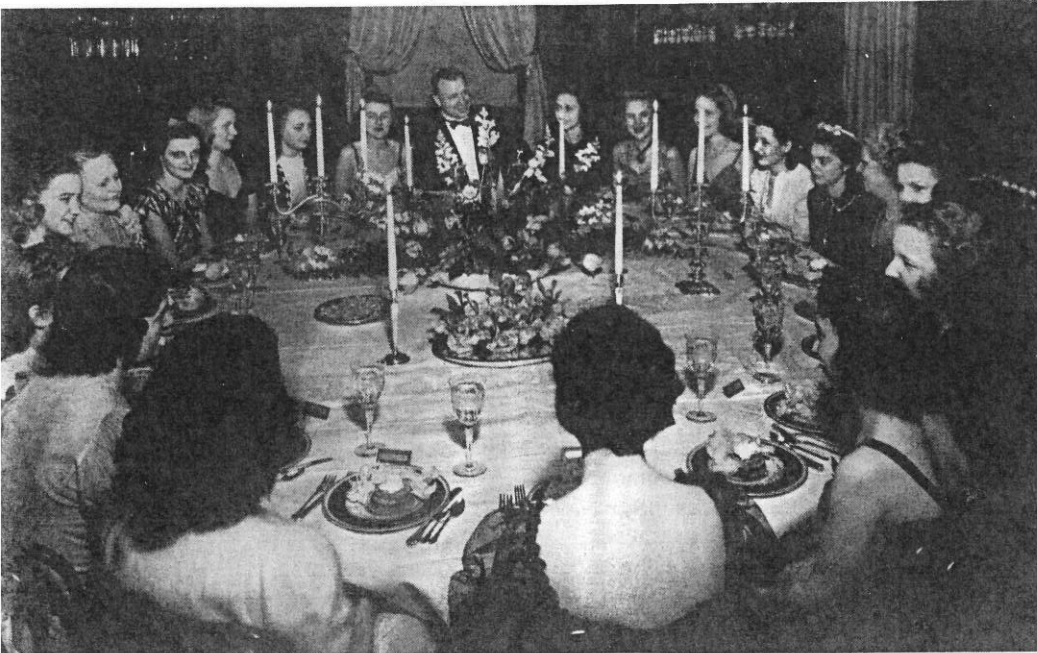
Later, there were such memorables as Catherine Morrison (affectionately known as "Miss Kitty"), Mary Elizabeth Cayce, Lawrence Goodman, Lucie Fountain, Betty O'Donnell, Patty Chadwell, Frances Ewing, Dr. Kenneth Rose, Arthur Henkel, Gertrude Casebier, Nelle Major, Martha Annette Cason, Lawrence Riggs.

In 1929, a 23-bell cast carillon was installed in the historic water tower (which had attracted Misses Hood and Heron to the campus). The Alumnae Association and the Class of 1928 gave the bells in memory of the men who lost their lives in World War I. The bells were rung on special occasions and each school year, the "belles" were welcomed back to school by the carillon's ringing. Nashvillians were treated each year to a musical Christmas card in the form of a Christmas Eve concert played by Arthur Henkel. But, probably the most remembered tune ever played on the carillon was "The Bells of Ward-Belmont" which became recognized as the school's alma mater.

Ward-Belmont received many distinguished visitors and on November 17, 1934, even a president. As students lined the drive, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, en route to Warm Springs, Georgia, rode around the campus circle. The student body was to hear later that, after shifting to another car, the president was brought back to the campus and into the small dining room on the basement level of Acklen Hall where he ate lunch.

Young ladies came from throughout the U.S. to enroll in Ward-Belmont. They numbered more than 1,200 in the 1920's. Among the names listed over the years were such notables as: Lila Acheson Wallace, who with her husband, DeWitt Wallace, founded *Reader's Digest*; Mary Martin, of Broadway fame; Jean Faircloth,

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Monthly birthday dinners were extra-special occasions.

served in the style of gracious living. Tables were covered with custom-made Irish linen cloths and set with the finest silver and bone china. The names of Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Eakin and Mrs. McBride always conjure up visions of delectable recipes, many of which are still cherished and exchanged to this day.

Social clubs with names like Agora, Ariston, Eceowasin, Triad, Penta Tan, and Osiron were also an important part of campus life. Club Village, located around the fringe of the campus, was a group of 10 stucco houses where the clubs met for business and camaraderie.

Five presidents served Ward-Belmont during its 38 years: Dr. Blanton, for 18 years; Dr. John Barton, who died in office during the 1936-37 school year; Andrew B. Benedict, Barton's vice-president, served until 1939; Dr. Joseph Burk, for 5 years; and Dr. Robert Calhoun Provine from 1945 until the school's closing in 1951.

The faculty made indelible impressions on the young lives entrusted to them. Among the more popular teachers of the early years was Miss Annie Allison. She had run her own Girls Preparatory School in the West End area of Nashville "for the daughters of genteel families" for more