



Ahoskie High School

Class of 1955

Forty-Fifth Class Reunion

June 10, 2000

Welcome - Class of 1955

Welcome to all who are attending the forty-fifth reunion of the Ahoskie High School graduating class of 1955. It's hard to believe that forty-five years have passed since we took that final step on May 31, 1955, and became high school graduates.

I recall that graduation night was filled with much emotion. Emotions of happiness and high expectations; yet, a hint of sadness. We were happy because we were about to accomplish a feat that we had been working toward for the past twelve years--high school graduation. We were happy because we were on the brink of emerging from the teenage cocoon where we were protected and nurtured to a world of adulthood where we would be protectors and nurturers. When we received our diplomas that night, we did so with high expectations for the future we were just beginning to embark upon. We knew that our lives and the world would be different, but we also knew that we would face this new future with the knowledge and abilities to make an impact not only upon our lives but also upon the lives of others.

But there were also moments of sadness. Sadness that we would never again share the halls of Ahoskie High School and the inspiration that it provided to us. Sadness that we would be saying goodbye to friends whom we had known since childhood. Sadness that our new beginnings meant being apart.

Eight of our classmates who shared that final walk with us have since passed away. Today's events--and the booklet that has been prepared in honor of our forty-fifth reunion--are dedicated to their memory.

Serving on the reunion planning committee has truly been a pleasure, and I wish to extend my deep appreciation to my fellow committee members. Under the capable leadership--and gentle prodding--of chairman Ray Lassiter, committee members Jane McGee Taylor, Emily Jernigan Marra, Mary Ann Dilday Williams, Jane Fretwell Holloman, and Arthur Lee Horton and his wife Sandy assisted in planning a memorable reunion for all of us. A special note of thanks is extended to Arthur Lee and Sandy for their generosity in sponsoring a significant portion of this event.

It is hard to believe that forty-five years ago, we left Ahoskie High School filled with youthful exuberance and high aspirations. It is, however, easy to believe that the members of the Class of 1955 have lived up to our motto, "Today We Follow: Tomorrow We Lead." We have traveled many different paths, but all of them have led to productive, meaningful lives. Life has been good, and for the joys we have shared and the friendships we have made, we shall be eternally grateful.

Let us join together in looking toward the future!

