

### Great Expectations

As might be expected, Victorian rules of conduct were strictly enforced at the school. Walking to the front gate without permission was considered "astonishing liberty" and called for reprimand. One young lady who waved at a young man in a passing buggy had to spend 24 hours in her room. The list of rules was long and punishment for breaking them came without hesitation.

So strict was the rule about receiving gifts, that cakes and candy from home and flowers or other gifts from gentlemen, were promptly delivered to Nashville orphanages or hospitals.

An early Belmont College catalogue stated that "the student who wishes to be contented and successful must find her pleasure and happiness in study. Outside diversions may afford temporary relief, but they cannot compensate for the true happiness that comes with a sense of duty"

### The Close of an Era

Belmont College grew and flourished in the "Athens of the South" under the able leadership of Misses Heron and Hood for 23 years. In 1913, the two, "tired of school," decided to retire and spend the rest of their lives in travel and enjoying their Nashville home. They had built their dream home at 211 Deer Park Drive in Belle Meade for \$35,000. (This is the home that was later bought by Vanderbilt University to accommodate its Chancellor.)

Belmont College for Young Women, 1890-1913.

At the time they were making their decision to retire, Ward Seminary, a rival institution for women in Nashville, was looking for more space in a suburban location. The newspaper, commenting on the 1913 merger of the two schools, said "That the two schools of such similar purpose should be joined, linked under the name Ward-Belmont, taking the buildings of one and the president of the other, seemed the logical answer " to both problems.



In 1909, Belmont College students enjoy a game of tennis.

