October 17, 2006

Dear Class of ’46:

Betty Lewis Kienel, Mary Martin Harris, Ann Rainey Irvin, Mayre Lou Wise Campbell and I (Julia Traylor Dyar) were all together for our 60th Homecoming Reunion this past weekend. We missed those of you who were not able to be here. We talked about our terrific times together in the past and wished for you. Until the last minute I thought Martha Norwood Gibson would be able to be with us because she was planning to be. Death of a close friend prevented her from coming.

We had notes from a few of you – Martha Norwood Gibson, Dot Taylor Johnson, Anita Moore Billingsley, Sally Fortson Guest, Mary Laura (Twink) Starr Truitt, Jean Loftin Cobb, Cicily Parker Osteen, Mildred Carlton Albritton and Ann Hale Clarke.

A staffer from the College – Shirley Harrington – was with us and we appreciated her presence and attention.

My niece, Lelia (Sissie) Cort from Asheville, N.C. came down to be with me for this important event in my live. I loved having her share this special occasion with me and she said several times how great it was to meet those of you who came. She called us a “fun group” and agreed with me that it is wonderful that so much love and camaraderie exists in friends for life – people we don’t see often but who mean so much to us. She also agreed with me that some of the 50-yers-ago group looked as old as we do. (I just had to throw that in.)

The events of the day were well planned and executed. We did not attend the first Homecoming football game, but we did see the players from a distance and it was exciting to see such healthy, handsome specimens as students at LC. How different life On the Hill would have been with fellows in class and on campus all the time. Looking back, though, I wouldn’t change the experience of attending an all-girl school, would you?

We gathered at my apartment on Friday night for light refreshments before dinner. Stuart and Kathleen Gulley dropped in to visit with us briefly and this made us feel special, especially since there were about eight other groups meeting for dinner that night. A College bus came to take us to Smith Hall for our dinner, which was held in our old chapel, now a handsome paneled Cobb Board Room. During a bountiful dinner we enjoyed lively and nostalgic conversation. We missed you!

Saturday morning we gathered under tents on the lawn in front of the Callaway Auditorium to register; then have our class picture taken. Some of us watched the parade before taking our seats in the auditorium (newly restored) for the Convocation.
A parade of class banners (for those classes in special reunion) was very impressive and we stood as our banner carrier came in. (See enclosed picture.) Again, we wished for you all.

After the Convocation and a great program of music, award presentations and a rousing address by Dr. Gulley, we went back to the tents for a delicious barbecue luncheon. Many classes had planned their own tail-gating luncheons on the grounds.

The weather was perfect and all the alums looked great. Many brought their children and dogs. It was a beautiful day!

After lunch we separated to rest before dinner. Ann had to return to Columbus, but Betty and Bob Kienel, Mary, Mayre Lou, Sissie and I met a Ruby Tuesday’s for an early dinner. Bob and Betty were gracious hosts for this event which we had expected to be a Dutch dinner. After dinner Mary had us come to her lovely home for fabulous deserts and coffee. Her daughter, Cathy helped her and it was great to have her with us. Many memories and current news were shared. You were missed throughout our gatherings.

A sad note – Sarah Foster fell at Thanksgiving last year and was critically injured – a fractured skull, and she has not been able to speak since that time. I told Clare when she called to give me the reason Sarah could not be with us, that I knew all of us would keep Sarah in our prayers. She is now in a nursing home in Dallas. In the same medical complex her brother Jim (now 64 years old) is expected to be moved to a private room later this week from the intensive care unit where he has been hospitalized for pneumonia and other complications. Late news tells me he is showing some improvement.

In the event you would like to write to Sarah – Clare said she would love to hear from us – her address is the same as before – 216 Confederate Street, Dallas, Ga. 30232. Clare or Kate will take the mail to her.

This seems to wrap up our news. Please do try to keep in touch. Again – you were missed if you didn’t get here.

With love, as always,

Julia Dyar

P.S. I should add that Martha Rogers Butler and Thelma Baumgardner Pagans as well as June Barbour Mescia and Frances Rountree Harrison sent their regrets.