

DEDICATION

1949-1950

THE MEMORIES OF '50 DEDICATED TO OUR PARENTS

IN DEEP AND SINCERE APPRECIATION OF OUR PARENT'S SACRIFICES, THEIR WONDERFUL ENCOURAGEMENT, THEIR STRUGGLE TO MAKE US GOOD CITIZENS, TO BE PROUD OF. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OUR DEVOTED AND HONEST FEELING TOWARD THEM.

THERE ISN'T ANYONE LIKE A DEVOTED, KIND, LOVING MOTHER AND AN UNDERSTANDING FATHER. NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, OR WHAT WE MAY DO, WE CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT OUR PARENTS HAVE DONE FOR US.

YES, WE, THE STUDENTS FEEL THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN THE MOST WORTHY PERSONS WE KNOW TO DEDICATE "OUR MEMORIES OF '50.

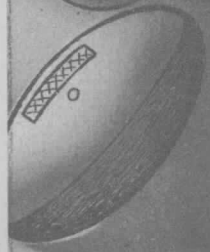
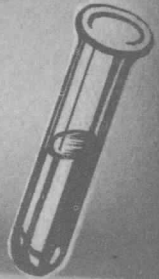
BY-BETTY RUTH HODGE

-THE STAFF-

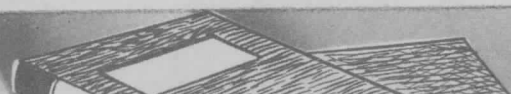
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N.M. - P.T.A



Marion Bird



Alice Pesh



Marie Barnett



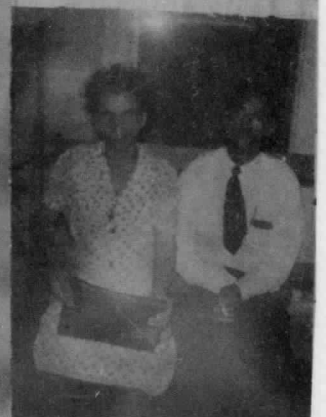
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Doris Horton



The Hendricks




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Louise Donaldson





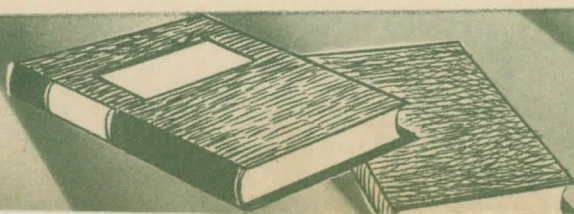
SCHOOL HISTORY

IT WAS ON APRIL THE FIFTH, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED NINETY, THAT TWELVE ACRES OF LAND WERE BOUGHT IN JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE FOR THE BUILDING OF A SCHOOL FOR ITS NEGRO POPULACE. THE ESTABLISHING OF THIS SCHOOL WAS SUGGESTED BY THE REVEREND PETER GUIN, HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THIS SCHOOL SHOULD BE SPONSORED BY THE BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THIS AREA.

THE SCHOOL WAS NAMED FOR A BAPTIST MINISTER, THE REVEREND NELSON MERRY. HE WAS THE FIRST MINISTER TO FOUND AN ALL NEGRO BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE. THUS NELSON MERRY COLLEGE HAD ITS ORIGIN.

