

Margaret Clark-Delaney

Rogersville, Tennessee

2012

I attended Swift in 1950 to 1953. I met my husband at Swift in 1953. I was 17, and now we were married for 58 years. So, that's my special memory, but Swift taught me the way and has made the most important meaning in my life from the fundamental teachings that it taught me there.

Well, it still brings down the most important part of my life, attending Swift, bringing back the memories, the maypole, and meeting all our friends that we used to have and get to know them and have a lot of fun gathering together.

At Swift, Mr. Lee, our president, was very strict. You had to attend prayer service on Wednesday night, and you had to attend church on Sunday. and you could only go to one church individually on the fourth Sunday of every month. We had to be in service at the Presbyterian Church, every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. So, only one time. The high school was on one end, and the college students were on the other. So, one time – that was the year I was staying in the dorms, my senior year – so, we decided to go down to visit some of the students on the college part. When we got down there, it was about four or five girls that decided... We were just playing cards. I didn't really play the cards. I was just looking at them, you know, looking around. And so, prayer meeting started, and we didn't hear it. We were still playing. So, all of a sudden, we heard them singing a song down in the auditorium, and we all got up and went down. Just thinking, "Oh, we missed it," but when we got down there, we went in and sat down. And at that time, all of the teachers and Mr. Lee, the whole faculty group, sat on the long seat in the back. That's where they always sat when service things going on. So, we just marched right in and set right down, and they wrote our names down as we were coming in. Then, ever since we got in to find out that was the last song. We had missed the whole service. So, when service was over, Mr. Lee just called us all to his office, and you would think you had done something really, really terrible at that time. He said – this was my senior year – he said, "I think I'm gonna send all of you home," and we would not have been able to graduate. So, that frightened us very much. Talking to Mr. Lee and Ms. Stanley for a couple weeks – we were still worried – they finally came and told us, "We'll let you skip by this time." But those were the kind of ways that they punished you as well. So, you had to always walk straight. They taught you the way which, that has come in good today because we still, as a group here, we all still get that from Swift, what they had taught us.