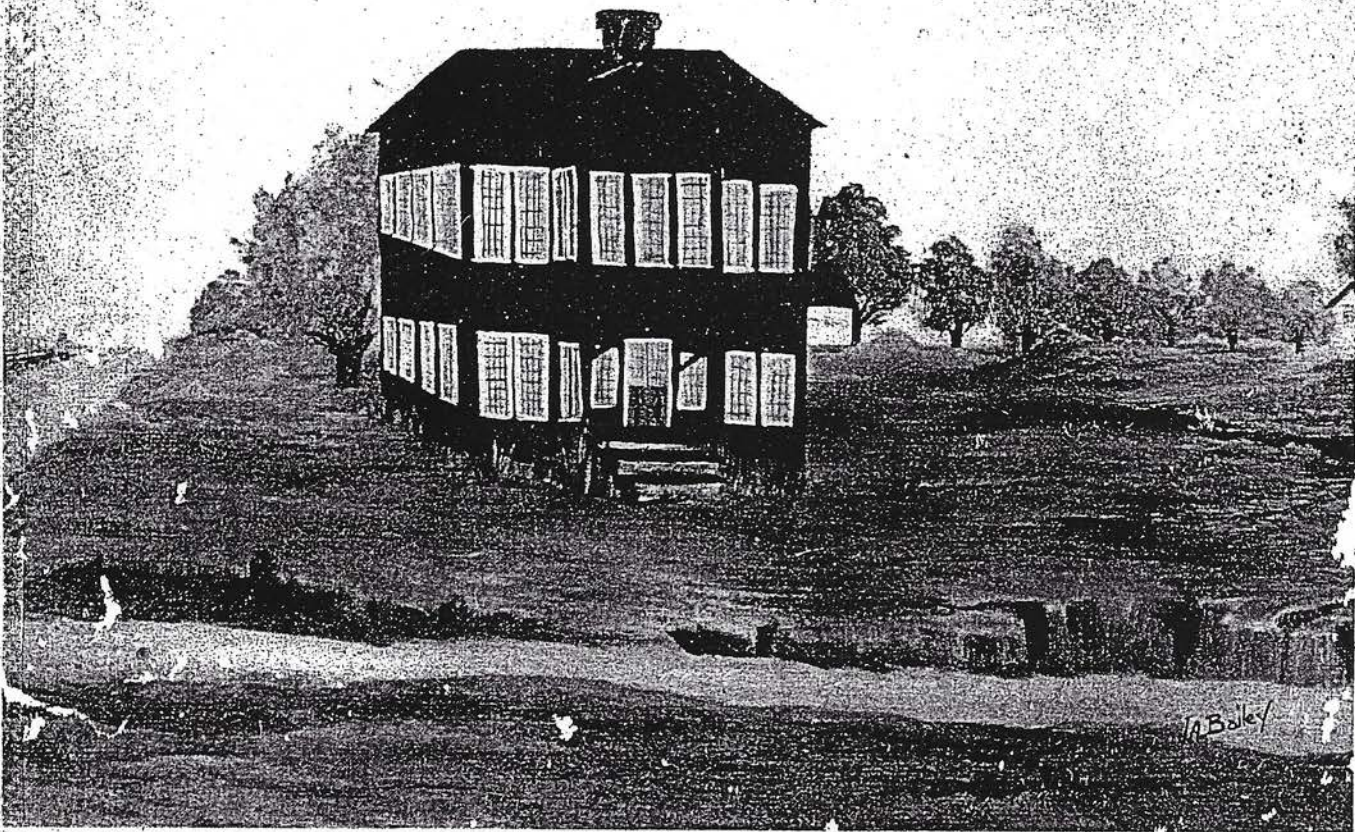


THE HISTORY OF WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL
MINDEN, LOUISIANA



1922 TO 1952

FOREWORD

The following pages represent our second attempt to publish the history of this our great school -- Webster High School. It would be impossible and the edition too massive, to give credit to everyone who has helped us these thirty years. It was the thinking of the planning committee that much good could be done by such a publication. To those not mentioned, we apologize. Let's look forward with one accord. Let's march and sing together "Webster Dear Old Webster."

W. LEON HAYES
Principal

THE HISTORY OF WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL

By: Mr. W. L. G. Abney - A pioneer citizen of Webster

The continued growth and development of Webster Parish Training School has been so strikingly phenomenal, its influence so far reaching, and the interest of the entire citizenry of Minden and Webster Parish so great that the Principal, Mr. W. Leon Hayes, and others who have observed its growth think it befitting that the history of this school should be written as our memo to the memory of the many citizens, white and colored, who sponsored this cause and gave their influence, labor, and money in the dark days when faith and hope were at a very low ebb; many of whom have long since gone to their great rewards; and to the memory of the members of the Parish School Board, the Superintendents of Education; all of whom gave their united support and encouragement; and to our first colored Supervisor, Mr. Modiciah Luke, and to the memory of our late and lamented Principal J. L. Jones, who, through the recommendation of our Supervisor Luke, was to become the first principal of the new Minden Rosenwald School.

Under his leadership the school made great progress, and in a few years the reputation of this school had spread over the entire state, and it was accepted by State Department officials and all who observed its progress as one of Louisiana's most progressive schools. Too much cannot be said, nor can too much credit be given the former principal for the leadership he gave.

Much credit must go to the present Principal, W. Leon Hayes, for the fine manner in which he has carried on the program since he was given the great responsibility after the death of the former Principal, J. L. Jones. He is fortunate in having the confidence and the solicit support of the present Superintendent and the entire Webster Parish Board.

Although the citizens of Minden and Webster Parish were conscious of the need of better school facilities for the colored children of the community, and were eager to put forth whatever efforts they were asked to perform, the real beginning of the new program which has grown to what is now Webster High School began when a change of the Colored Board of Trustees was made and a group of younger men were given the opportunity to put into execution some ideas they had. Their first objective was to secure a new site for the school. After probably months of looking, thinking, and planning, a site they thought would be suitable was found. The site was owned and occupied as a home by one of Minden's colored citizens, Mr. Henry Harris, who was perfectly happy there and had no desire to sell. It was up to these men to convince him that he would render the whole community a great service by sacrificing his home for the school. This they were finally able to do, and the site was recommended to the Parish Board and approved with the understanding that the colored people themselves would have to make a substantial financial contribution if they were to secure this site because no money had been budgeted for this cause at that time. The Trustees accepted the responsibility. Their first effort was made by holding a public mass meeting in the, then, old U. B. F. Hall on Sunday afternoon. They had for the speaker of the afternoon

a former Minden boy who had gone to Shreveport as a driver and general handy man in the home of a fine white family. They saw in him a great desire to improve himself. They helped and encouraged him to the extent that he finally became Shreveport's first Negro lawyer. Many of Minden's older citizens remember Mr. Charley Roberson, the home boy who made good in Shreveport, and was only too glad to render this service for his former hometown. This first effort was indeed encouraging. Approximately \$800.00 was raised and turned over to the Parish Board as the first step toward securing the present beautiful site the school now enjoys. It was shortly after this time that good fortune smiled on us. The Parish Board President decided it was time for a Colored Supervisor to enter the Parish School Program. He immediately decided that one of our major needs was a young progressive principal. He recommended a former classmate at Southern University from which both were graduated. Professor J.L. Jones was invited to come for an interview with Superintendent Richardson, who had recently become elected, and immediately plunged in with all of his youth and energy to help push and enlarge the program which the Trustees had instituted. One of the first financial efforts sponsored by the new principal and the new faculty was a financial rally held at Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church where approximately \$700.00 was contributed by members of the Church and other friends.

After the site was accepted and the new principal had come, our next problem was to occupy our new site. This problem involved the filling in of the many deep gullies pulling down the steep hillside which made up the topography of the site as it then stood. The older citizens still have a vivid mental picture of the steep red hill which is now the nice level site of our library.

Although this was a stupendous job, the Trustees, after discovering that there was no money available for this purpose, decided to attempt it themselves. One of the Trustees, Mr. Jack Leary, whose father was at the time engaged in public hauling and had some mule teams which he made available and who had some general ideas of rough grading was selected director and general manager of the grading job. Many farmers in the immediate area of ten miles around Minden were contacted and asked to bring their wagons and teams from all the nearby communities. In this manner the grounds were put in such shape as we felt suitable for our purpose. Our next great problem was the moving of our old building to the new site. It was about this time that Mr. Luke resigned as Supervisor and Rev. J. A. Moore succeeded him.

It was a very easy matter for Rev. Moore to take this responsibility because of his interest as Pastor of Minden's oldest and largest church, and as a patron who had assisted from the very beginning of the new program.

