

For: The Archives of Harpeth Hall
From: Lue Edna Diver Barndollar
416 West Sixth PO Box 388
Coffeyville, KS 67337

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pbarndollar@cox.net 620-252-8497

My years at Ward-Belmont definitely had a major influence on my life. I first went to W-B in the Fall of 1947 from Coffeyville, KS, as a 13 year old prep school boarder. During my four years there I was involved in a multitude of activities and an officer in many - F.F. Club among them - and was elected president of the Senior Prep class. Though the letter sweater on which they were sewn is long gone, I still have my hockey and basketball letters. I feel so fortunate that I was a Senior Prep when the school was sold, as I was able to actually graduate from W-B.

I headed for the University of Kansas the next fall where I pledged a sorority and enjoyed college life. I became convinced - as I saw friends who were Education Majors spending time making bulletin boards - that I *never* wanted to be a teacher. The French Dept at K.U. was delighted to have a new student who had just had 3 years of French from Madame Fountain, so I was swept into a French major. Five semesters later I decided that I really wasn't excited about my major. By this time I was in love and knew I'd be living in or near Coffeyville when we married. My husband-to-be had been in the service in WW II, had finished college, and was ranching just outside of town. About the only way to utilize a French degree in Coffeyville would be to teach French, and I certainly had *no* desire to do that.

We married and raised four children doing all the things that parents do: Club Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, etc. Then I found myself teaching children other than my own: first Sunday School, then water safety for the Red Cross, then camping skills, canoeing, and the million other subjects that were needed by a Camp Fire Leader for teenage girls. So, when my youngest child went to school, I returned to school myself, earning both a B.A. and M.A. in English and an Education Specialist Degree. I then started a 20 year career with Coffeyville Community College (CCC), teaching composition, literature and coordinating the Honors Program. I loved it - and received several awards for teaching excellence. After I retired from teaching, I was elected to the CCC Board of Trustees and have just finished serving four terms on the Board - a total of 16 years.

Local history has always been an interest. I have been a member of the Coffeyville Historical Society Board since 1992 and am a founding member of the Friends of the Brown Mansion (an 1890 home needing the same kind of tender loving care as does the Acklen Mansion). I have several published works related to Coffeyville history. *What Really Happened on October 5, 1892: An Attempt at an Accurate Account of the Dalton Gang and Coffeyville* (1992) is responsible for my appearing a couple of times on the History Channel.

Although my four grown children did not have the benefit of attending Ward-Belmont, they certainly are aware of the benefits I received. As a result, teasing often occurs: one Christmas two different offspring gave me plaques with the following words: "I am silently correctly your grammar." Each of my kids has, at different times, visited the Belmont University campus. (A couple of my *grandchildren* have even stopped by when they were in the area.) Three of my offspring came with me for the reunion during 2000 and thus have visited Harpeth Hall. During that reunion I donated my old F.F. letter jacket to the Ward-Belmont room.

I'm sorry to say that my husband died several years ago, soon after we celebrated our sixty-second anniversary. I'm very pleased to say that all four of our children are college graduates, doing well and are fun to be around. Through them I have eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Although the actual W-B. bells of my memory are no longer ringing, they definitely created important milestones in my life.

The Bells of Ward-Belmont,
Oh hear they are calling,
The old girls, the new girls,
Who come from afar