W. Randolph Nichols
W. Randolph Nichols
Class President



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In Memoriam



Francis Benthall



Leora Godwin



Randolph Jernigan



Ray Ralph



Albert Sumner



Diane Upchurch



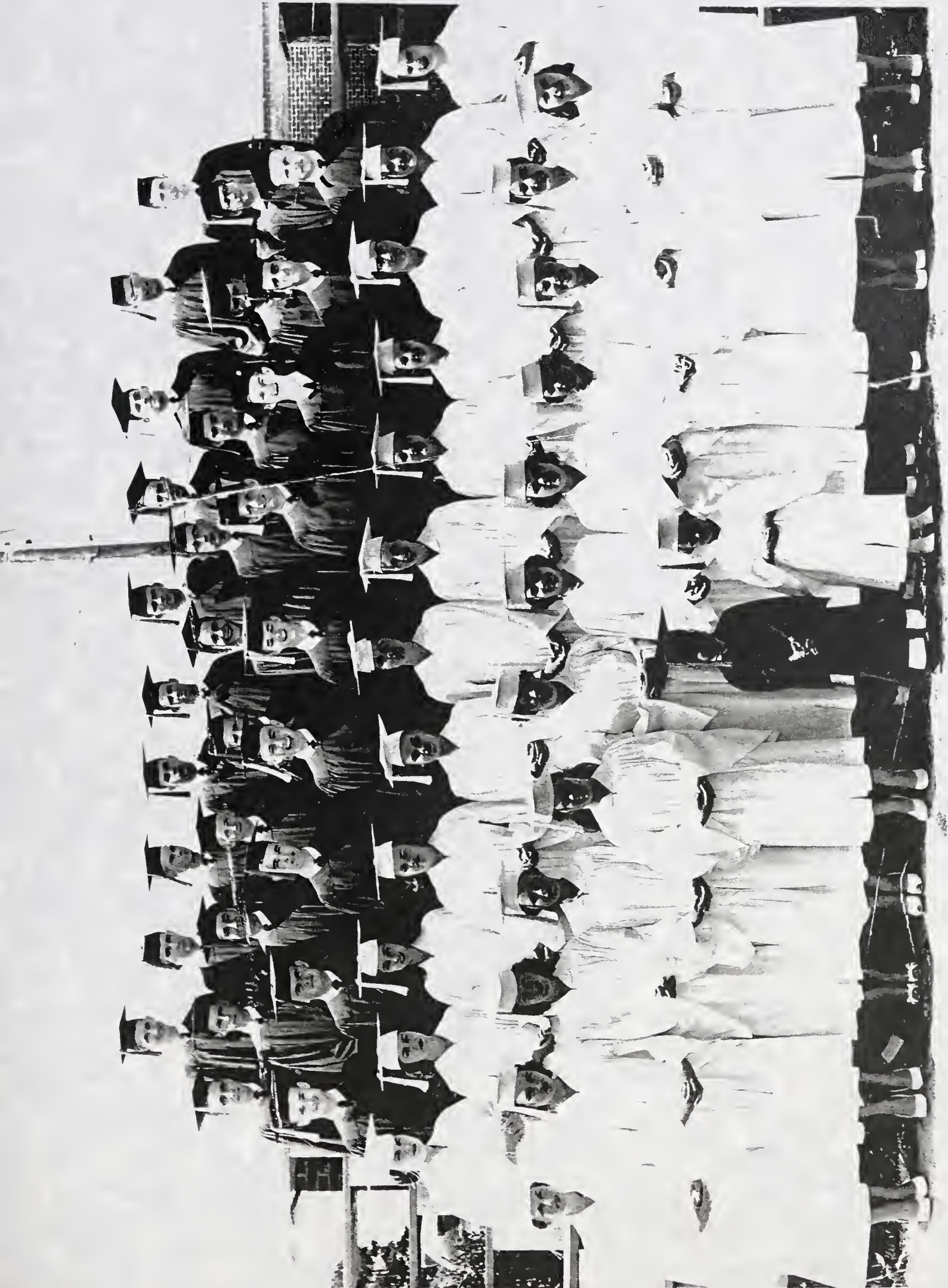
Mildred Williams



Pete Willoughby

Class Motto

Today We Follow: Tomorrow
We Lead



Class Officers

Randolph Nichols-----President

James Modlin-----Vice-President

Paige Wood-----Secretary

Clarice Dilday-----Treasurer

Alma Mater

Of all the schools in Carolina
Ahoskie High's the best.
It never shirks from any duty,
Best in every test.
Listen to our declaration from Ahoskie High,
To our school in Carolina,
Faithful till we die.

From the plains of Carolina,
We come good and true,
Best of all the country over,
Best in all we do.
Help us in our preparation to be loyal too.
Hail to thee, our alma mater,
Ahoskie, here's to you.

Our Teachers

Grade School

Mrs. Gladys Bozeman
Mrs. Edith Brown
Miss Marietta Picot
Mrs. Edith Harrell
Miss Bessie Harrell
Mrs. Sam Boyette

Mrs. Rufus Mitchell
Mrs. Douglas Sessoms
Mrs. Josephine Peacock
Mrs. Hilda Martin Harrell
Mrs. Miriam Rigby
Mrs. Earline Revelle

High School

Mrs. Deanes Britt
Miss Deborah Brown
Mrs. Carson Brinkley
Mr. Robert Brown
Mr. Julian Freeman
Mrs. Julian Freeman

Mrs. R. P. Martin
Mr. Donald Newsome
Mr. L. C. Peacock
Mrs. Allen Powell
Mr. Jack Young

Principals

Mr. F. M. Tucker
Mr. A. Woodrow Taylor

Class Poem

by

Paige Wood

As we come to the end of our high school days,
The point which marks the parting of our ways,
We pause awhile to take a backward look,
Ere time shall close the pages of this book.