After the task of moving the old building to the new site had been accomplished, the State Supervisor of Jeans Fund suggested to the president of the Trustees Board that they make appropriation to change the school from a Rosenwald to a Training School. This was taken up with the Superintendent and approved. Thus the school was converted to a

Training School. The faculty was enlarged and attendance outgrew the facilities. It was quite obvious to all of the Trustees that they were confronted with a new and greater problem. A new building was needed, large enough to take care of the ever-increasing enrollment and the additional teachers and classrooms that the school must have if it was to meet the increasing demand that the new interest all the colored people were taking in it trying to give their children some education, continued. The Superintendent and School Board, ever conscious of the rapid growth of this school, were already at work on plans for this building and places to find money to do the job.

The Trustees of the school and the principal were called in for a conference. They were complimented for the fine job they had been able to get done to date, and were told that it would again be necessary for them to assume some of the responsibility for this project. It was suggested that they take responsibility for hauling the lumber and other material for this building. This was done by again calling on the friends and neighbors who had teams to come to the school's aid again. This was accomplished and very soon our first new two-story building was completed, which gave ample room for all classes and office space for the principal and the ever-enlarging faculty.

The president and the entire Board of Trustees were well pleased with the structure, and were beginning to think that all their hopes and aspirations had been realized and were about ready to rest on their laurels; however, this condition was not to last very long. The principal, his wife, and some members of the faculty, and many students from out of town were forced to find places to stay in homes in the various sections of the town. The principal and the members of the Trustees Board decided that the only way this problem could be solved would be to build a dormitory with living quarters for the principal and his family and kitchen and dining room and enough bedrooms to accommodate out-of-town faculty members and out-of-town girls who were forced to live out in the community.

The school had not only outgrown the Trustees' fondest hopes, but had also outgrown all budgetary plans of the School Board. This the Superintendent regretfully told the Trustees. The past success in hurdling all other obstacles and the Trustees' enthusiasm had full possession of them by this time, and they felt that somehow, someway they could have this building if they worked hard enough for it.

The Trustees asked permission of the Superintendent to allow them to solicit funds to build this dormitory. A meeting of colored citizens was called and all the carpenters were asked to attend. At this meeting all the problems were discussed and the dire need for the building as well. At this meeting they were able to work out a very remarkable plan of co-operation among the carpenters and the men who were to build the house.

Mr. John Anderson, a builder whom they knew was capable of handling the job agreed to accept the job of foreman and most of the other colored carpenters in the city and other laborers agreed to assist to the extent that they were needed. The foreman, all the carpenters, and the other labor all agreed to make their contribution to the cause by working for one-half of the then prevailing wage scale.

The president of the Board, whose business kept him in close touch with the white citizens of Minden, expressed a belief that the white people of Minden were favorably impressed with the whole program, and would be willing to give substantial help if asked. He accepted the task of circulating the petition and asking for public help from the white friends of the school for the first time. The plans were made and the job was started.

Although a great number of these fine white friends are not in Minden anymore; some moved away, some have gone to the great beyond; they still linger in our memory because of their great good deed. It was decided to contact several of the most outstanding white citizens who were known to be able and we thought would be willing to help in this great undertaking.

The success of this plan was most gratifying. The petition was presented to one of Minden's outstanding merchants who made the first donation with a check for \$250.00. His signature and check accompanied by the signatures and checks for similar amounts from three other of Minden's leading white citizens gave great hope. This particular effort was confined exclusively to the white friends. The final results of this effort showed \$5,000.05 contributed, which is conclusive evidence that the white citizens gave their whole support to the effort.

It was a happy occasion when Principal Jones and his wife and child along with the out-of-town members of the faculty and a few boarding students were able to begin living in this new and spacious dormitory.

MINDEN ROSENWALD SCHOOL

(Second in State)

First Principal - Mr. J. S. Johnson

MINDEN ROSENWALD SCHOOL

(Second in State)

FACULTY

Mrs. D.E. Abney Mrs. Fannie Booker Mrs. Rosa Baker

FIRST TRUSTEE BOARD

Mr. W.L.G. Abney, President	Mr. Pierce Walters
Mr. Jack Leary	Mr. Richard Lewis
Mr. Ellis Montgomery	Mr. Jim Bostic
	Mr. Joe Cameron

STATE SUPERVISOR
(Mrs. Maggie N. Ringgold)

Much credit must be given to Mrs. Maggie N. Ringgold, for it was she who first suggested to the president of the Colored Board that greater benefit could be had from the state if the school was changed from a Rosenwald to a Parish Training School. Application was made and the status of the school was changed to Training.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. W.L.G. Abney, President	Mr. J. C. Leary, Secretary
Mr. John Jackson	Dr. J.L. Johnson, Treasurer
Mr. Ellis Montgomery	
Rev. J. A. Moore	

The following men helped with their wagons and teams:

Mr. Cornelious Leary	Mr. Henry Dixon
Mr. Matt Moore	Mr. Tom Williams
Mr. Tom Watson	Mr. Arthur Thomas
Mr. Jerry Watson	Mr. Tom Scott
Mr. Dan Amos	Mr. Henry Nelson

Mr. Felix Carter

There were other persons who helped that the writer cannot recall their names at this time.

PIONEERS OF WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL



DR. E.S. RICHARDSON
Superintendent of
Webster Parish Schools



MR. MODICIAH LUKE
First Negro Supervisor
of Webster Parish.



MR. J.L. JONES
First Principal of
Webster High School.

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE



MR. W.L.D. ABNEY
President



MR. JACK LEARY
Secretary



DR. J.L. JOHNSON
Treasurer



MR. JOHN JACKSON
Member



REV. J. A. MOORE
Member

FIRST TRUSTEE BOARD



MR. W.L.D. ABNEY
President



MR. JIM BOSTIC



MR. JOE CAMERON



MR. JACK LEARY



MR. RICHARD LEWIS



MR. ELLIS MONTGOMERY



MR. PIERCE WALTERS



MR. HENRY HARRIS
Gentleman who sold
present site to Trustees.



MR. JOHN ANDERSON
Carpenter who was the
foreman in building of
the H. S. Building.



REV. J. A. MOORE
Second Negro Super-
visor of Webster Par-
ish.

IN MEMORIAL



MRS. ANN LANE SMITH
A faithful teacher for
fifteen years.



DR. E. B. GODFREY
Director of Webster
Parish Health Unit.

