

From Minnie's Museum the buses took us back to the hotel where we rested and visited with friends until time to leave for the drive to Harpeth Hall. As most Ward-Belmont "girls" know, Harpeth Hall is the private girls' school which was organized immediately after Ward-Belmont was sold. Many of the teachers went directly there and also many of the students who were suddenly shaken by the close of the school they loved. Harpeth Hall has become a school of outstanding merit with a nation-wide reputation for its scholastic achievements as well as those in other fields. It, too, deeply appreciates its heritage and continues to perpetuate so many of the traditions of its predecessor. As Dave Wood, Headmaster of Harpeth Hall, expressed it, "Indeed we do have a goodly heritage."

Arriving at Harpeth Hall we were directed to the old gymnasium where we were served wine during a period when we continued visiting and reminiscing with old friends and acquaintances. Soon we were led to the Catherine Morrison gymnasium where we were served a delicious, old-fashioned, country supper. At every plate was a white, sailor-type hat with the initials WB on one side and HH on the other, a gift to all the "girls" from Luke Simons.

Immediately after the supper we went to the auditorium for the program. Welcoming remarks and a prayer were given by Dave Wood and the program began. Ellen Hofstead acted as a psychiatrist and Minnie Pearl as a former Ward-Belmont girl. The psychiatrist asked Minnie why she had come to her. Minnie replied, "I want to go back." "Back where," asked the psychiatrist? At this point Minnie became uncontrollably tickled and, tucking her head between her knees said, "Back stage right now!" The point was that she wanted to go back to Ward-Belmont and the program proceeded with alums reenacting some of the events that were so much a part of our days at the school: a skit of swimmers dressed in tank-top bathing suits of the period; the Gym Class with the participants wearing authentic bloomers and middy blouses; the May Pole dance; George and Martha Washington and the minuet. Needless to say, all skits brought down the house. Minnie Pearl closed the program section with a Grinder's Switch skit which was followed by numbers sung by the Harpeth Hall chorus. The evening, and the planned Reunion, ended with the audience singing "The Bells Of Ward-Belmont."

Sunday morning the lobby of the hotel was alive with everyone trying to check out and saying "goodbye" amid more hugs and tears. Some extended their stay in the city by taking a trip on the Cumberland River in the new showboat, the General Jackson; others had brunch at the Opryland Hotel, an occasion highlighted by the strains of "The Bells Of Ward-Belmont" being played by a small combo in the lobby.

The love and devotion to Ward-Belmont was evidenced 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!