## Sitting Behind the Wheel of a Car

First Driving Experience

Turning fifteen. Learning how to drive. When the big fifteenth birthday came around, most teenagers jumped in the car with Mom or Dad to head for the highway department. With sweaty palms and anxious thoughts they took the dreaded test that would determine whether the coveted permit would be theirs. After passing the test, their nerves were a little calmer, but still they had to drive home.

"I was so nervous and excited about getting my permit, I forgot to buckle my seatbelt and got a ten-dollar ticket when I went through a license check," said sophomore Carolyn Hazel.

After they had driven at least 15 days with the permit, time came for the really big test. This test was usually a lot more nerve wracking than the written test. Once it was passed thought, it all seemed worth it.

For some drivers, the excitement was replaced with the reality of the responsibility of driving a car. When sophomore B.J. Smoak flipped his truck an hour after getting his license, his day did not turn out as he had hoped. He was fine, but his truck was totaled.

Even though not all of the memories were good, everyone remembered how it felt to sit behind the wheel of a car for the first time. They shared the same feeling of relief when that driver's license was finally theirs.

— Leah Steele

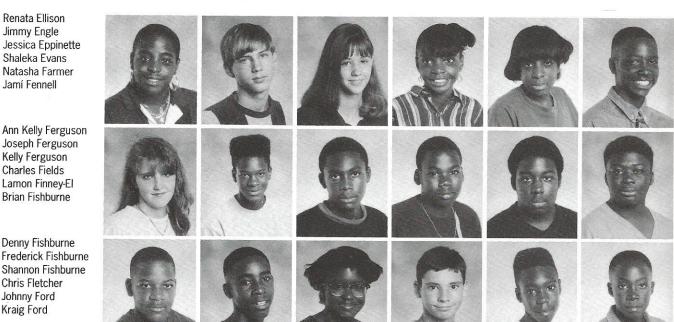


The first time I drove. I just had to concentrate on staying between the lines 77

— Kim Crosby



Bumper Cars? Looking at his wrecked truck, sophomore B.J. Smoak realizes driving was not as easy as he thought. Besides B.J., many other students experienced their first "fender benders" soon after receiving their licenses.



Jimmy Engle Jessica Eppinette Shaleka Evans Natasha Farmer Jamí Fennell

Ann Kelly Ferguson Joseph Ferguson Kelly Ferguson Charles Fields Lamon Finney-El

Denny Fishburne Frederick Fishburne Shannon Fishburne Chris Fletcher Johnny Ford Kraig Ford