

THE BENNETT BANNER

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WORK TODAY, THERE'S A TOMORROW!

As Indian Summer came on the scene, many other things came with it, both beautiful and ugly.

The Russians launched "Sputnik" and caused international concern. Valdmir Dudintsev presented to the public the "novel that rocked the Soviet Union", *Not By Bread Alone*. The Little Rock school crisis persists and the Federal troops are still there. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip arrived regally in the United States for a short tour and the Braves clinched the World Series pennant for the year. Seemingly, the Asiatic Flu is here to stay.

Contributions of great dimensions are being made each day by people, who are working while the leaves begin to fall, and the crisp cool weather settles around us.

But the question arises, are we as students going to sit back and take in our stride the beautiful weather, contributions of impressive importance and not make any progress towards a contribution of our own? No, it is not for us to sit back and relax, we should take advantage of these events and of crisp, cool, fall weather as stimulants to motivate us to work. Work today and perhaps we'll read of our contributions, tomorrow.
The Editor

YOUR CARRIAGE, LADIES!

If a passerby were to inquire into the matter of why the Bennett girls rush like escapees from a burning building every day at noon time, he would be surprised to discover that these "young ladies" are racing to "beat the lunch line"! It is evident that these rushers to lunch have no idea of how they look; for if they did such mad-house capers would soon cease. At 12:30 there is still a half-hour left to get from the Science Hall to the Union Dining Room, so why the mad rush?

With the ever-increasing emphasis on cultivating and instilling the character traits of refined ladies into the Bennett students, it would seem that all the time, effort, and interest is trampled on and crammed down the nearest drain every time the meal hour is at hand. There is no excuse such as: Well, we're hungry after taking lecture notes all morning; sweating out a biology exam; or just plain concentrating for a few hours.

Ladies, this does not excuse you from the fact that as you constantly ask to be treated like grown up young women, you must demonstrate that you are ready to be given such treatment. Your daily demonstration of rushing to your meals as though you were hungry hounds leads onlookers to think that either you have not been taught the proper thing to do, or that, since you disregard the good manners you've been taught, your parents' money is also being trampled on and drain-directed.

Women must always be ladies at all times, even with scads and scads of knowledge; for regardless of your education, your "lady-like" actions will always be sought after, and watched closely.

It also comes to mind that no attempt has been made to fit your carriage with the new atmosphere at the evening—dinner meal. Surely you would not expect to go to a formal dinner and find the prospective diners "all bunched up" before the doors waiting to corral themselves into the dining room like herds of cattle! Why, then, must you forget your manners when the evening meal is at hand? Ladies, you have no excuse!

In order to be the refined young ladies that Bennett College expects you to be, these areas of personal growth must be checked on, and corrected; for this is you as you will appear to outsiders—this is "your carriage, ladies!"
Yvonne Wynne, '58

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We welcome all letters and suggestions.
Send them to Box 104 or Box 538.

BANNER HIGHLIGHTS

Belle Tobias

For our series of feature articles, we are highlighting some of the persons who have been associated with the college. These persons were chosen in terms of unique personality, contributions to Bennett, and the influence which they had on both faculty and students while here on the campus. We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Raiford for their help and interest in this series.

Miss Belle Tobias, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Channing Tobias, came to Bennett College as a young and enthusiastic science teacher. She had received the Bachelor of Science degree from Barnard College where she was graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and the Master of Arts degree from Wellesley College. Upon the completion of this work, she became a research scientist in biology at the famous science laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

When Miss Tobias came to Bennett from her studies at Woods Hole, she found little science equipment. The laboratory was housed in what was known as the "ginger bread" house, which had two rooms downstairs and one room upstairs. This building was made of handmade brick and stood about where the Kudriks' house now stands.

The anecdote is told by Mrs. Jones that a freshman student asked Ma Mac if she could go to the bakery. This was a completely puzzling statement to Ma Mac. But she finally understood the freshman was referring to the little quaint "ginger bread" house, which in reality was the science lab. It was to this building, with a minimum of equipment and quite inelaborately fashioned, that Belle Tobias came.

Miss Tobias was never heard to complain of the inadequate facilities with which she and her students worked. It was a common occurrence to see her on most any day with her students going to the abattoir to get specimens which could be used in laboratory work. It is from her great love of science, her skill, and enthusiasm, that the Bennett girls began their interest in science.

It may be said that her work accounts for the number of Bennett graduates being in the field of medicine or related areas. On the basis of her fundamental work, concern for scientific endeavor at Bennett College has increased through the years until the last two classes of freshmen have made science high in their selection of majors.