RETIRED TEACHERS



MRS. D. E. ABNEY



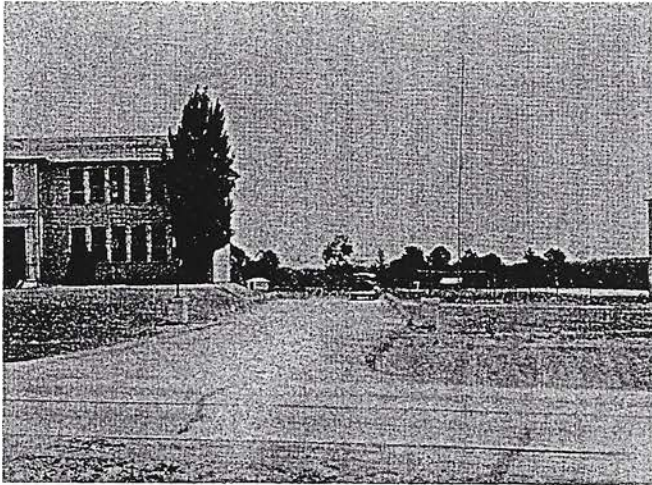
MRS. MAE DEE MOORE



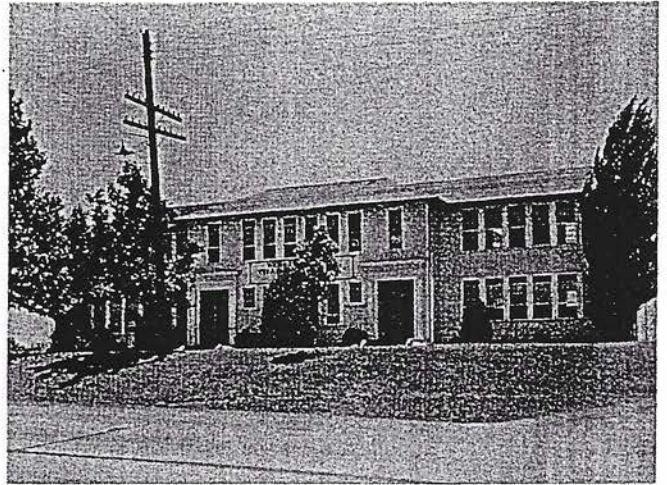
MRS. O. R. JONES

SOME FIRSTS AT WEBSTER

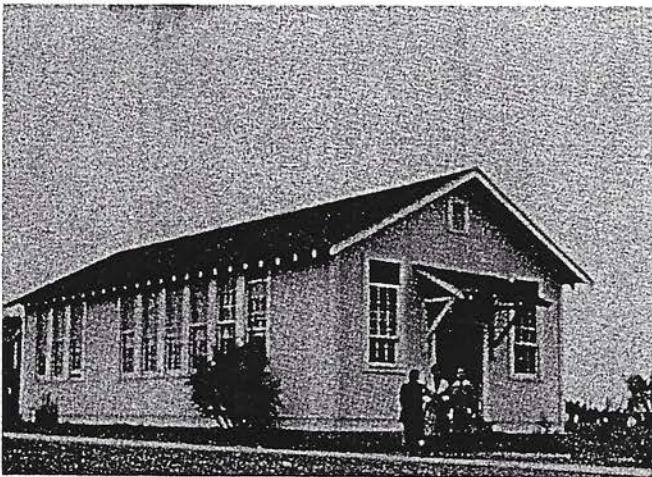
First Buildings



A view showing the first building to be erected at Webster at the right and the High School Building to the left.



The High School Building.



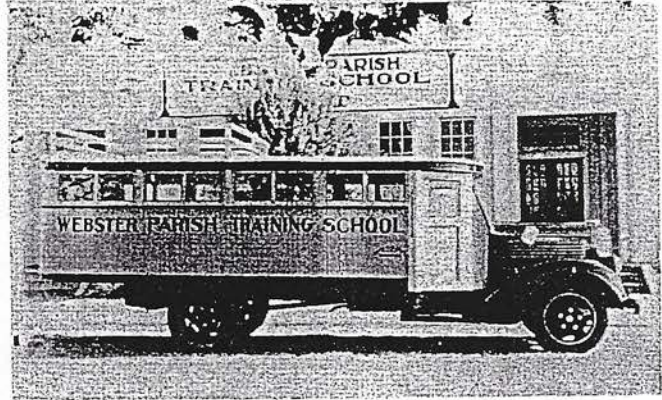
The Library.



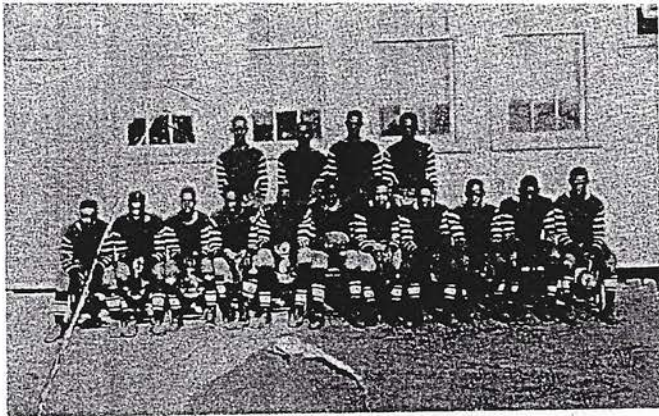
The Dormitory.



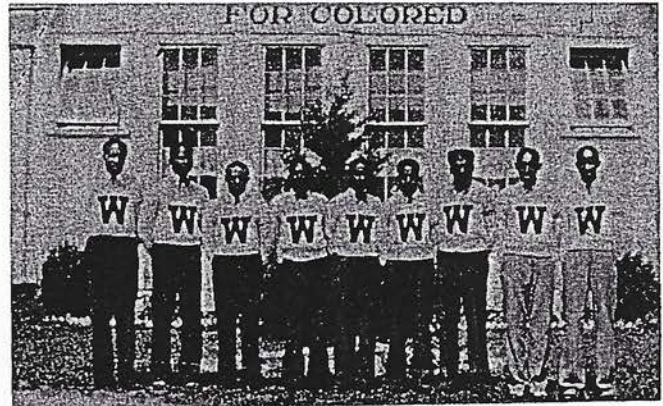
The First Band.



The First Bus.

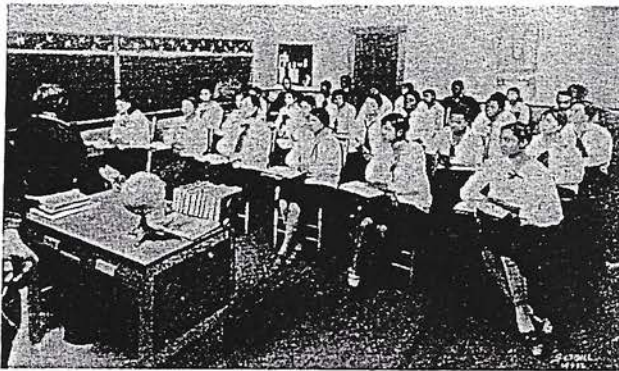


One of the first football teams.

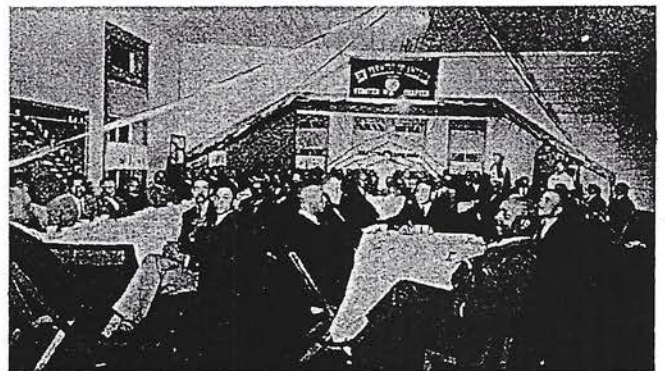


Some of the first lettermen.

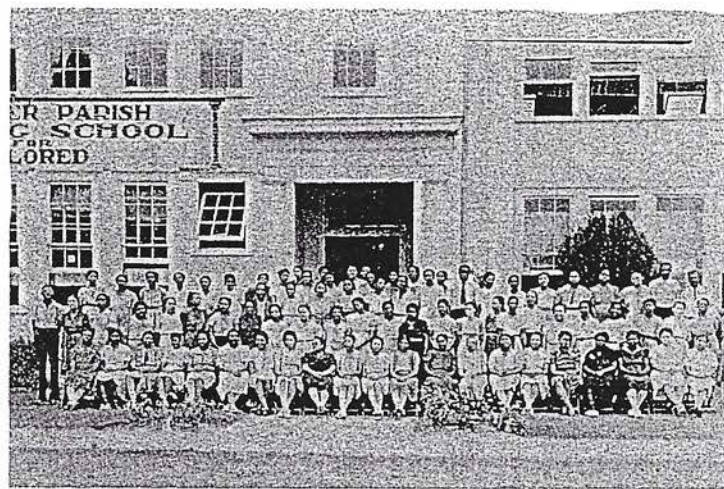
EARLY AND LATER ACTIVITIES



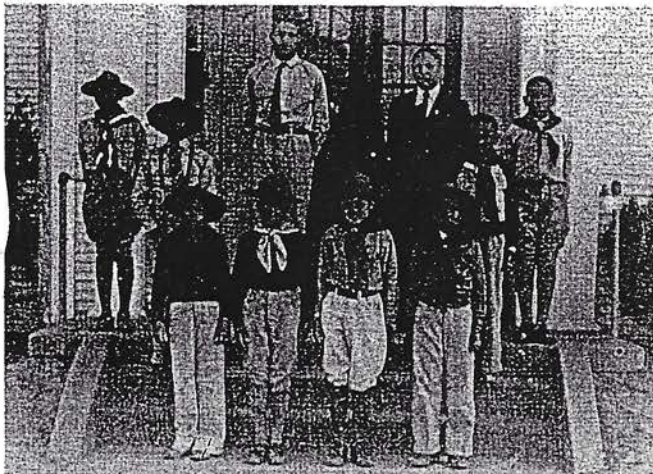
Mrs. O. R. Jones
teaching a class.



