

# Homecoming 1991

*A new day dawns, days of the past remembered.*

*"Our colleges are known by those whom we graduate. No matter where we go -- we still represent Chowan College."*

Homecoming Day -- October 5 -- began, as it usually does, with a real country breakfast for the Chowanian Society. The Society was full of remembrances from those alumni who have celebrated class reunions of 40 years or more.

There was "little" Kate Mackie Allen '29 (who sat at the breakfast with her first roommate at Chowan). She recalled the time she rode down Main Street of Murfreesboro with a "mule collar around my neck."

Iris Martin Darden, class of '36, remembered that her father printed the



*Emma Gay Stephenson and Kate Mackie Allen had a good time remembering.*

student handbook from that year. L.L. Darden, '40 said there were only 125 students in his class. His wife, Virginia, was campus queen while he was there. Gwendolyn Ward Phelps, '42 used to ring the school bell 28 times a day. Mabel Scarborough, '33 said she wonders how students could enjoy being at a school with so few rules. "It was so much fun to break one of (the rules) back then."

Nora Mae Ward, '35, was so small that they put her in a baby carriage and pushed her through the streets of Murfreesboro. Martha Revelle, '37 recalled the "society halls were the best place to dance." Louise Strickland '36, (who was honored that day as a Distinguished Alumna) remarked, "I've always been very proud of the fact I came to Chowan. I had some of the best music teachers who helped me in many ways. The discipline was strict, but I learned about the real values of life and living."

Lucille White Craft, '41 said her father brought her to school and she cried when he left. "I cried when I left home and I cried when I left Chowan," she said.

And then the Brown Lady stood up. Yes, the real Brown Lady of Chowan fame, Francis Blythe Jones '30, announced it was she who was the real Brown Lady at Chowan (which makes everyone wonder because legend has it that the Brown Lady, a Chowan student who supposedly died from a broken heart and whose ghost walked the halls of McDowell Columns is known even to students at Chowan today.) Was that really you walking those halls and scaring those young ladies, Francis?

Nellie Mercer '33 sat with her college roommate, Rose Jennings, and said everyone thought for sure she would be an 'old-maid schoolteacher.' Everyone in the room laughed when she said she had been married three times. Nellie remembers her parents actually paid \$392 for her four years of study at Chowan. This editor of The Chowanian worked in the dining hall and remembers her father brought a load of potatoes to 'help out' the college.

Emma Gay Stephenson, '31, was there celebrating her 60th anniversary of graduating from Chowan, as well as her sister Ruth Stephenson Phillips, '36. Ruby Daniel Udvarnoki, '29, commended Dr. Jackson for "keeping up the Chowanian Society." Laughing about all the rules and regulations, Ruby recalled if gentlemen came to the campus, "if they came in a car, they'd better keep movin'".

Many of them recalled the Althenian and Lucanian Literary Societies at Chowan that they enjoyed so much. They all remembered Miss Eunice McDowell, the strict "headmistress" who ruled the young ladies of Chowan with rules stricter than those today. Time really does make the ties grow stronger because all the memories shared and laughed about by Chowanian Society were happy ones.



*Chowanian Society*

*Distinguished alumna Louise Strickland enjoyed a picnic on alumni green with friends Carole and Darrell Nicholson.*



*Photos by Sophomore, Don Nash*



*Members greeted the oldest member of the Chowanian Society Mrs. Mary Turner.*