

A Word From the Publisher

It's hard to believe this school year has almost come to an end! Next week, our seniors will graduate from high school and move on to the next very important decision of their lives. What am I going to do? Being the last of five children in my home, I had watched all my siblings graduate. It was so cool and fun. It was all about them, as it should be. When my time came, it was a great year. As graduation day approached, I also asked myself that question, "What am I going to do?"

I must admit, I really loved school and all my friends. I was so blessed to have attended all (except 3rd grade) my school years in Callahan. I can only pray that our students today are making lasting friendships and memories like I did. Back then, we attended first through sixth grade at Callahan Elementary. I think it was in about fifth grade that Bob had a birthday skating party. We all loaded up in something, went to Jacksonville and skated. It was so much fun. Theresa and I spent hours at her house riding the mini bike everywhere and making forts in the palmettos! Thank the Lord we never saw a snake. Remember, back then, we didn't have cellphones and weren't allowed to watch TV except a little at night.

Junior High had some changes. We changed classes and we had PE and you had to dress out. We girls weren't too sure about all that, however, we had Miss Rose Wright (later Mrs. Way) as our PE teacher and she didn't give us an option about dressing out! And we better do so in a timely fashion. In 8th & 9th grade I made cheerleading and it was so much fun! Special memories with Peggy, Janis, Beverly, Toni, Jeanne, Janice and Phyllis; we had some great times. Sorry to shock everyone (my children & grands included), but our moms made our uniforms! If you ask me, they were pretty cute. Mrs. Way was our cheerleading sponsor and she didn't play. If you are on the field or on the court, you better be cheering.

Oh how I miss her...precious lady! Coach Allen Kirk was the basketball coach. I can remember pep rallies for the basketball games. The entire school was packed in the gym and he would come out and yell, "Roll...Rambler, Roll!" Everybody was cheering and clapping.

Then came high school. When I got there (10th grade), my brother Gus was a senior. It was fun being at school with him although he told me not to talk to him at school! While in high school, the flag team was started with the band. I was a small part of the first team of flag girls at West Nassau. I loved being a part of the band. Brenda and I had fun during those years. We spent lots of time together and with our good friends Donnie & Jack... sweet memories. Our director, George Bowers, ran a tight ship. He told us if we were marching on the field and someone passed out, march over them and keep going. Of course, that scared us all to death and we quickly knew he was serious. We had an outstanding band and again made lots of special friends and memories during that time.

When you're 17 or 18, you are still a child. Only a handful of students know exactly what they are going to do for a career. That is a huge decision. My advice is to pray about your future. Don't just settle. Let God direct your path. Trust me; you've got to work and it's a whole lot better if you enjoy what you're doing. There is nothing worse than hating what you are doing day after day. Think about what you love to do and do your best every day. I pray for all of our students but especially those that are stepping out into the world. God will lead and direct your path, just follow Him. Take any opportunity you can to be a respectful, reliable and dedicated person in whatever career path you choose!

Good luck 2022 Graduates!

Dawn S. West