THE SCHOOL STAYED UNDER THE BAPTIST CHURCH'S AUSPICES FOR FORTY TWO YEARS UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF PROFESSOR G. N. BOWEN, THOMAS WILLIAMS, JOE WILLIAMS, MCALLISTER, J. M. THOMPSON, WHO DURING HIS REIGN "THE THOMPSON HALL" WAS ERRECTED TO SERVE AS A DOMITORY FOR GIRLS, FACULTY MEMBERS AND OFFICE FOR THE PRINCIPAL. AS THE UPKEEP FOR THIS SCHOOL COULD NO LONGER BE MAINTAINED BY THE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, THE SCHOOL WAS TAKEN OVER BY JEFFERSON COUNTY, AND A NEW MODERN SCHOOL WAS ERRECTED WITH THE AID OF "THE ROSENWALD FUND". UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF REV. H. J. BAILEY, THIS WAS IN THE YEAR OF 1932. IT WAS DURING THESE YEARS THAT THE THREE R'S RULE WAS BROADENED AND ATHLETICS BEGANTO PLAY A PROMINENT PART IN THE SCHOOL UNDER THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF PROFESSOR GAITHER, THUS NELSON MERRY GAINED RECOGNITION FOR ITS ATHLETIC SKILL AND ABILITY THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EASTERN STATES DURING THIS PERIOD. MANY IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE SUCH AS ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, NEW CURTAINS FOR THE STATE, PHYSICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT AND A NEW LIBRARY. THIS WAS DONE UNDER THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF PROFESSOR N. A. CRIPPENS, WHO CAME TO THE SCHOOL IN 1937 AND LEFT IN 1948.

THE PRESENT PRINCIPAL MR. JAMES A. NICHOLS CAME IN 1948. SINCE HE HAS BEEN WITH US, A COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADDED. HE ALSO HAS PLANS FOR AN EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM. WE ARE ALSO STRIVING TO MAKE OUR SCHOOL GROW BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE MODERN.



ADMINISTRATION



Mrs. Catherine Moulden



Mrs. Pauline Hardy

Principal



Eugene E. Peck



James A. Nichols

Mrs. Pauline Moyette

Mrs. Otis D. Holley



MEET THE FACULTY
BY-VAN SPIVA

WE CONSIDER OUR FACULTY AT NELSON MERRY, NOT AS DISTANT, COLD AND INDIFFERENT PERSONS, BUT AS WARM, HELPFUL FRIENDS WHO ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO OUR MANY PROBLEMS, LARGE, OR SMALL. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE STUDENT BODY AND FACULTY RESEMBLES ONE BIG FAMILY. MR. JAMES A. NICHOLS, PRINCIPAL AND JUNIOR CLASS SPONSOR, IS A NATIVE OF MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE. GRADUATED FROM MORRISTOWN JUNIOR COLLEGE IN 1938; MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE IN 1942. MRS. PAULINE MOORE HARDY, A NATIVE OF JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE, IS A COMPETENT SPONSOR FOR THE SENIOR CLASS OF THIS YEAR. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF NELSON MERRY, KNOXVILLE COLLEGE (1935). SHE HAS ALSO DONE SOME GRADUATE WORK AT A&I STATE. MRS. HARDY IS HEAD OF ENGLISH, FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND MUSIC DEPARTMENTS AT NELSON MERRY. MRS. OTTIS DEAN HOLLEY, BORN AT NEWPORT, TENNESSEE, IS SPONSOR OF THE FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORE CLASSES. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF A & I STATE COLLEGE (1937). MRS. HOLLEY IS HEAD OF COMMERCIAL, HOME-ECONOMICS AND GENERAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS. MR. E. EUGENE PECK, A NATIVE OF JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE, IS 7 & 8 GRADE'S HOME-ROOM TEACHER. HE RECEIVED HIS HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING AT NELSON MERRY AND HAS MATRICULATED AT MORRISTOWN COLLEGE, KNOXVILLE COLLEGE AND WILL RECEIVE HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE AT A & I STATE COLLEGE IN AUGUST 1950. MRS. PAULINE D. MAYETTE, BORN AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IS HOME - ROOM TEACHER OF THE MIDDLE GRADES AT NELSON MERRY. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF SWIFT MEMORIAL JUNIOR COLLEGE, ROGERSVILLE, TENNESSEE (1931), CONTINUING WORK AT TENNESSEE STATE COLLEGE. SUMMER SCHOOL AT JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY AND KNOXVILLE COLLEGE. MRS. CATHERINE CUBBERSON MOULDEN, A NATIVE OF JEFFERSON CITY, IS PRIMARY TEACHER AT NELSON MERRY. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF THIS SCHOOL (1935), AND JUNIOR WORK AT MORRISTOWN COLLEGE IN 1937. SHE IS CONTINUING HER EDUCATION AT A & I STATE COLLEGE AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.



