

Remarks to Ward-Belmont Reunion Classes of '49, '50, and '51  
May 19, 1990  
by  
Patty L. Chadwell

Cile and Betty asked me to say something about the transition from Ward-Belmont to Harpeth Hall. Since I had consulted with Louise Douglas Morrison about this period when she was researching for her book, A Voyage of Faith, I thought I would use that as an outline. Then I found out that a copy was to be put in your registration packet so you already have much of that in print. I will try not to duplicate any more than necessary.

As you know, I was teaching at Ward-Belmont, but not only that, I was president of the alumnae association as well. I'll admit that the association had not been very active but that may have been caused by the fact that we had little co-operation from the administration. Mary Ann Moore, the alumnae secretary, was only in her second year in that position when the ax struck in 1951. A friend of mine who had attended Ward-Belmont, and who later taught there, recalls that Mary Ann attended a meeting for alumnae secretaries and when she returned a member of the administration asked her if the meeting had been worthwhile. Her answer was that it was very worthwhile and that she heard again what she already knew and that was it was very important to keep an up-to-date file of alums and to institute immediately a program of alumnae giving. Ward-Belmont was privately owned and had only recently become non-profit and we had never been asked to give anything. The administrator's comment was that alumnae giving did not apply in our situation. Perhaps at that very time negotiations were going on to sell the school. It certainly was a well-kept secret that the bank was searching for someone to buy