Both glad and sad are we to leave these halls,
Throughout all time we'll love these cherished walls;
Fond memories still will paint a picture clear,
Of happy days, and friendship ties so dear.

Although our tasks at times were not so light,
Our best we often did with all our might;
We wrestled with those lessons, might and main,
In hopes that someday a diploma we might gain.

So now 'tis over--we have reached our goal,
The story of our high school days is told,
But as we leave, there's one more word I'd say,
Do as we did--you'll graduate one day!

Our Class

Janice Alston	Diane Upchurch	Jimmy Hill
Jeanette Bell	Mabel Vaughan	Arthur Lee Horton
Agnes Byrum	Mildred Williams	John Hughson
Dorothy Cobb	Jackie Willoughby	Randolph Jernigan
Clarice Dilday	Esther Winslow	Kenneth Johnson
Imogene Dilday	Paige Wood	J. C. Lassiter
Gloria Fretwell	Billy Arrington	Ray Lassiter
Jane Fretwell	Frank Ashfield	Charles Maddrey
Kathryn Godwin	Tommy Barnes	Fred Miller
Leora Godwin	Merrill Belch	James Modlin
Libby Hobbs	Francis Benthall	Randolph Nichols
Emily Jernigan	Joseph Blowe	Richard Odom
Barbara Jones	McCoy Britton	Larry Powell
Mary Maxham	Shirley Brown	Ray Ralph
Julia Mizelle	Craig Castello	Billy Rogerson
Sally Moore	Gerald Davis	Bill Ross
Jean Myers Baker	Judson Eure	Albert Sumner
Jane McGee	Carlton Hall	Pete Willoughby
Carolyn Riddick	Raymond Harmon	Jimmy Willoughby
		Larry Wynns

Class History

by

Jane McGee

Come take a stroll with me back down the path of our school days. We, the Seniors of '55, have passed a long and happy 12 years while struggling down this trail of no return.

Our first guides were Mrs. John Bozeman and Miss Edith Martin, who is now Mrs. J. B. Brown. Wide-eyed and restless, we began our journey. During this first year, we gave an operetta entitled "Grandmother's Flower Garden" in which we played the roles of nodding daffodils, swaying violets, and buzzing bees.

Miss Marietta Picot and Miss Laurena Williams took over as leaders for our now "well informed" group and led us over the second hill of our scholastic climb. Again we became stage performers and presented "Hanzel and Gretel," with an honest-to-goodness cake and gumdrop house.

A tour of the third grade was guided by Mrs. Edith Harrell and Miss Bessie Harrell. Due to bad weather during this year 1945, and school was out early, we had our Christmas party after Christmas. By now we had had plenty of experience on the stage, so again we displayed our talents in the story of "Sleeping Beauty." Our third year was marked by a tragedy in

our young lives. In the spring of this year Mary Eleanor Whedbee, a dear classmate, died from an attack of acute appendicitis.

We were very capably assisted through the fourth grade by Mrs. Sam Boyette and Mrs. Mary Dowell. Our studies became more rugged as we took this step up to grammar school. Each of us was required to make a North Carolina booklet for our history project.

We were able to enjoy our well-loved fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Boyette, another year when the fifth grades were combined with the fourth. A lot of new friends were made and our trail widened as our minds became more developed. Mrs. Rufus Mitchell taught the other section of the fifth grade.

That mysterious subject called geography made its way into our lives in the sixth grade, under the guidance of Mrs. Douglas Sessoms and Mrs. Josephine Peacock. Mrs. Peacock's section presented an interesting playlet entitled "America in the Making." Spit-balls became very ordinary and we girls learned to run at the very sight of those "horrid" boys.