CLASS HISTORY

IT WAS THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST, 1946, A CALM, PEACEFUL AUTUMNAL DAY, RADIANT WITH THE SUNSHINE OF HOPE, CHEER AND JOYOUS PROMISE, THAT THE GOOD SHIP NELSON MERRY HIGH SCHOOL STOOD AT ANCHOR AT THE WHARF OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR. IT WAS THE SAME OLD SHIP THAT CARRIED MANY PASSENGERS TO SAFE HARBOR IN THE LAND OF GREAT KNOWLEDGE.

WHEN WE BEGAN OUR ADVENTURE IN AUGUST 1946, FEW, IF ANY OF US, DREAMED OF WHAT FATE HAD IN STORE FOR US. BEING OVER TWENTY-SIX IN NUMBER WE QUICKLY GAINED RECOGNITION AS THE LARGEST CLASS IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL. AS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES BEGAN ON THE CAMPUS WE DRIFTED INTO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT BEST SUITED OUR PERSONAL MAKE-UP. IN THE SPORTS CLUB WE HAD THE TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE: EARL BARNETT WILLIS CUNNINGHAM, MILDRED JOHNSON, JOYCE MILLS, JAMES LYLE, MONTANA WILKERSON, ARLINA WILKERSON, HELEN LAUDERBACK, BILLY MCFARLAND, HAZEL WILLIS AND BEN HOWELL. IN THE FINE ARTS CLUB WE FIND VAN SPIVA MILDRED JOHNSON, JOHNNY SIMON, JOAN MILLS, LOBELIA BRANNER, AND CHARLES WILLIS. THE MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR CLASS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COOPERATIVE IN ALL OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHOOL AND HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BETTER THE SCHOOL.

SOME OF OUR SENIORS WITH OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC RECORDS ARE VAN SPIVA, EARL BARNETT, MILDRED JOHNSON AND HAZEL WILLIS.

OUR FOUR YEARS AT NELSON MERRY HAVE BEEN A WONDERFUL VOYAGE AND WE HAVE ACCUMULATED MANY SOUVENIRS FROM EVERY PART AND HAVE TAKEN UNTO OURSELVES ALL THAT WOULD BE OF SERVICE TO US ON THAT GREATER VOYAGE OF REAL LIFE UPON WHICH WE ARE TO EMBARK.

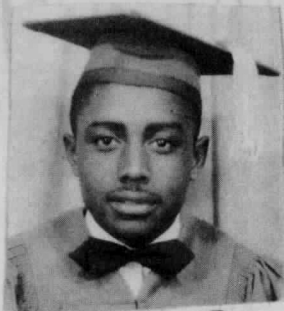
BY - MILDRED JOHNSON
JANIE SMITH

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Seniors

1950



Van Spiva, Pres.
Valedictorian



Earl Barnett, V. pres.
Salutatorian



Helen Lauderback, Sec.



Joyce Mills, Ass't Sec



Mildred Johnson, Treas.



