

# SPORTS

By  
Prof. M. L. Turner



There is rather a scarcity of Sporting News this month so Mr. Turner has written an interesting article about the Graduation Class - We feel sure you will enjoy it lots.

This year's Senior class at Piedmont was the largest in the past fifteen years. There were twenty-seven graduates in the class of 1944, of whom ten were boys and seventeen were girls. This year's class was just the reverse, as there were eleven girls and nineteen boys. First we might give you the names of those who received diplomas on the night of May 28th. They were: Edgar Bowman; Harvey Bowen, Myles Bridges, Delmar Champion, Lamar Champion, J. F. Cline, Bobby Costner, Jack Eskridge, Hugh Gantt, Rush Gold, Robert Grigg, Franklin Jeffers, Sam Jones, Hal Queen, Hugh Towery, B. C. Turner, Ray Wesson, Bobby Wray, Vangie Beheler, Mildred Brackett, Dessie Chapman, Sue Cline, Vivian Eaker, Myrtle Mae Grigg, Ruby Hoyle, Melba Laughlin, Luenell Richard, Wilma Toney, and Mabel Toney.

The class of 1945 has had the reputation of being a good class throughout the entire eleven years spent in the elementary and high school. To be a little personal, I should like to say, that as principal of the school, I have a feeling of peculiar attachment to this class. For these thirty boys and girls entered the first grade the year that I became principal. That was back in the year 1934. Then again, during the four years they spent in high school, I was the only home room teacher they ever knew. I have never had that experience with any other class. Because of the many changes in teacher personnel since the beginning of the war it just worked out that way. This swift changing of teachers has also meant changes in other respects. What I mean is that the principal has been forced to try to teach more different subjects during the past four years than had been the case previously. For instance, I tried to teach the members of the class of '45 mathematics during their first two years in high school. This was enjoyed very much. Then came the third year. At this time I switched to history. And in the fourth year, believe it or not, I attempted to handle those subjects related to the mother tongue. It was in the English class that an effort was made to imbue the seniors with the idea that "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." For these and various other reasons, even though I was glad that they had stuck to the end, I, in a way, hated to see them go.

We shall now get back to the class members themselves. This was truly a war class. For it was while this group of students was in its first half of its first year in high school that the followers of the Rising Sun made the cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor. These students, assembled in chapel with a radio installed therein, heard President Roosevelt speak to Congress on a certain December afternoon. A few minutes after the conclusion of the president's speech, Congress declared war on Japan. It was that same week that Germany declared war on the United States. So you see this was a bona fide war class. And here is something else. Just a few days before the class of '45 graduated the war with Germany came to an end. It was a member of the senior class who brought the happy news to the other seniors, who in turn broadcast to the teachers and the rest of the school the radio announcement concerning the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front. The duration of World War II, so far as Europe was

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