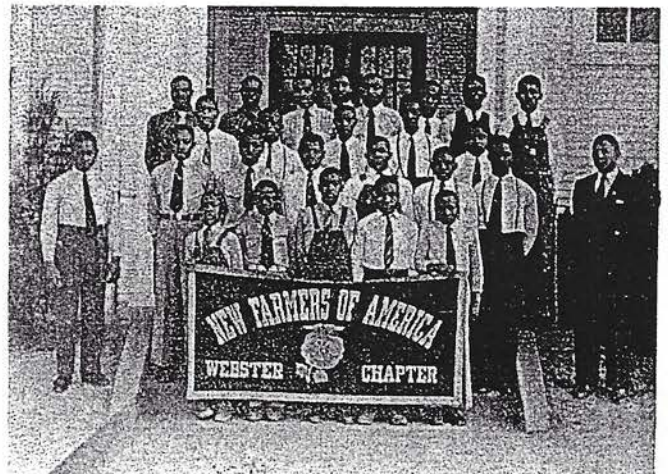
N. F. A. Banquet



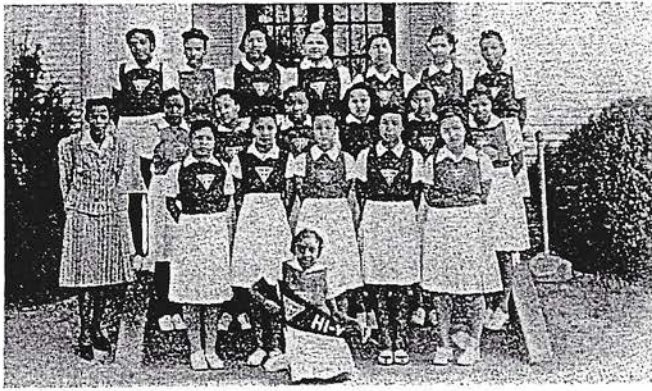
Teachers of the Parish



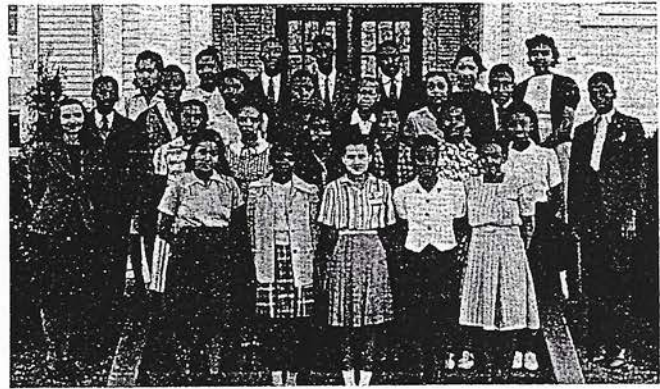
Early Boy Scouts



Early N. F. A. Boys



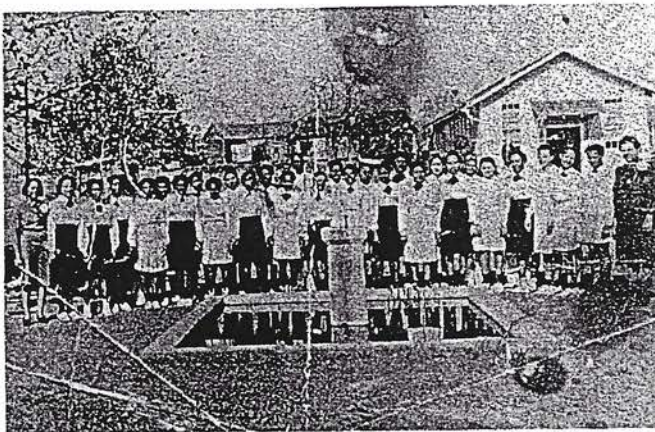
Girls' Hi-Y



Dramatic Club



Taste and Baste Club



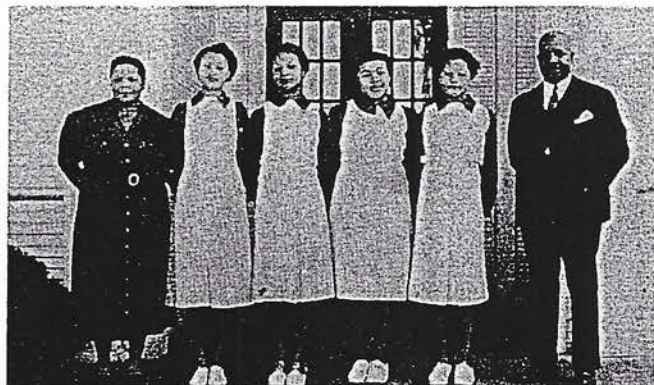
Dramatic Club



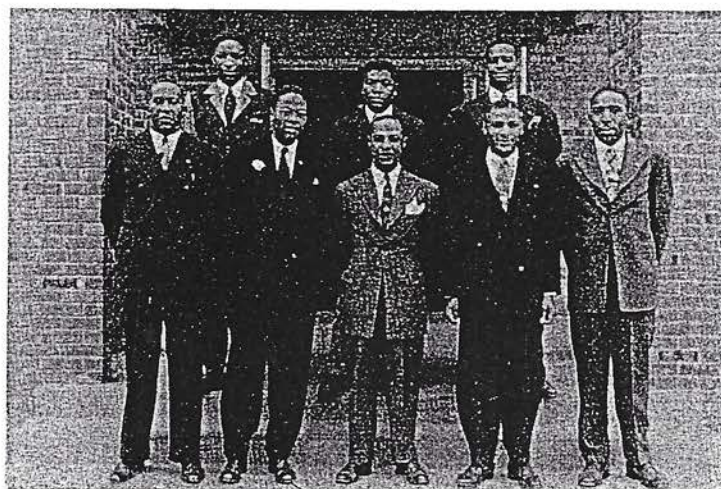
Patrol Force



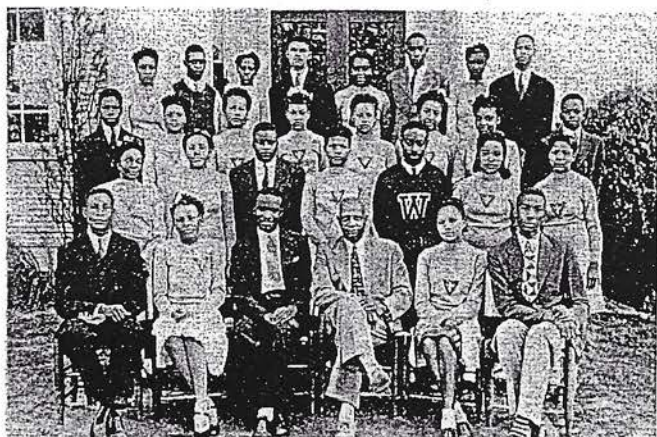
Home Ec. Club



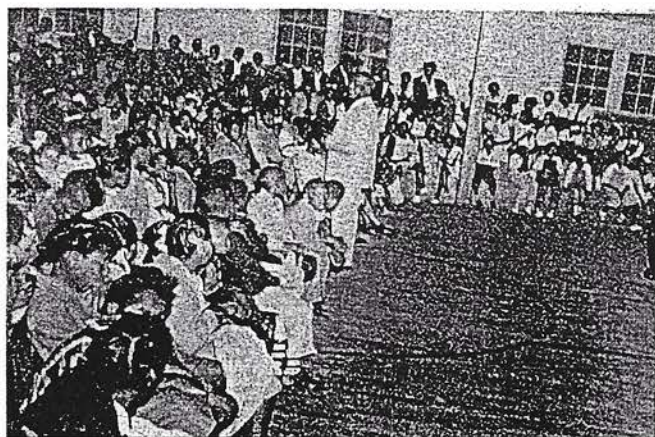
Girls' Quartette



Veterans Club



Boys' and Girls' Hi-Y



Mr. Jones in Chapel

HISTORY OF WEBSTER FROM THE OBSERVATION OF: MRS. O.R. JONES, MRS. M.D. MOORE, MRS. M.L. CITISON, MRS. M.E. LEARY, AND MR. G.L. SMITH.

After several periods of progress and retrogress in education for Negroes in Minden, a new era began to dawn about 1921, shortly after Mr. E.S. Richardson became superintendent of schools in Webster Parish.

At the close of schools in 1922, there were 4 teachers and 186 students. The superintendent, school board, and trustees began looking for a well qualified principal to take charge of what was called Minden Union High School located at the present corner of Span and Talton Streets. On the recommendation of supervisor Luke and Mr. A.C. Lewis, Assistant State Agent, Mr. Joseph L. Jones of Leesville, Louisiana, was interviewed. So impressed was the superintendent with this young man that he appointed him to conduct the summer school for teachers this same year. This position was somewhat of a probation appointment, which at the close convinced everyone that this young man was quite capable and efficient.

