

***What I remember best about my Ward-Belmont days...**

Dressing for dinner and dressing for going off campus in gloves and hose, etc...

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***What I remember best about my days at Ward-Belmont...**

I remember the wonderful meals (pecan shells and ice cream), dressing for dinner every night, the kitchen doors flung open to allow the waiters in white coats to come in carrying those huge trays, singing the blessing "We gather together to ask the Lords Blessings". I still cry when we sing it in church. I could not believe it when I was elected class president (the president before me was Francis Purvis, also from Corinth). That was the proudest day of my life! (Wedding day was the happiest!) Named one of my daughters Shannon, because I really liked and admired Shannon Harber (teacher). I was thrilled to be on stage with Minnie Pearl. Jeanelle Thomlinson, Agnes Hale, Sally Forsythe and Carolyn Reynolds were my special friends. I love to tell my granddaughters and daughters about the ins and

outs of "dating" at Ward Belmont, about the dress codes (hat and gloves in town, special permission to date, taxi rides, no shorts visible even going to the gym on campus). They never tire of hearing about Ward-Belmont and I never tire of talking about it.

Actually, it is a family joke.. "Don't ask her about Ward Belmont, she won't shut up!!"

***Where my life has taken me...**

I married Doug Hammond 8/31/51. He was in the navy four years so we lived mostly in Norfolk, Virginia, where our first child, Candy, was born. We had three more girls, Shannon, Courtney and Shelby all born in Corinth (as Doug finally returned from Sea duty) and boy Barnett D. Hammond Jr.

We co-owned and managed three retail stores, Reid Brothers for men, The Clothes Pen for ladies and teens and The Hammond House, gifts and fine clothing for ladies.

I retired after 44 years. Our most recent venture is a book, "Mama Said", published September 2003. It is now in its third printing. I wrote it, Doug typed and is business manager, packing and the shipping person. Now I am having fun at book signings, etc.. and he is still working.

The reason I cannot attend the luncheon on October 2nd is I am

obligated for a book signing at Books in Blyethville book store in Arkansas on that day at the very book store that gave John Grisham his start. He is a real writer and I am a real scribbler! I think Ward Belmont is mentioned twice in the book. There would be a lot more, but Doug said "Don't even start!"

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***What I remember best about my Ward-Belmont days...**

So many high moments come to mind when I think of days at WB! The indoctrination of this West Texas girl into the ways of the deep south are most meaningful. The traditions learned have stuck! We had fun, but we worked hard too. The punctuation marks in my two years were the special events: George Washington's birthday and May Day, for example. I loved dressing for dinner and the freedom that ensued for signing in and out for dates. (It provided a structure that I craved.)

***Where my life has taken me...**

My husband, Joe, a fellow Texan, and I have four children and four grandchildren. I did not have a career so was able to be at home when the children were

growing up. We have lived in New York, Houston, Denver and now the Washington, D.C. area. Each place offers so much to benefit from. (D.C. is a classroom!) We have had some wonderful trips in the world and look forward to more. A real theme on our experience has been/is a yearly gathering with WB friends—Helen Walton Birdwell, Agnes Hole Strate, Carolyn Reynolds Fisher, and their spouses. Well over 35 years we have met here or there. Some volunteerism is to my credit. My proudest moments are my college years and my family.

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***What I remember best about my Ward-Belmont days...**

I came from the Panama Canal and saw my first snow. I was ready to run outside until I was grabbed, dressed warmly and finally released to enjoy. I remember running up the steps praying that the bell would continue to ring when my date was late returning me and I tore my hose. Mrs. Casey gave "that look"! I made it, barely! Holding hands in a circle in Club Village to Belles of Ward