

## SENIOR CLASS HISTORY

In September of 1944 ninety-one kneeshaking graduates of the Batesburg and Leesville Grammar Schools were greeted with stares and giggles upon entering the B-L auditorium. Realizing that we were to become a part of the family at B-L Hi, we knuckled down to the task of making ourselves at home---this wasn't too easy. Being new creatures roaming the halls, we often found ourselves in the wrong class rooms. After a very short time, we discovered that there would be many trying moments in our lives. Such things as "rat day" and six weeks' tests were most trying. Most of us didn't know what difficult tests were until our first Math test. After struggling with civics, science, math, and English for nine long months, we certainly welcomed a three months' vacation.

Upon entering B-L in September of '45, we had the joy of being "upper-classmen". Of course, we felt very experienced. Many of us participated in football, basketball, and baseball. Some of us were asked to serve at the Junior-Senior Banquet, and we highly anticipated the "big night". But--before serving, there was the peeling of bushels of potatoes, and afterwards, there was the washing of many dishes. T'was something we hadn't expected. Thus another year passed.

The year 1946-47 was another busy year. Some were lucky enough to be invited into the Beta Club. Lessons were getting more difficult, but we buckled down to studying, so it wasn't too hard.

At the beginning of the year 1947-48, we found ourselves Juniors although we had been in high school three years already. This was due to the change to the twelve year system for all South Carolina schools. We were also the highest grade in school and therefore felt very important. Many of our classmates were in the Glee Club, and made the trip to Winthrop College in the Spring. During this year we gave a three act comedy entitled "The Girl Who Looks Like Me."

September 1948 found us definitely Seniors and we were more than proud of our standing. Our dream was at last realized. The day to be measured for our class rings soon came. Our Political Science Class visited such places as the civil court in Lexington, the State Institution and State Legislature. The square dance and senior play were also highlights of the year. Since our first day in high school we had awaited the day when we could go to Washington, D. C. Finally, on April 6, that day arrived--We were up and on our way by five o'clock in the morning and arrived there around six that evening. We were tired but excited. We ate supper at Union Station, looked around, tried the escalators, went to the hotel, and to bed. For the next two days we arose early and visited the following places; the Capitol building, both houses of Congress in session, Robert E. Lee's Memorial, the Zoo, The Treasury Department, the Library of Congress, Capitol Theater, Smithsonian Institute, New National Museum. On the fourth day, we returned by way of Natural Bridge, Virginia. Such a trip comes only once in a lifetime. In May we were honored with a lovely banquet by the Juniors. However, the excitement was far from being over---Commencement was drawing near. Those days of marching up and down the aisle and across the stage until we finally got in step with the music finally came. Those days were very short. In fact, too short, for we realized that we soon would march out, never to return as students again. And now as graduation is here, we are reluctant to leave these halls and are prone to cry:

"Backward, turn backward, O Time in Thy flight, and make me a Freshman again just for tonight."

"But alas 'tis impossible and as we go, may we each and all continue to advance until at last we really attain the greater things nor scorn the base degree by which we did ascent."

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Class Historian