

Of course, the evening's activities concluded with the singing of "The Bells Of Ward-Belmont," the words of which most could remember. We wonder just how many times during the weekend that was sung and each time it brought tears to many eyes.

Saturday morning groups of friends gathered in the coffee shop for breakfast and soon afterward boarded buses for Belmont College, the geographical location of our old school. It was a gorgeous day and Belmont College went all out to make our visit there everything it could possibly be. Many of the students were there to greet us and were stationed around the campus to answer questions or be of any help they could be. The school had provided two photographers with instant cameras to take pictures of groups of friends and each friend was given a copy. We thought this an extra-special act of thoughtfulness and kindness on the part of the school. A relaxed, informal tour of the campus was available and many were able to visit their old rooms. Dr. Troutt, President of Belmont College, welcomed the group and offered a prayer before a box lunch was served in the area we knew as "Club Village." Once again Minnie Pearl attempted to get the attention of the "girls" but gave up and began playing the piano inspiring us all once again to attempt to sing some of the old school songs. A collection was taken up to help Miss Morrison defray some of the expenses of the nursing home where she is living now; now totally blind, she was 100 years old on March 15th and is the only teacher who came to Ward-Belmont when it was organized in 1913 and remained throughout all the years of its existence leaving only when the school was sold in 1951. We felt this a meaningful gesture to be able to make some little contribution to help her in these declining years of her life.

Many changes have taken place on the old Ward-Belmont campus since we were students there but the love and appreciation of the present school is evidenced everywhere. Even though it is a completely different institution, we who loved Ward-Belmont are deeply gratified to see that the present administration obviously appreciates its heritage and is dedicated to carrying on many of the fine traditions of Ward-Belmont.

After our visit to Belmont, out-of-town alumnae boarded the bus for a trip to Minnie Pearl's Museum as guests of Minnie herself. En route she gave an interesting account of all the changes that have taken place along Music Row, the street we knew as 16th Avenue when we were in school. This is the center of the Country Music Industry with numerous recording studios. Minnie said the little yellow house which contains memorabilia of her career is the type house she thinks a real Minnie Pearl would have lived in. Or, as she once expressed it, "It's filled with lots of love and mementos of my life and fifty years of entertaining."