Charles Willis



Montana Wilkerson



Hazel Willis



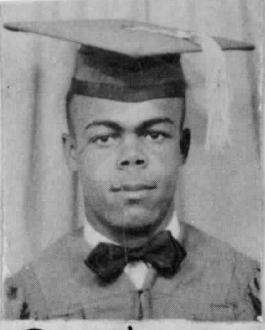
James Lyle



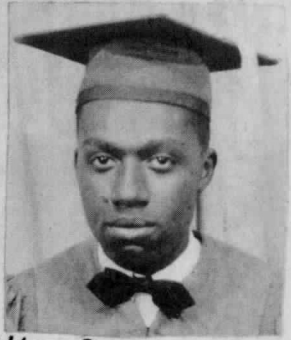
Arlina Wilkerson

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Seniors



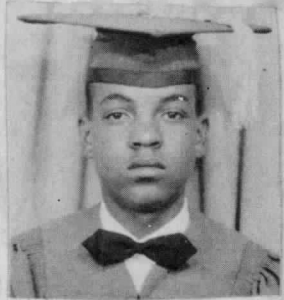
Ben Howell



Willis Cunningham



Margaret Williams



Sylvanus Smith



Richard Holmes



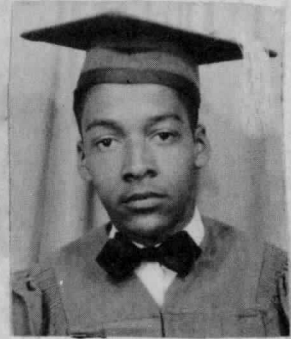
Lobelia Bronner



Mary F. Roper



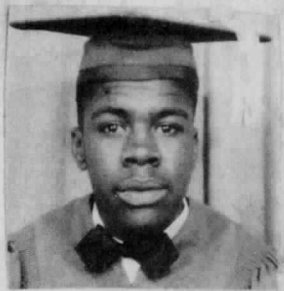
James Branner



Johnny Simon



Paul Tolley



William M. Farland



Ottis D. Bragg

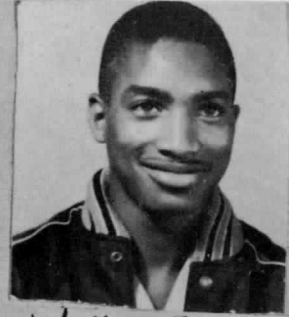
JUNIORS



Walter Donaldson



James A. Nichols, Sponsor



Walter Spiva



Gloria Pritchard



Betty Donaldson



Alma Wells



Cerelle Turner



Huesta Donaldson



Nevona Smith



Edna Thomson



Barbara Peck

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James Hardin



James Barnett



Harry Phipps



Shirley Wilkerson

SOPHOMORES



E. Pate



F. Smith



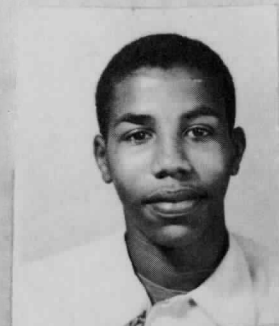
M. Roper



J. Sheets



O. Johnson



J. Jarngain



J. Johnson



C. Pate



A. Smith



K. Pate



G. Lewis



J. Hendricks



D. Mills



W. Wilkerson



(10)

B. Hodge

FRESHMEN



M.A. Mills



L. Walker



M.F. Sheets



R. Donaldson



Molly Mills



H.C. Peck



C. Barnett



E. Stedard



S. Peck



M.C. Wilkerson



W.V. Brown



G. Peck Jr.



J. Donaldson



J. Prichard



J. Mills



A.L. Hodge



S. Barnett



A. Derl



H.R. Millis



M. McFarland



ELEMENTARY

Curtis H.
Janie W.
Delynonia H.
Marlene, P.



Justine W.
Billie, H.
Cesar, N.
Leoda, D.



Ellsworth E.
Phyllis, B.
Gladys, S.



Daniel H.
Fredie, M.
Sonnie, N.



Janice, M.
Raomi, H.





Martha J. M.
 Carl Miles
 Helen
 William, H.
 Priscilla, S.
 William, P.



Jody, H.
 Sandra M.
 Stewar
 Frances, W.
 Henry, W.
 Margaret, H.



Wanda W.
 Eddie L.
 Veola, M.
 Charles, M.
 Julia, B.
 Don Wilkerson



Johnny B.
 Linda, M.
 Caesar, N.
 Carolyn, M.
 Hollis, L.
 Dorothy, N.



Dorothy, S.
 Freddie L.
 Neta, W.
 Sonny, H.
 Don W.
 Charleston, H.



