



# A New Beginning *At The End*



The overcast sky up above reflected the bittersweet occasion of the day. It was graduation, a time of both happiness and sentimental recollections.

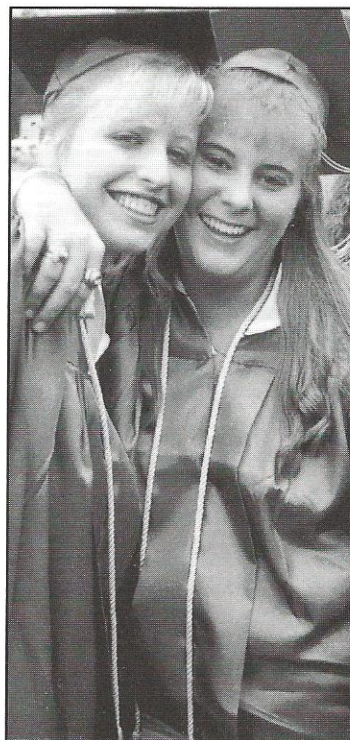
As hundreds looked on in the stands, the 257 candidates for graduation filed onto the field, marching to "Pomp and Circumstance." While the seniors stood in their places, the band played the National Anthem. After Chrissy Lockaby, the third-honor graduate, delivered the invocation, Salutatorian Shamgar McDowell gave the welcome and entreated his fellow classmates to meet the challenges of the future with optimism and confidence. Though venturing into uncharted waters, Shamgar acknowledged, maintaining a strong faith in God and utilizing the tools of education will make the course easier to conquer.

Afterward, Shamgar presented Principal Bob Pence with a gift from the class. It

**Leaders of Tomorrow.** As the commencement exercises begin, the graduates file onto the field. This was the last time the seniors were together as a collective unit.

was a plaque which memorialized the students who died while attending WHS from 1983 to 1994. Shamgar announced that the memorial plaque was to begin a tradition for all succeeding classes.

Next Mr. Pence introduced the Valedictorian Edward Broach. In his speech, Ed warned against collective pride. He encouraged the



judging of others on the basis of individual merits, not on external characteristics.

Mrs. Martha Roberts announced the names of the graduates as they came forward to receive their diplomas and certificates. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William O. Cason and Chairman of the Board of Education Wayne Shider presented the diplomas while class sponsor Mrs. Cindy Sarvis and guidance counselor Mrs. Mary Martin gave each graduate a white carnation.

After the turning of the tassels by Shamgar McDowell and the benediction by Student Council President Inglis Mangum, the graduates marched jubilantly off the field. With joy in their hearts and tears in their eyes, they faced a new beginning.

— Dawn Bowman

**Friends Forever.** Michelle Maxey and Chasity Lyons seal their friendship with a hug at the end of the graduation ceremony. For some, graduation would be the last time they would ever see some of their friends.