In the fall of 1922 school opened with Mr. J.L. Jones as Principal and seven other teachers who were: Mrs. O. R. Jones, Mrs. Deliah Abney, Mrs. Nettie Johnson, Misses Ella Washington, Venye Richards; Christnene Price, and Mr. Samuel Thomas. The school building which was located on a city lot could not accomodate this new school set up and the first floor of the old U.B.F. Hall was secured for classes. Mrs. O.R. Jones, the principal's wife, was in charge, with Miss Price as her assistant and Mr. Thomas, instructor of Vocational Agriculture.

Within a few months, under the leadership of this illustrious young man and hard working faculty the school had outgrown the provided facilities and something had to be done.

In 1923 the first building was constructed on a 16-acre tract, its present site. It was a modern two-story frame building, with principal's office, library and auditorium at a cost of \$15,000. The old building was moved to the new site, completely renovated and equipped. This constituted the first of Webster Parish Training School.

In 1924 an illustrious young man, Mr. J.E. Pitcher, was added to the School Board Staff as assistant superintendent. In 1925 a principal's home and dormitory was constructed at a cost of \$10,000, including equipment.

In 1928, the facilities completely outgrown, another building was added. This building was called the Model School because of its demonstration setup and brought the number of buildings to four. Shortly afterwards, the faculty and friends laid a concrete walk from it to the main building at a tremendous cost.

Since the Webster Parish Training School and education in general in Webster Parish were progressing so rapidly, there was a possibility that the school at Grambling, Louisiana would be moved to Minden. Superintendent Richardson, who was always alert for possible improvements, secured an adjoining plot of land; thus, giving the school its present 30-acre tract.

In 1931, a library building was erected with a complete library unit and was supervised by the Louisiana Library commission. There was a full time librarian in charge who served not only the Training School but all of the Colored People in the Parish. Mr. Favrot, of the General Board of Education said, "It is one of the most significant steps in the development of rural education."

Each year brought numerous improvements and by our tenth anniversary the enrollment had reached 665 pupils, 15 teachers, 5 permanent buildings, and 170 graduates. During this period the school became an accredited school; Teacher Training was done in Freshman College, Vocational Home Economics, agriculture and Manual Training were offered. This school became one of the most frequently visited schools in the State.

In 1935 four rooms were added over the auditorium of the main building which made it possible to employ four more teachers, thus bringing the faculty number to 20.

In 1936, Mr. E.S. Richardson resigned to go to Louisiana Tech. There was little thinking to be done on his replacement, for the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. J.E. Pitcher, was well qualified, capable and able to succeed Mr. Richardson. After 12 years as Mr. Richardson's assistant, Mr. Pitcher was elected Superintendent. Everything that follows may be attributed to Mr. Pitcher's leadership and vision. He is still serving Webster Parish as Superintendent and doing an excellent job.

In 1937, a school bus was purchased, a dream of several years, and only after two years of continuous personal sacrifices of teachers, pupils and friends.

After the class of 1941, the teacher-training course was discontinued and the name of our school was changed to Webster High School.

Our later accomplishments are included in a 25-year resume. The school started its 25th year with a modernly-equipped 12-room elementary building, 9 additional teachers, which brought the faculty to 35 members, and a student body of more than 1,100 pupils.

Perhaps the best report of the school's first 25 years one could get would be to take excerpts from a report given on January 30, 1947. Mr. J.E. Williams, State Supervisor of Negro Education, reported in part to the State Department of Education after a visit to Minden and Webster High School as follows:

SCHOOL PLANT FACILITIES

Webster High School is located on a site of 30 acres, including land for agricultural experimentation and demonstration. School buildings include the following:

- 1 - A four-room elementary frame building.
- 2 - A new 12-room brick and tile building being used for primary grades, erected in 1946.

- 3 - An industrial and vocational building for home economics, agriculture and industrial shop, and containing 7 rooms, including a temporary arrangement for high school band, constructed of brick.
- 4 - A frame building including 9 academic classrooms, a small music room, a science room, a room for preparing and serving lunches, a principal's office and record room.
- 5 - A gymnasium auditorium.
- 6 - A farm shop and barn.
- 7 - Separate outside toilets for boys and girls.
- 8 - A circulating library center.
- 9 - A teachers' home accomodating 14 teachers.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Every teacher in the Webster High School has a Bachelor's Degree with specialization for the grade or field for which he is employed.

THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Webster Parish Training School offers on secondary level, the general courses meeting college entrance requirements, vocational education in Home Economics, Industrial Shop, Agriculture, and a vigorous, well planned program in health, physical and safety education. All girls pursue four years of Home Economics, 48 boys are enrolled in industrial shop, and 60 boys are enrolled in Agriculture.

SCHOOL RECORDS

This school has a complete up-to-date system of daily and cumulative records on all levels. The Principal and his teachers are constantly checking, revising and improving records.

Webster Parish Training School is one of the oldest and best Negro high schools in Louisiana. Principal J.L. Jones has given excellent leadership to the school for 25 years. This is one of the best examples in the State of cooperative leadership by a high school principal and local school officials. The Principal is highly respected by all citizens of Minden, and Webster Parish, as a result of which the school has been administered for many years on a sound, progressive basis.

Naturally, along with years of conscientious hard work and leadership comes the wear and tear of the human organism. Thus, the health of our illustrious and capable principal, J.L. Jones, began to fail. However, he could not stop as long as he felt he could go, so, with his lovable personality and the will to do, he completed the school week on April 9, 1948, closed the office door, sat on the campus and took a panoramic view of Webster High School grounds for the last time. The first day of the next week our school, town, state, and many parts of the nation went in mourning for our beloved principal.

However, before leaving he prepared the student body, faculty, and citizens for the reception of a young man who had served as a teacher in Webster High for several years, and upon whom he had given many of his duties, for Webster High School's second principal. Thus, W. Leon Hayes was appointed by Webster Parish School Board to carry out the unexpired term. At the next regular meeting of the board he was elected Principal.

To close harmoniously and successfully the last 6 weeks of the 26th year of such a large and fast-growing institution, whose head had been suddenly taken away, was really an unbelievable task. Yet, Mr. Hayes with his democratic philosophy of life, by accepting and utilizing every good and helpful suggestion, was able to accomplish this task.

Under his leadership the school has continued to expand and progress. His first call of a meeting of the Parent Teacher Association when 110 persons were counted on a rainy night was evidence of its support. To prove this, teachers, parents, students, and friends purchased a new 72 passenger bus at a total cost of \$6,000; bought a new set of band uniforms for \$2,850; installed lights on the Athletic Field for \$3,500.

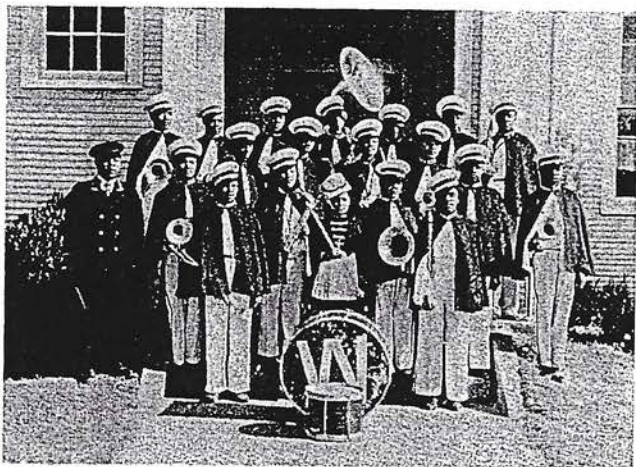
After the State's initiation of the School Lunch Program and because our school lunch room could not accommodate our student body, the Parish School Board erected a cafeteria building in 1949.

This session we have purchased a pick-up truck for \$15,000. Our school now goes to 12th grade. A fleet of busses bring students to Webster High daily.

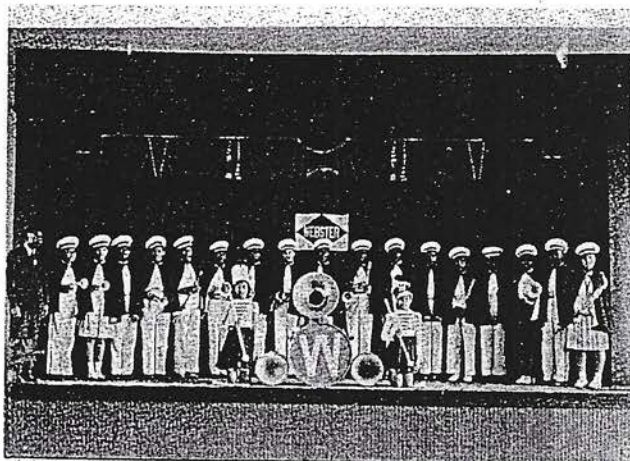
The elementary guidance program recently included in its curriculum activities that are related to those of the high school. The purpose of this plan is to give the student a familiar background of the things to be found when he enters high school. Because of this plan, Mr. Kilgore remarked during his visit last year that Webster High has one of the best activity programs in the State of Louisiana.

ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE YEARS

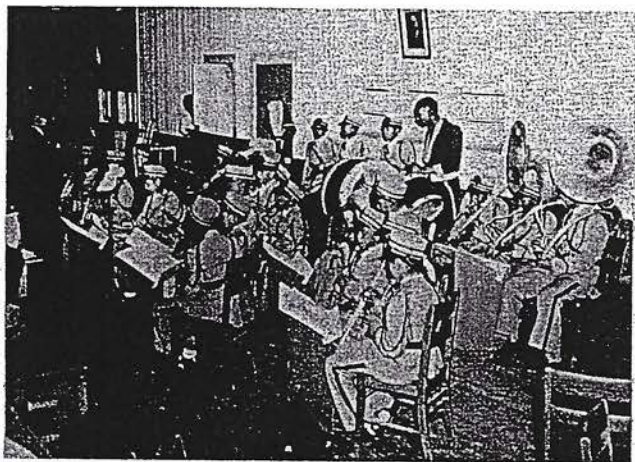
BANDS



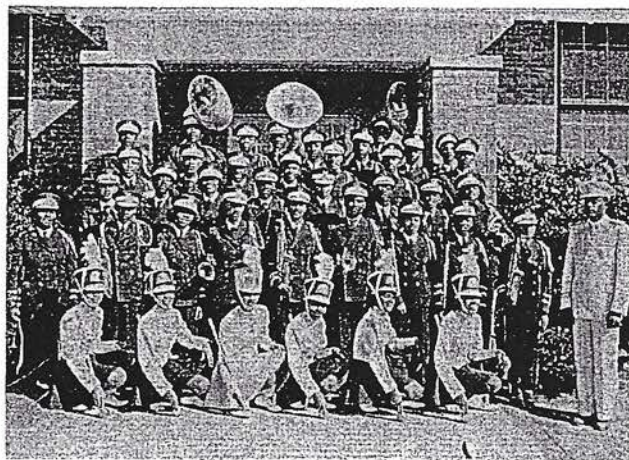
1939 BAND



1940 BAND

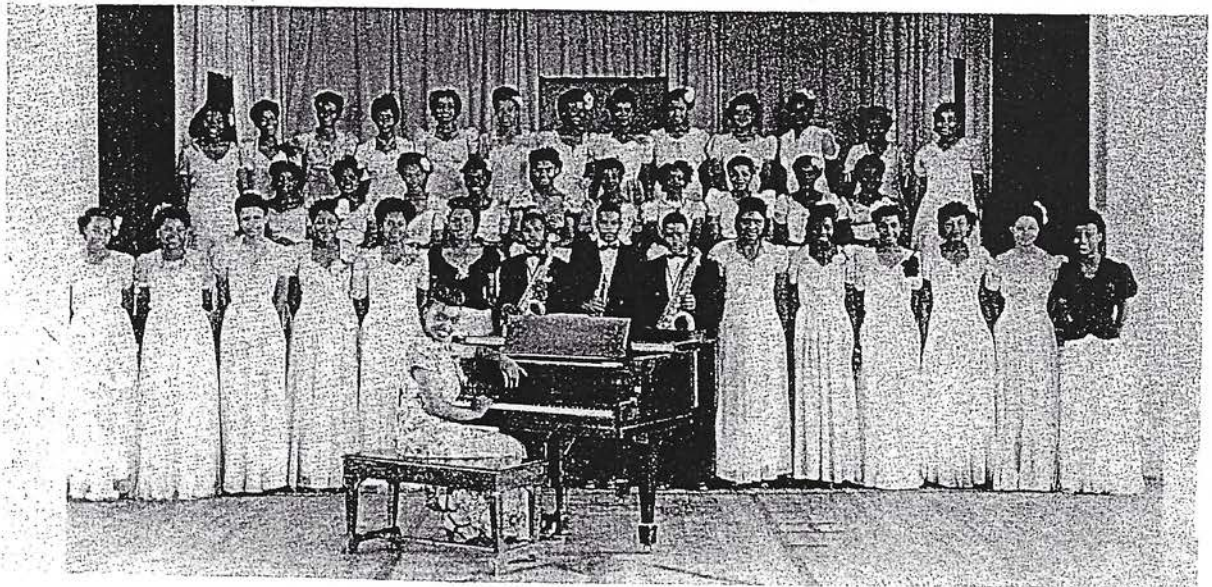
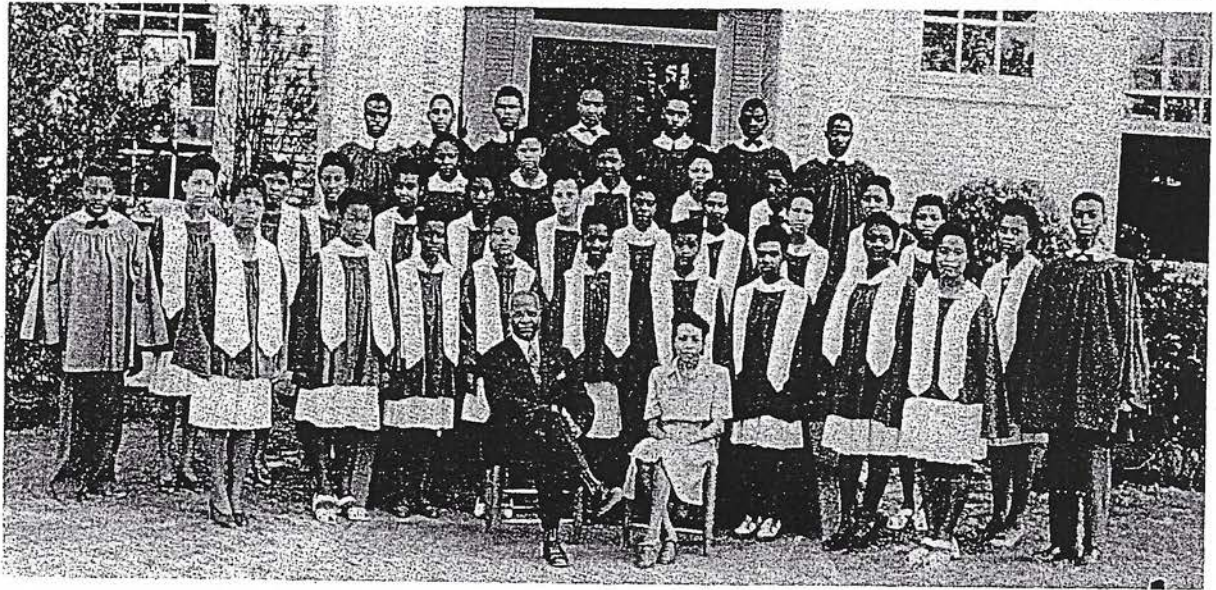
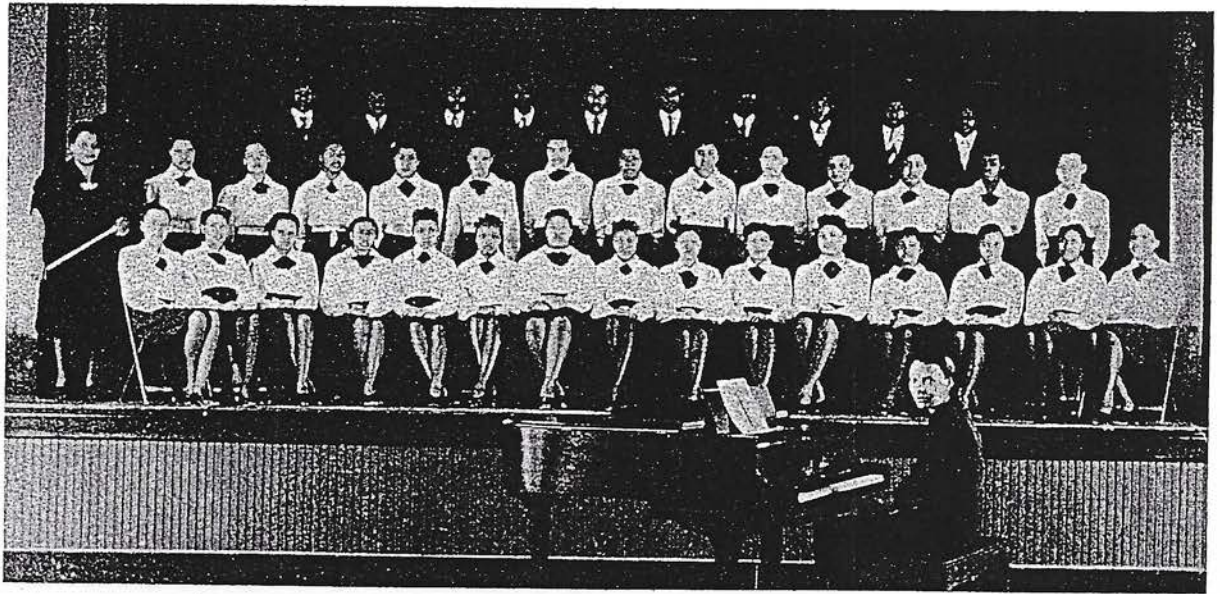