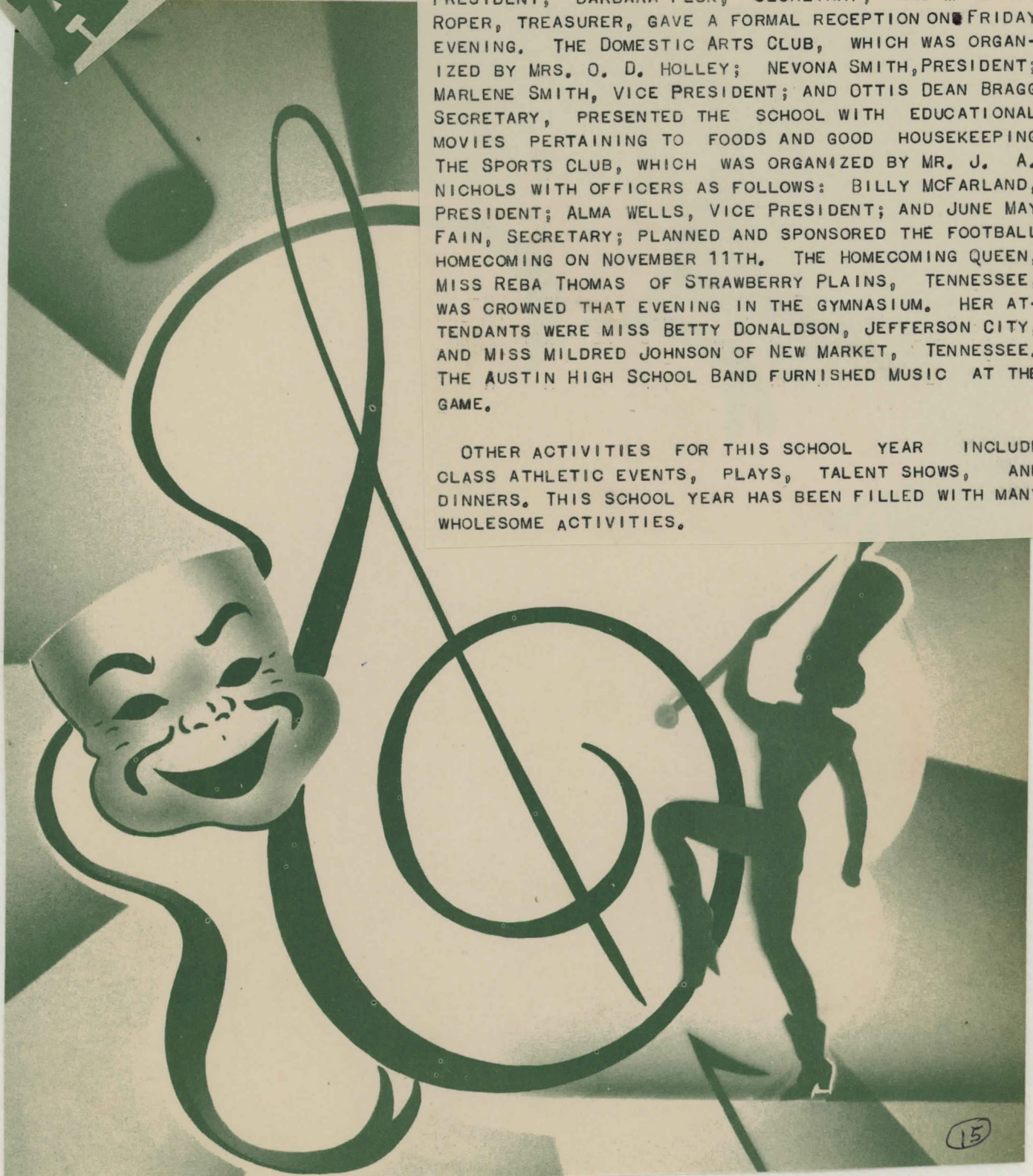
(Peaches)
 Steven Burris
 Levalle, H.
 Linda, B.
 Jimmy, H.

