

# Memories of Chowan

As members of the Class of 1937 look forward to celebrating their 50th reunion at Spring Festival on April 25, 1987, they remember the strict rules and other differences which separate their class from today's Chowan.

Several members of the Class of 1937 were asked to share their memories with readers of THE CHOWANIAN. Excerpts from the responses of Mrs. Julia F. Pennington, Mrs. Ethel Jones Pittman, and Mrs. Martha Revelle follow.

## "One Big Family"

Mrs. Pennington recalls, "We were one big family — not even 100 in number in the entire student body. That was nice as everything was on a personal base instead of a number. The rules were many and very strict: no card playing, in fact, no cards allowed; no dancing; all dating chaperoned on campus and off. When you left the campus, you signed out and signed in upon return, never alone."

She related one amusing incident while she attended Chowan. "I lived only three miles from the campus so my father would be up the street sometime. One day I was reported to the Student Government talking to a male. The

male was my father; for this I received a call down (a certain number of these would campus you). I did get this one canceled."

## Only One Building

She also pointed out another difference between Chowan then and now. "We only had the Columns building where we attended class, ate, slept, worshiped, and socialized." The gym and auditorium were also located in the Columns, she said. There was "a separate building for science and one small one for music," she added.

"Since I was an only child I thoroughly enjoyed my Chowan family. Chowan has come a long way, but I believe I'd prefer the old days to the present," she stated.

Responded Mrs. Pittman, "Many pleasant memories are associated with my four years at Chowan. However, one in particular stands out as a favorite. This little story brings out the kind understanding and sense of humor of a very beloved president, the late Dr. W.B. Edwards.

## Guests at Home

The story goes: One weekend two of my friends went home with me for a visit. They were very pretty and attractive young girls. My



Alumni register for class reunions to be held during Homecoming activities.

older brother thought so too because they made quite an impression on him".

"When we left home to return to Chowan, my brother presented them with a box of 'goodies' — candy, gum, cookies, fruit, and such. The following Monday after our return, my friends decided to throw a small party and invite a few friends to share the contents of their box. The party was a huge success; all had a good time amid lots of noisy laughter."

"There was one detail they overlooked. Members of the Student Council patrolled the hall to

broke into a delighted laugh and sigh of relief. I always remembered him for the way he handled that situation."

## No Dancing Allowed

Mrs. Pittman also recalled the ban on dancing and how the students got around that rule in a limited way. "She said that although dancing was against the rules," "Chowan is where I learned to dance." After the evening meal, we would enlist the help of a good pianist (one of the girls) and retire to one of our two Society Halls, close the door and dance until someone in authority would



Former classmates recall "college days" during the traditional Alumni Luncheon.

*"P-Nutting at the Christmas Season was filled with surprises and much excitement!"*

—Mrs. Martha Revelle  
Class of 1937

keep order and quiet. They also had permission to enter your room if anything seemed amiss. That night one did enter their room, very briefly."

"The next morning, Dr. Edwards called me to his office for a little chat. In a kindly manner, he told me he had heard about our party and the good time we had. That was fine but he was disturbed to hear that we were smoking. That was strictly forbidden."

"He asked me what I could tell him about that. I smiled and told him, yes, Dr. Edwards, everyone in the room was smoking — smoking candy cigarettes. He

open the door."

## Accompanied by Professor

She continued, "I remember as a freshman if you had a date to go to a movie in Ahoskie, you could go only if you were accompanied by a faculty member. I remember when we had to sign out and sign in whenever we left and returned to the campus."

while the rules were strict, there were many special events to look forward to and enjoy. She named some of these as "the traditional Brown Lady Night, Sophomore Day, May Queen Court, Jr.-Sr. Banquets and other