1946 BAND



1950 BAND

CHOIRS



ATHLETICS



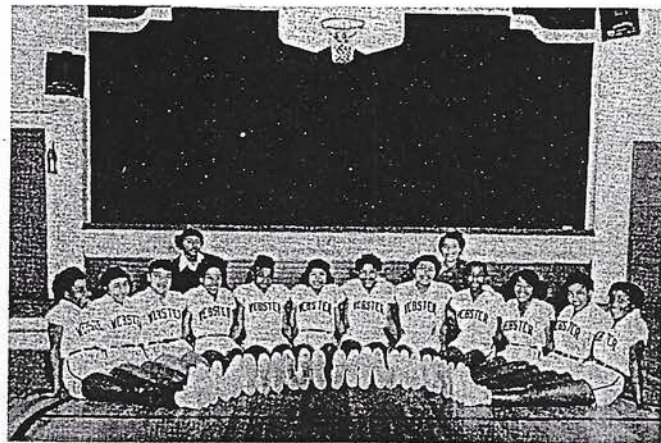
1942 TEAM



1945 TEAM



1949 TEAM



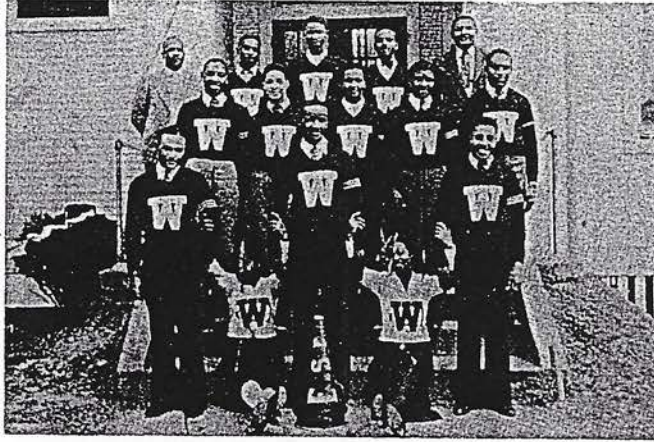
1950 TEAM



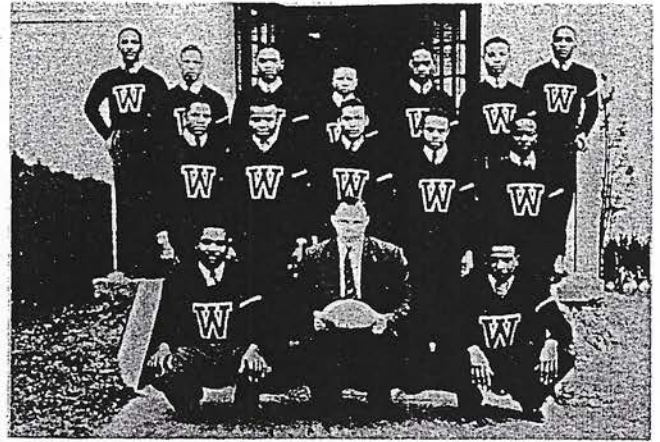
1949 TEAM



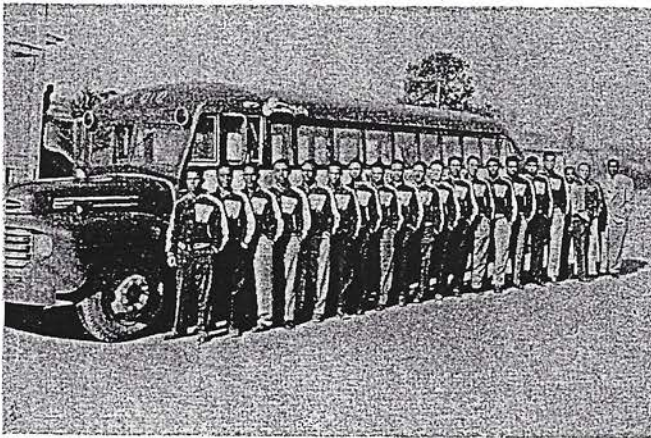
1950 TEAM



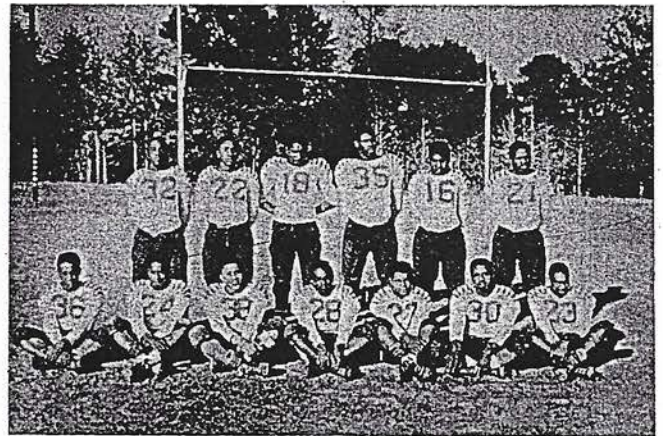
1937 TEAM



1938 TEAM

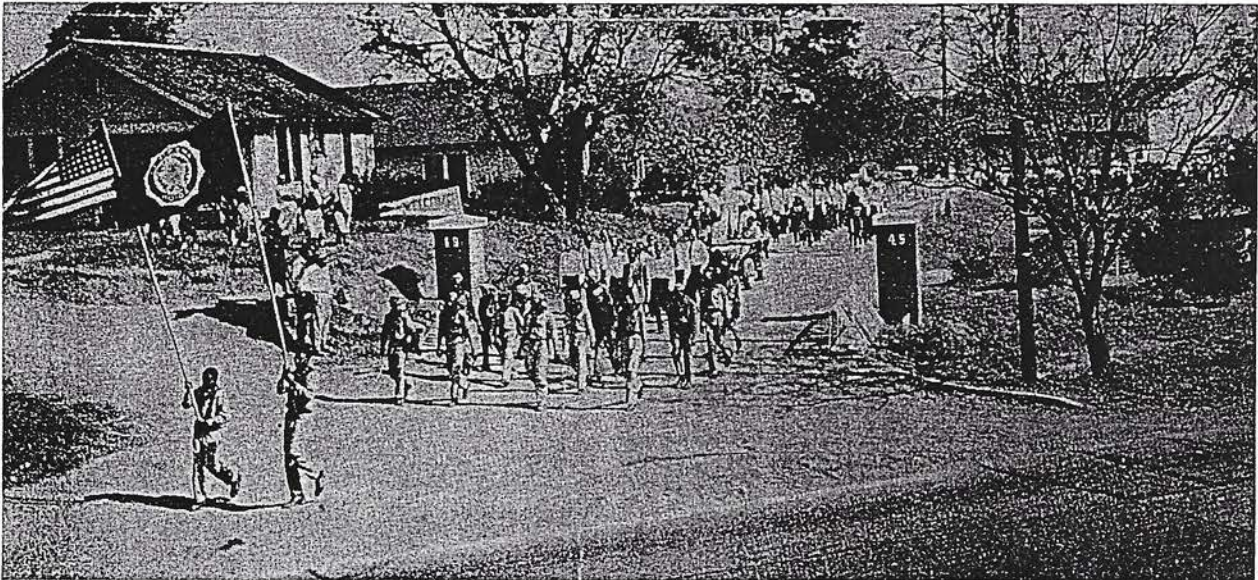
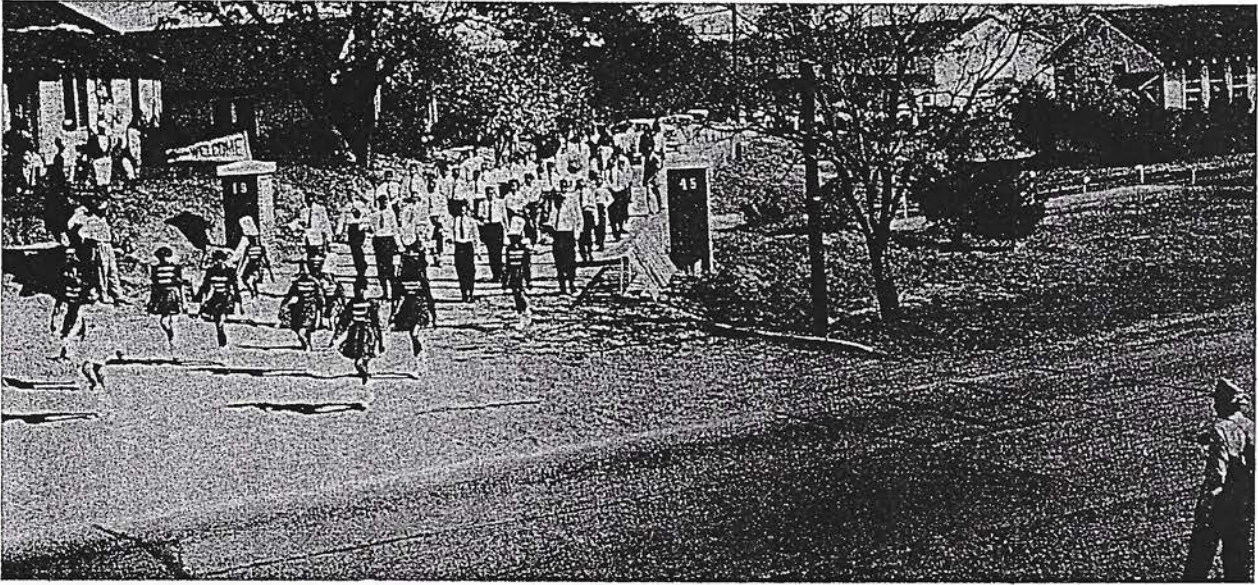