(3)

ACTIVITIES

THE SOCIAL LIFE AT NELSON MERRY HAS BEEN IN FULL BLOOM THIS YEAR. THREE NEW FEATURES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE STUDENTS THIS YEAR. THEY ARE: "THE FINE ARTS CLUB", "THE DOMESTIC ARTS CLUB", AND "THE SPORTS CLUB". MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUBS WAS MADE OF STUDENTS FROM THE SEVENTH GRADE THROUGH THE TWELFTH GRADE. ANY STUDENT WHO DESIRED COULD BELONG TO TWO OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS. ASIDE FROM THE REGULAR FRIDAY MEETINGS EACH CLUB SPONSORED AT LEAST ONE OUTSTANDING SOCIAL EVENT. THE FINE ARTS CLUB, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY MRS. P. HARDY AND MR. PECK WITH OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS: GLORIA PRITCHARD, PRESIDENT; MILDRED JOHNSON, VICE PRESIDENT; BARBARA PECK, SECRETARY; AND MARGARET ROPER, TREASURER, GAVE A FORMAL RECEPTION ON FRIDAY EVENING. THE DOMESTIC ARTS CLUB, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY MRS. O. D. HOLLEY; NEVONA SMITH, PRESIDENT; MARLENE SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT; AND OTTIS DEAN BRAGG SECRETARY, PRESENTED THE SCHOOL WITH EDUCATIONAL MOVIES PERTAINING TO FOODS AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. THE SPORTS CLUB, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY MR. J. A. NICHOLS WITH OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS: BILLY MCFARLAND, PRESIDENT; ALMA WELLS, VICE PRESIDENT; AND JUNE MAY FAIN, SECRETARY; PLANNED AND SPONSORED THE FOOTBALL HOMECOMING ON NOVEMBER 11TH. THE HOMECOMING QUEEN, MISS REBA THOMAS OF STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TENNESSEE, WAS CROWNED THAT EVENING IN THE GYMNASIUM. HER ATTENDANTS WERE MISS BETTY DONALDSON, JEFFERSON CITY, AND MISS MILDRED JOHNSON OF NEW MARKET, TENNESSEE. THE AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL BAND FURNISHED MUSIC AT THE GAME.

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR INCLUDE CLASS ATHLETIC EVENTS, PLAYS, TALENT SHOWS, AND DINNERS. THIS SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEEN FILLED WITH MANY WHOLESOME ACTIVITIES.



