

Reunion cause for celebration

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at Second Ward." "I think about school back then," Chisolm added. "If you did something that wasn't right, the teacher would send home a note to your parents and you'd better take it." "Amen," said another classmate. And of course, they had fun.

"We had dances - sock hops, we called them," James said. "They were fun."

"Those dances were chaperoned," Eva Huston, 80, said. "They would give you a certain amount of time to get home. If you didn't make it, there was trouble."

Members of the class were achievers. Under the leadership of principal Jefferson E. Grigsby, attendance in the '30s and '40s averaged in the 90 percentile and the size of the faculty and student body doubled. In 1966, the student body topped 1,500.

In 1967, plans were announced to expand Second Ward. A committee report to the school board said Second Ward had insufficient office space, no toilet in the health room and "inadequate ventilation." The school board announced that \$2 million would be appropriated to improve the school and make it a vocational training center. It would be renamed Metropolitan

High School and reopen in 1971.

In March 1969, with desegregation decisions looming in the high courts, Second Ward became one of seven black schools to be closed so students could be sent to white schools.

Closing the schools did more than end segregation, alumni said.

"Oh, it hurt," Booton said. "But we saw the handwriting on the wall."

There was always a "hidden agenda," he added.

"Our school was located in a municipal area," Booton said. "They announced that it was going to be made a vocational school, but that didn't set well

with people. It would have taken a lot of money, time and it would have left a lot of people in limbo."

But people accepted the change for progress, Booton said.

"Integration isn't an easy thing to tackle, challenge or complete," he said.

No matter what obstacles have been placed before them, members of the classes of '36 and '37 have remained true to their school and one another.

"We are celebrating our 60th anniversary," Booton said. "Dear Lord that's a lifetime to some."

"Amen," Huston added.

Image incorrect, workers say

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Capozzoli. "I would tell somebody, 'Well, I'm going to work with the Postal Service.' And they said, 'Well, you better take your bulletproof vest.'"

Capozzoli said some of his trainees only amplified the stereotype by donning T-shirts that read: "Don't Mess With Me, I'm a Postal Worker."

While the T-shirt message embraces that infamous, on-the-edge image, Halkitis said that in reality, there is little foundation to support it.

Halkitis has witnessed only one incident of violence involv-

ing a postal employee during his 33 years as a postal worker. It was an episode, he said, in which a substitute mail carrier struck a station manager and was subsequently jailed.

If any time of the year is ripe for creating stressed-out postal workers, it's the Christmas season. The U.S. Postal Service processed 18.7 billion items this holiday season, a 4.5 percent increase over last year.

But letter carrier Tipton said she was braced and ready.

"It's busy, but I've been doing this for 16 years," said the 35-year-old Gary resident. "You know it's coming, so you just

have to set your mind and do it."

In the meantime, letter carriers and other post office workers will have to continue to combat public misperceptions about their jobs.

A public relations gesture has been initiated in the form of a Lake County Customer Advisory Council that meets monthly with post office personnel so that citizens can learn about postal products and services.

Having letter carriers speak for themselves also helps get the word out about their job.

"It's not just walking up and

down the street," assured Tipton, who said she must also make sure her delivery truck is properly maintained, while also being responsible for casing, or sorting, mail.

Mail-delivery people also like to point to another aspect of their career.

"When letter carriers hire in," said Halkitis, "they have to take the civil service exam. The test is hard. These people are not stupid people, but in every instance they're portrayed as being bumbling idiots and rejects."

Fashion: Well-heeled is well-dressed

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To look affluent, you have to be well-heeled - literally.

Part of a man's being well dressed, Woody Hochswender wrote in an article in the current issue of Esquire, is putting his best foot forward - and that means taking proper care of shoes. There is nothing worse than a \$1,500 suit with a cracked and battered pair of shoes.

Shoes take more punishment than any other article of clothing, so they need special care.

The first lesson about shoes is to own plenty of them. Rotate shoes with a minimum of one day between wearings. Leather retains moisture from the perspiration in your feet, and that moisture will eventually dry and crack the leather. Also, all footwear materials compress when you walk. They need time to bounce back. Alternation automatically prolongs the life of the shoes.

You should invest in shoe trees. Just as a suit needs a sturdy hanger when it's not being worn, so shoes should be treed while in the closet. This way, they will retain their

shape. The shoe trees should be removed after a day or so to allow air circulation. There are two basic types - wooden, which tend to absorb moisture from the shoes, and plastic, which are lightweight and good for travel.

Always use a shoehorn when putting shoes on. It prevents the back of the shoe from breaking, and ensures that the heel will continue to fit snugly throughout the life of the shoe. For travel, shoe bags prevent the soiling of accompanying clothing. Turned inside out, the bag makes a handy polisher.

Thin soles should be replaced immediately, and not with a less expensive half-sole. Half-soles tend to squeak and also alter the wearability of the shoes, since they throw off the last, or leather form, of the original sole. Heels should also be replaced at the first sign of wear. If you allow heels to get too run-down, even your posture can be affected.

Suede or buckskin shoes require a soft wire brushing to keep the nap from matting. Suede tends to get shiny with dirt, and brushing breaks the

dirt loose and restores a lush texture to the leather. Patent-leather dress shoes should receive the same care as other footwear. When they seem a little the worse for wear, they can be rubbed with a thin coat of petroleum jelly to keep them from cracking.

If your shoes get rain-soaked, put in shoe trees and let them dry out slowly at room temperature. Keep them away from forced or abnormal heat. Don't ever put them near a radiator - the heat will crack the leather.

Polish frequently. Leather in its natural state is part of a living hide lubricated by oils secreted through the animal's skin. Leather still needs this lubrication when it is worn on your feet. Leather shoes should be regularly cleaned with saddle soap, followed by an application of cream polish. Avoid cheap commercial polishes.

"A lot of men use a synthetic wax," said Peter O'Donnell, the New York spokesman for J.M. Weston, maker of fine French shoes. "Those waxes are not absorbed by the leather. Instead, they coat the shoe with an artificial shine. After a few wearings, it begins

to flake off, leaving a white residue."

O'Donnell recommended either natural beeswax or a good quality cream polish.

A final tip is always to polish brand-new leather shoes before wearing them for the first time, since they are especially prone to scuffing and scratching just out of the box.

Swank award



Members of the Swank Social Club gathered recently to mark its 62nd anniversary. The group presented several awards including retirement awards to Walter Dial, left, and William H. Yongue. Both retired in 1996.

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Los Amigas share holiday spirit



The Charlotte Mecklenburg Chapter of Las Amigas Christmas cheer during the holidays. The group provided exam study packs for Johnson C. Smith students, sent cards to the sick and hosted a story time for children at the Belmont Center. Above they are shown at the Helton Manor Nursing. From left, Joyce Waddell, Juanita Woods, Sylvia Sims, and Jeanne Holtzclaw.

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