



Senior class officers, 1950.

who became Mrs. Douglas MacArthur; Clare Booth Luce; and Sarah Ophelia Colley, Nashville's *Minnie Pearl*, now Mrs. Henry Cannon.

Thirty-eight years after the "Doomsday" announcement of the Belmont College and Ward Seminary merging, the distressful scene was repeated. But this time, there was talk of the college's *being bought and becoming co-educational!* Ward-Belmont, which had never completely recovered from the devastating Depression, faced changing times and financial difficulties which made its future look very gloomy.

Eleanor Graham, writing in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* in 1971 said:

Now the world had been shaken again. . . . In early January, 1951, stockholders of Ward-Belmont, conferring with businessmen who held the mortgages decided that, although Ward-Belmont was a landmark and an asset to Nashville, nevertheless, the demand for an exclusive school for girls had probably come to an end. In February, the Tennessee Baptist Convention bought Ward-Belmont for the consideration of its indebtedness. At the final college commencement, June 5, 1951, Dr. Hugh S. Stuntz, president of Scarritt College, spoke, a choir sang, eighty-one diplomas were awarded, and F. Arthur Hinkle played "The Bells of Ward-Belmont" to conclude the activities of the school.

Ward-Belmont loyalty has been graphically demonstrated through the years. In

1968, some 17 years after the school's closing, a reunion was planned to honor the school no longer in existence. The committee felt that an attendance of 300 would be reward enough. They were astounded when attendance tripled that amount and many were turned away for lack of space. Benedict, Cannon and Cayce described the program's closing:

... 'girls' of all ages sang the Alma Mater, "The Bells of Ward-Belmont," with great spirit and deep emotion and with certain appreciation that the strict discipline and the positive and undisputed authority which governed our formative years was assuredly a good and powerful force in shaping our lives.

Again in 1986, 35 years after the school's closing, the "Belles of Ward-Belmont" gathered in Nashville for a reunion. More than 650 former students came from all over the United States. This time also, registration was expected at 500, then stretched to 650. More than 100 were turned away because of limited space.

Gilbertine Moore ('35), writing of the occasion, spoke for every Ward-Belmont alumna when she penned,

The love and devotion to Ward-Belmont was evident at every turn during the weekend. We who were fortunate enough to have spent some of our formative years at that institution will never outgrow the tremendous influence it had on our lives. We are indeed a privileged group!

Memorabilia Wanted!

Throughout 1990-91, during the Centennial Celebration, we would like to print the remembrances from your years here—at the original Belmont College, Ward-Belmont, or the present Belmont College.

Write us your fondest memories, stories of your favorite teachers, your funniest or most emotional experiences—whatever you will share about what it was like then.

When you write your memories, send them to the *Circle* editor at the address below. Or, if you will put your memories on tape, we will write them up for you. Or, you can contact us and we will arrange for an interview.

Memorabilia Exhibit

In addition to writing the history, we will also establish a room of memorabilia. If you have mementos, photographs, banners, school outfits or other mementos that you will give or loan to us for the exhibit, send them to (or contact):

Office of Public Relations
Belmont College
1900 Belmont Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37212
phone: (615) 385-6792

Recipes Needed for Historic Cookbook

The Alumni Association is still receiving recipes for the Centennial Cookbook to be published in the fall of 1990.

Won't you share some of those recipes that have a Ward-Belmont or Belmont connection? ...maybe the dish you always insisted that Mom make for you when you went home...those favorite cookies that Grandmother sent during exams ...the mid-night concoctions that you created after "lights out"...or a recipe of "war-time substitutes"...

Think about it. You'll come up with something that will cause someone to say "Oh, yes, I remember that one." That's *nostalgia*, and that's what remembering and celebrating history is all about!