

HOPE OF THE FUTURE

As the Band of Blue began its rendition of the traditional graduation march "Pomp and Circumstance," the 270 graduating seniors filed on to the field with an aura of relief, pride, and apprehension. The ceremonies were held at the football stadium. Even in the extreme heat, hundreds gathered to wish the graduates luck.

After the band played the National Anthem, third honor graduate Wilmar Stephens delivered the invocation. Wesley

Adams, second honor graduate, gave the salutatory address. In his speech, Wesley reflected on some of the hopes that parents and teachers have had for these students over

the years. He stressed the importance of hope for the future.

Senior Class President Hazel Breland presented Principal Bob Pence with a monetary gift from the class. The money will be used to enhance the academic program at WHS. The class also recognized the retirement of Superintendent A.L. Smoak for 46 years service in education.

Next, Principal Pence presented the valedictorian medal to Gail Rearden, first honor graduate. Gail's speech also carried the theme of hope and advocated that "a better tomorrow can only be assured by

making a better today." Gail also stressed the importance of justice by saying that "justice for all depends on justice for the individual."

Next Linda McMillan, guidance counselor, announced the names of the graduates as they came forward to receive their diplomas. Superintendent Smoak and Chairman of the Board of Education Wayne Shider presented the diplomas and certificates. Senior Counselor Yvonne Lloyd presented each graduate a carnation and Principal Bob Pence congratulated each one. After the turning of the tassels and the Alma Mater, Student Class President Cheryl Grant pronounced the benediction.

The class recessed to "Pomp and Circumstance" as graduates and alumni of WHS. The audience responded positively three different times during the ceremonies. One of these was the presentation of a diploma to Edward Geathers, who throughout school has had to rely on the help of crutches for mobility. He proudly crossed the stage unassisted by anyone to receive his diploma. The announcement of perfect attendance for 12 years awarded to Marshall Taylor and Marilyn Murray also evoked admiring applause.

The third extremely moving moment was the awarding of a diploma to Angie Drawdy posthumously. Angie, who died of a fatal asthma attack on February 6, would have graduated with the Class of '93.

This was the day that every graduate had been awaiting for 12 years. Leaving behind the school books, proms, football games, and old friends was bittersweet. However, these graduates carried with them many memories that would last for a lifetime.

— Karen Beach

While delivering the valedictory, Gail Rearden stresses the importance of hope for the future. Gail received many awards and accepted a scholarship from Duke University.



Before taking that final walk, graduates Bramlett Easterlin and Jody Smoak share their excitement with usher Karen Beach. Bramlett was editor of the yearbook, while Jody was a member of the tennis team.