Fine Arts, Sports &
Domestic Clubs
NMHS



Fine Arts Club



Sports Club



Domestic Arts Club



Choral Group

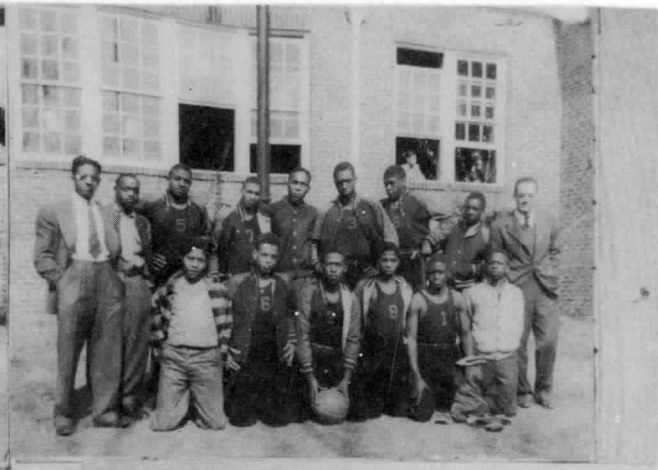


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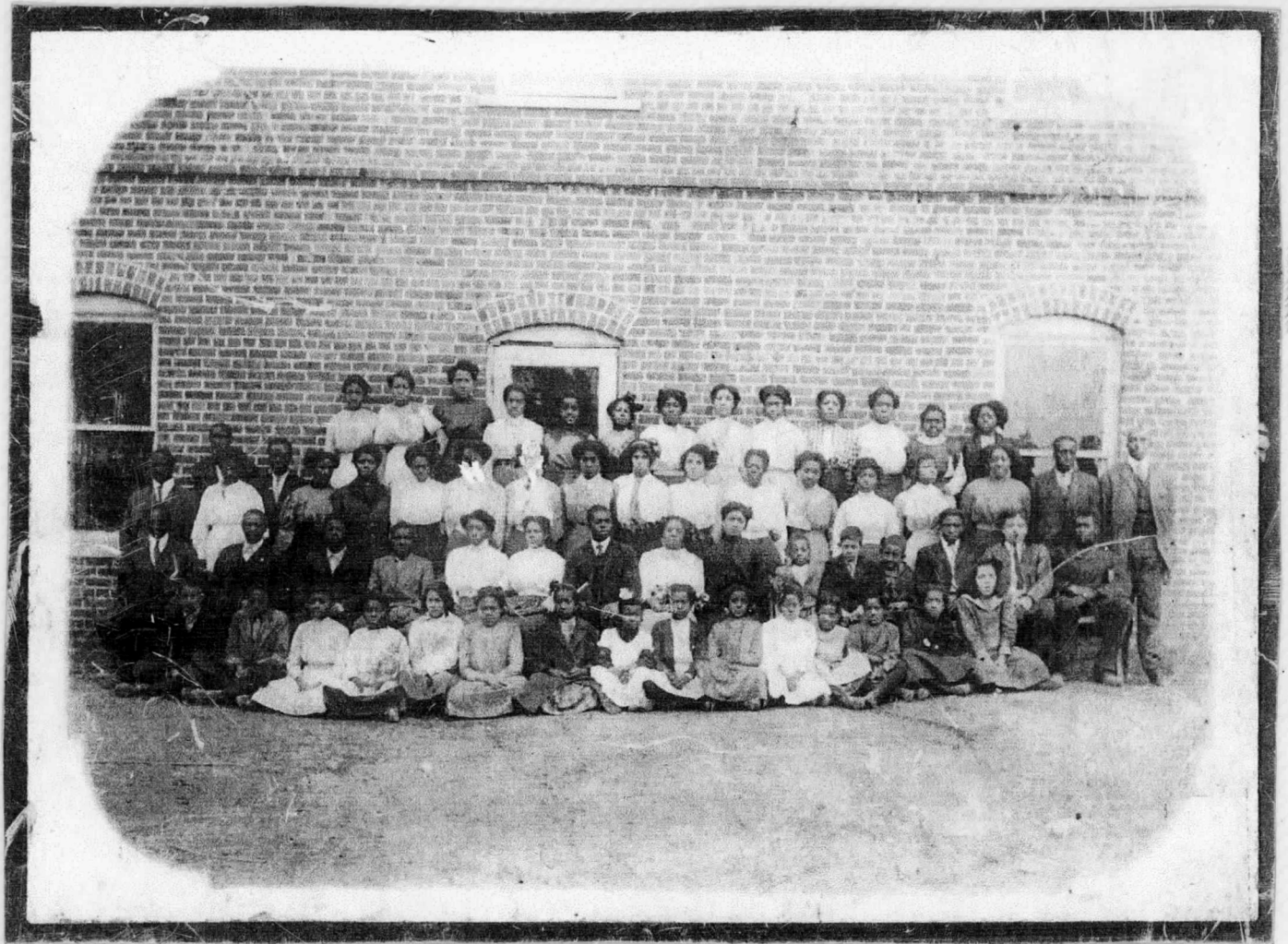


Cooking Class





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SCHOOL SONG

Dear old Nelson Merry, you're the world to me.
Dear old Nelson Merry, you will always be.
For you have been Mother to me every day.
Upon the fields of play and in the class room every day.
Out in the world amidst the strife of every way.
Dear old Nelson Merry, you're the world to me.

Dear old Nelson Merry, you're the world to me.
Dear old Nelson Merry, you will always be.
I'm always thinking of you when the shadows around me creep.
I'm always thinking of you when I lay me down to sleep.
Dear old Nelson Merry, you're the world to me.

By Alexander Gaither and Loftus Smith 1933

N.M.H. S. Teachers