

Ward-Belmont was granted a license for the first radio station in Nashville. WDAA went on the air in May 1922. The 20-watt radio transmitter was built by John H. DeWitt, Jr., then only 16 years of age. Whenever prominent speakers or artists came to the school, their programs could be heard over a fairly wide area of Nashville. Gaetano deLuca, voice teacher at the school, often broadcast Caruso and other famous artists, using his Victrola.

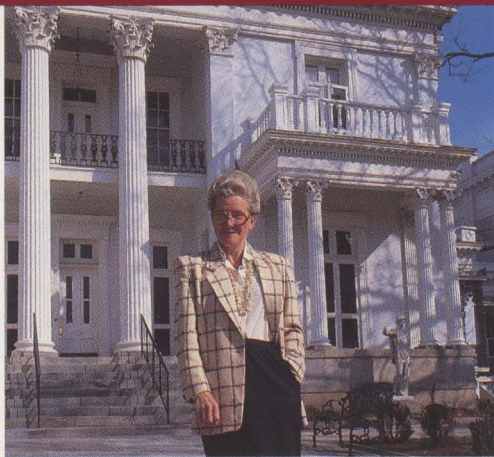
Adelicia's mansion became the center of campus life. The grand salon served as a reception area for visitors and dating parlor for the young ladies, many of whom lived upstairs.

Among the new buildings added to the campus were a barn (1920) to stable the fine riding horses for equestrian training and a classroom-gymnasium building named Blanton Hall (1925) in honor of the school's first president. Ten separate houses were built for the use of social clubs. Club Village, as it was called, played an important part in campus life.

Gracious living of "the old South" was enjoyed by the students of Ward-Belmont. Sumptuous meals were served in the ornate dining rooms on tables covered with custom-made Irish linen cloths. These were set with the finest bone china and silver service.

In 1929, a 23-bell cast carillon was installed in the historic water tower The Alumnae Association and the Class of 1928 gave the bells in memory of the men who lost their lives in World War I. The bells rang on special occasions and each new school year they welcomed the "belles" back to campus. Every Christmas Eve, the community heard the bells as the school gave its musical Christmas card to the city.

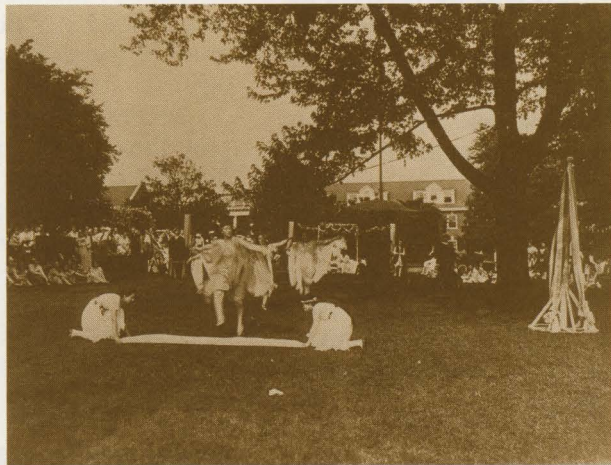
In November 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, en route



Sarah Cannon, better known as Minnie Pearl, one of Ward-Belmont's best known alumnae.

to Warm Springs, Georgia, rode around the campus circle as students lined the drive.

For 37 years, young ladies from prominent families throughout the U.S. enrolled in Ward-Belmont. The number grew to more than 1,200 in the 1920's. Among the alumnae are listed such notables as: Lila Acheson Wallace (co-founder of *Reader's Digest*), Mary Martin of Broadway fame; Jean Faircloth, (later, Mrs. Douglas MacArthur); Clare Booth Luce; and Sarah Ophelia Colley, Nashville's Mrs. Henry Cannon, better known as *Minnie Pearl*.



May Day was one of the gala celebrations at Ward-Belmont.



Rooftop aerobics, circa 1920. Sixteenth Avenue is in the background.

The Ward-Belmont campus, as shown on a postcard, around 1930.

