

Celebrations Commemorate GHS Fiftieth Anniversary

The elaborate plans to celebrate Greensboro/Grimsley Senior High School's golden anniversary will culminate May 18-20 in a gala celebration for current students, alumni, past and present faculty, and invited guests.

Beginning Friday at 8 p.m. in the auditorium, the Grimsley Playmasters will help honor Grimsley's fiftieth year by presenting M. Chase's comedy, *Harvey*. Also, on Friday the Grimsley swimming pool will be open from 2 p.m. til 6 p.m.

On Saturday, May 19, operations will be in full swing. Starting at 10 a.m., alumni will gather in the gym to locate their individual graduating classes. Tours of Grimsley will be made available to the alumni. The GHS Archives, located in room 100 of the Main Building and also in the Library, will be a highlight of the tour showing exhibits of the school's historical artifacts including old newspapers, yearbooks, pictures, awards, and trophies. At 1:30 p.m. the Playmas-

ters will present the one-act play, "The Right Kind of House," in the auditorium.

Coach Bob Jamieson will show football and basketball highlights from 1933-1975 on Saturday at 3 p.m. A special 25-minute "trigonometry class" will be taught by Miss

Ida Belle Moore (IBM), a GHS math teacher from 1923-1969.

Commencing at 6 p.m., a dinner will be held in the GHS cafeteria. The main program of the evening will begin with the introduction

[See GHS 50, p. 12]



The Wrapping of the May Pole -- for years a GHS tradition.

Years Of Growth Evident In Heritage

In this 1979 school year, Grimsley Senior High School commemorates its fiftieth anniversary on Westover Terrace. To appreciate fully Grimsley's service to Greensboro's youth and the community, one must investigate Grimsley's heritage.

Greensboro's first high school was formed in 1900. It found its home in the old St. Agnes Catholic Church building on Forbis Street. This four-room high school quickly filled with students. Consequently, in 1911, the City of Greensboro appropriated forty thousand dollars to construct a larger, more modern high school facility on Spring Street, the same location as today's Weaver Education Center.

By the mid-1920's, the need for an even larger complex to accommodate Greensboro's students arose. In January 1929, the one-million dollar senior high school project was started on the 129-acre tract facing Westover Terrace. In September of the same year, Greensboro had a new high school plant consisting of three new buildings, the main building, the cafeteria, and the science building. The new high school boasted 1,200 students as well as a faculty of sixty.

Within a five-year span, from 1920 to 1925, Greensboro High School established a school newspaper named *HIGH LIFE* in 1920, a student government in 1922, a

literary magazine named *HOME-SPUN* and the first North Carolina chapter of the National Honor Society in 1922. Also in the early 1920's, GHS founded its music program which was to grow to national prominence over the years.

By 1950, the Greensboro Senior High School was budding into a large campus. A permanent gymnasium for girls and a temporary one for boys had been built in the thirties. Also, in 1934, the auditorium in the Main Building was painted, and the two murals, one on each side of the stage, were completed. The mural on the left of the stage portrays trade and industry, while the mural on the right depicts

the search for intellectual attainment. The Vocational Building was built and ready for student use in the early 1940's. Finally, in 1949, a stadium with a seating capacity of 10,426 was completed. The Sigmund Selig Pearl Field House, finished in 1950, is a memorial to Mr. Pearl and other alumni who gave their lives in World War II. Just inside the fence is a line of sugar maples, each representing one of Grimsley's young men who died in WW II.

In 1952 the boys' gym was condemned for spectator use, thereby calling for a need for a new facility, and North Carolina's largest high school gym was constructed the following year.

[See *Heritage*, p. 12]

Grimsley: 'Father Of City Schools'

Greensboro Senior High School's name was changed in 1962, after much controversy, to Grimsley Senior High School. Just who was George A. Grimsley?

George Grimsley, who is frequently referred to as "Father of the Greensboro Public Schools," was born in 1862 in Snow Hill, N.C. Grimsley had an expensive and extensive early education. He was taught by a private tutor from West Point. Later, Grimsley attended Bingham Military Academy and from there went to Peabody College. He graduated with an AB degree from this liberal arts college in Nashville, Tennessee.

Grimsley came to Greensboro in 1890, where he served as Superintendent of the Greensboro City Schools until 1901. He was respon-



George Grimsley

sible for the purchase of a building in 1899 so that Greensboro High School could be established. He later directed the construction of the senior high school on Spring Street in 1911.

Grimsley's favorite saying was, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." A reporter once described his other policies: "His schools followed no fads or foibles, gave to the youth of the city thorough instruction along lines taught, and administered punishment where it was needed."

Also, in his early administration days, Grimsley set a first in the state by securing for the community a library,

[See *Grimsley*, p.12]

GHS Traditions

Old And New Add Variety

Today Grimsley enjoys many school traditions such as Homecoming, Class Day, Senior Prom and Senior Tea, but in past years, Grimsley took pride in other school traditions.

One of the most popular among the old traditions was that of Superlatives. Superlatives were elected until 1973. The Best All-Around Girl and Boy Superlatives are still named each year at Graduation. At one time Superlatives included everything from "friendliest" to "most likely to succeed."

Holiday traditions play an important role for present

students at Grimsley. Years ago Grimsley held a Thanksgiving Program consisting of a play or pageant presented by the Senior Class. Also a Christmas Pageant was held annually, also presented by the Senior Class.

Foremost among spring traditions until 1973 was the May Day Celebration. Except during World War II, it was held from 1939-1972. Each May Day, a May Court consisting of a queen, maids of honor from each class and from other organizations, was selected. The celebration was held on the front

[See *Old*, p.12]