Intelligence, skill, and enthusiasm, were not the least of Belle Tobias' attributes. She is described as having been very pretty and one who attracted flocks of girls as well as faculty members. She had been married only a short time to a Dr. Curtis, who worked directly with George Washington Carver, when she became fatally ill: She knew that she would not recover from this illness, but she accepted her particular fate without crying or cringing. Although she died early, her influence continued.

In memory of her, the Tobias family established the Belle Tobias scholarship which is still awarded annually to the freshman who has made most outstanding improvement during the year. Because she was very much loved on campus and warm in her relationship with both faculty and student, the Board of Trustees named a faculty cottage for her. These things stand as tangible memorials to Belle Tobias, but her real spirit lives on, perhaps in a less measurable manner, in those she influenced.

Literally Yours:--

By Carolyn R. Brown, '58

THE CHARACTER OF BLAKE

Just the other day as I thumbed through the New York Times Magazine section, I saw an advertisement of crystal by Steuben Glass. The advertisement was exactly one page and on this particular page was a beautiful bowl with etchings of William Blake's immortal lines from his poem *The Tiger*. Included in the design of this bowl was the original sketch of Blake's *Tiger*.

This inspired me to do some thinking on one of my favorite Romanticists. The more I read recent periodicals, I discovered that this year marks the bicentennial of the poet, artist, William Blake.

Blake was born in London on November 28, 1757. His education was based on his early drawing abilities, and he attended an art school, as well as the Royal Academy. Blake was a precocious visionary. At the age of four he visioned God putting his head to the window, and a few years later he returned from a walk saying that he had seen a tree filled with angels.

The poet, artist holds an unusual position in literature. His poetry is towering, mystically imaginative, and deals with lofty religious and philosophical plans. His contemporaries and others have labeled his literature as that which is highly symbolic, and filled with visions. The Old Testament was the prime source of his imagery, he took suggestions from Biblical stories and elaborated on them. Blake was obsessed with the conflict between good and evil. The illustrations which accompany his works depict angelic innocent faces, along side faces of monstrous wickedness.

Blake is classed as a romantic, as this is the era in which he

wrote. But the performance he gives exceeds ordinary romantic elements. He paints the beauty of the twilight in sheer poetic verbal fashion in "To the Evening Star, he could touch all the poignancy of human experience in such a tiny poem as *The Fly*. The same poet who framed the sweet simple lines of *The Lamb*, also framed the lines:

*Tiger, Tiger, burning bright
in the forest of the night
What immortal hand could frame
thy symmetry?*

Blake was extraordinarily gifted as a painter, poet, and visionary and seized the pictorial element of an idea, whether simple or sublime, and transplanted it into the sensuous language of his deeply religious, though unorthodox mystical genius.

Song of Experience, and *Songs of Innocence* treat similar subjects from the contrasting view points of a mature man and of a child, as the titles imply. The collections are short, clear, filled with power and depth and unforgettable phrases.

He was thought of as a "half-crazed" and "prophetic fool" during his time but William Blake is recognized as being first in ranks of the British artists of all time. Lest we forget this man, whom nature so generously endowed with the remarkable gifts of design, line, color and lyrical design, and shut him out of our minds? No, to read his poetry and to gaze upon his illustrations, leaves one in awe and spellbound.

The poetry and illustrations of William Blake are found in The Thomas F. Holgate Library, here on our campus.

Twenty Years Of Her Best

By Deloris Casimere

Most of us are familiar with Mrs. Hattie Raines Staton who directs the laundry on our campus. Mrs. Staton has given outstanding services in this capacity since she was first given the keys to the Laundry by our late president, Dr. David D. Jones, over 20 years ago.

During these many years, she has seen numerous changes come about and has seen many persons come and go, both faculty and students, some of whom are now famous.

Mrs. Staton recalls that when first she came to Bennett, the Chapel, Reynolds Hall, The Science Building, The Student Union, Holgate Library, Merner Hall, Barge Hall, and other structures had not yet been built, and our now beautiful campus was hilly and bare. Only four other members of the immediate Bennett Family have been with us since those days.

Through the years, former members of the Bennett Family have expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Staton through cards and letters, especially at Christmas time. Since she is now so close to us here, we too often forget the great contribution she makes daily to our comfort and to our enjoyment of campus life, not only in her official capacity, but as a confident and advisor to many of us.

As a general word of advice to the student body, Mrs. Staton gives her motto: "Always do your best." Throughout her long and faithful tenure, Mrs. Staton has exemplified this motto, and it is one which we would all do well to follow.

Etta Kett says:



"Be yourself." When you've become a live, interested, responsive person, you can relax and really be yourself.