As we followed a turn in our path of the three r's, we came upon the seventh grade and those wonderful teachers, Miss Mina Holloman and Miss Hilda Martin, who is now Mrs. Warren Harrell. Those untamed boys became almost gentlemen under the influence of Miss Mina's yardstick. By the end of the year the preamble of the Constitution was memorized by Miss Martin's pupils by constantly copying.

During the eighth grade, the girls ended their childish games and mannerisms and became “ladies” with a touch of lipstick and skirts an inch longer. The class chartered a bus and took a tour of Raleigh, our capitol city, and the Planetarium at Chapel Hill. Our teachers, Mrs. Miriam Rigby and Miss Earline Whitehurst, rotated, each teaching three subjects. New friends were gained by the Powellsville students joining our group. In May we climaxed our first eight years with gala graduation exercises and happily came upon the signpost marked “high school.”

After our first week of high school amid the confusion and rushing around we were ready to go back to the first grade. Some of us ended with schedules such as this for our Freshman year: Typing I, Latin I, Math I, English I, and General Science. Our homeroom guides for this year were Miss Frances Newby, Mr. Joe Lassiter, and Mr. Julian Freeman. The highlight of this year was our picnic at Tuscarora.

After three months of vacation we returned to the tenth grade minus a few who we had lost on our upward climb. Miss Frances Gray and Mr. Donald Newsome were our homeroom teachers. The highlight of this year was a beauty contest sponsored by Miss Gray’s homeroom and a musical program in which certain stars such as Nat King Cole, Johnnie Ray, Patti Page and others were mimicked.

Under the direction of Mrs. R. P. Martin and Mrs. Allen Powell, we began the long hard struggle of increasing a bank account, which would take care of the heavy expenses incident

to Junior Class activities. We sold countless magazines, had cake and bake sales enough to feed a small army and did everything legitimate to raise the needed funds. During this year it was our privilege to play host to 600 members of the Beta Clubs at the Northeastern District Beta Convention. A most successful Junior-Senior Banquet and Prom was held on April 30th, a story-book ball, featuring Mother Goose and her numerous helpers. Among our trip highlights were our Williamsburg tour, our first Beta trip to Asheville and our basketball trip to Aberdeen.

Now at long last we reached the peak of our high school career with the conclusion of our Senior year looming up just over the hill. This, too, has been a busy, eventful year. Many things have contributed toward making our last year in Ahooskie High School an experience never to be forgotten.

Countless hours of work and concentration went into the making of our annual, "The Chief," a publication of which we are justly proud. The annual Senior play, "Let's Make Believe" was presented twice and was well received at both times. Much labor went into the production and presentation of this drama. In order to boost our funds for the New York trip, we held a very successful Brunswick Stew sale in the early spring. Words cannot adequately express the joy and complete delight which our New York trip afforded us. It was an experience never to be forgotten. We had looked forward to this trip for four years and it was everything that our fondest dreams had pictured. Without the sacrifices made by Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mrs. McGee, and Mr. Daughtry, our chaperons, our trip wouldn't have been

possible. Our second Beta Club trip to Asheville was not disappointing. The Juniors gave us a wonderful Junior-Senior in a beautiful underwater fantasy staged at the Armory on April 29th. Our Senior Prom, given by our grade mothers and mascots' mothers, held at the Beechwood Country Club on May 27th was another highlight of a happy year. Good eats, good dancing, good fun!!! Two other trips worthy of mention in our history were our Pantego tour to the Beta District convention, and the trip to Greensboro where our boys played in the State Basketball finals.

And now we have come to the final events of our graduation--a most impressive Baccalaureate service featuring a splendid sermon on God-like living. So - on to Tuesday night, May 31st, and the goal, so long sought for, finally attained--a high school diploma.

In the words of one of our greatest presidents - "It is always fitting and proper" that we pause here, and taking a final backward look, give a word of thanks to all who have helped us along the 12-year trail. It's been good to know you. We hope that we, too, have contributed something of value along the way to our beloved Alma Mater!!

Ahoskie High School Class of 1955

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