

Ward-Belmont 1913-1951

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he first year of the merger, 832 young women (more than 300 from Belmont and 500-plus from Ward Seminary) were enrolled in Ward-Belmont School. The new school was now headed by a man, Dr John Diehl Blanton.

Both schools "brought to the marriage" a rich heritage of culture, religious values, high moral standards and strict requirements for deportment. As in the time of Belmont College, infringement of the rules brought swift punishment.

Academically, Ward-Belmont was a leader among schools for girls. It was the first junior college in the South to become



Ward-Belmont "belles", of the late 1920's, gather on the Acklen Hall steps.

fully accredited. Its Speech and Music Departments enjoyed excellent reputations. Nashville's cultural life benefited greatly from the many plays, pageants, operettas, concerts and lectures. Among the prominent entertainers and lecturers heard on the Ward-Belmont stage were Nelson Eddy and Jeannette McDonald, Jose Iturbi, Jascha Heifetz, and South Pole discoverer and North Pole explorer Roald Amundsen.