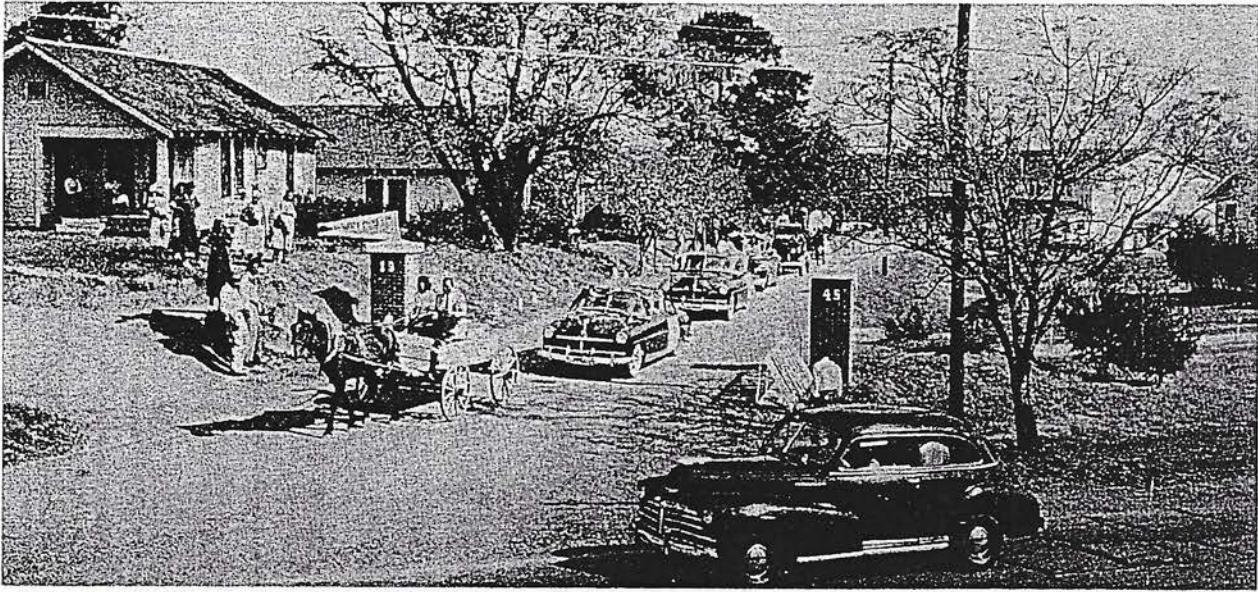


1949 LETTERMEN and NEW BUS



1951 TEAM

PARADES



FACULTY CHURCH VISITATION AND A MASS MEETING



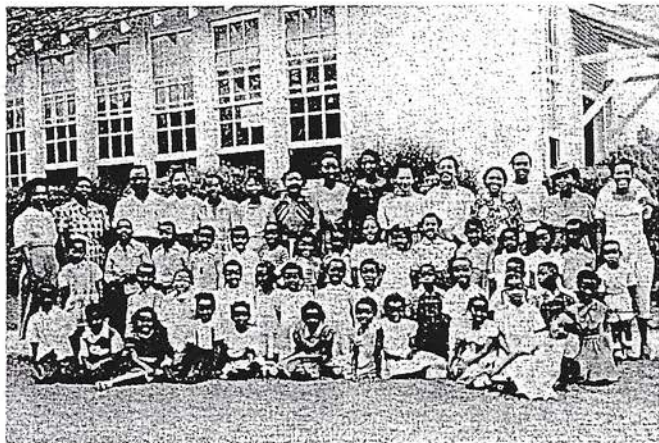
CHURCH VISITATION



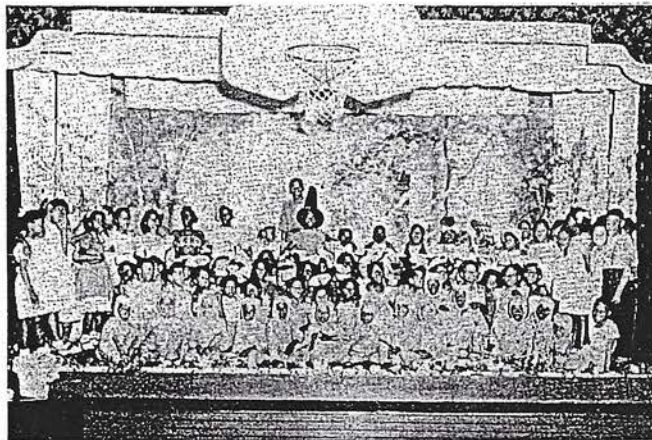
CHURCH VISITATION



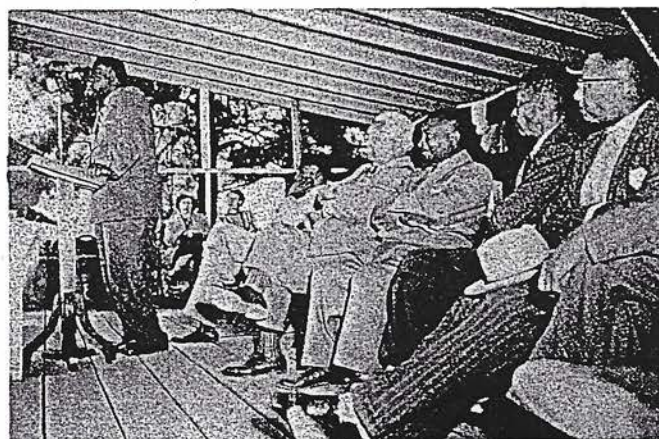
MASS MEETING



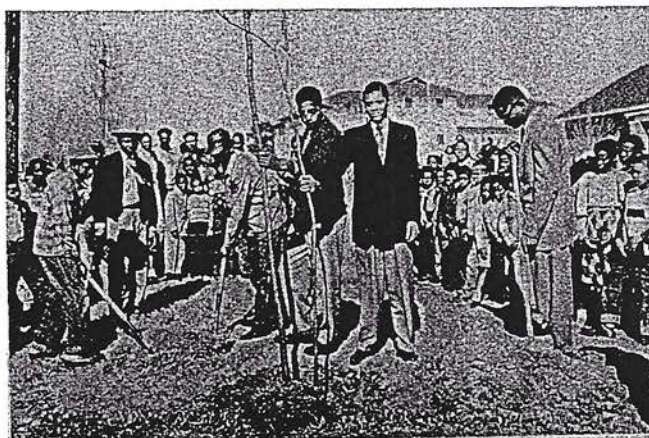
PRE-SCHOOL ROUND UP



PRIMARY PLAY

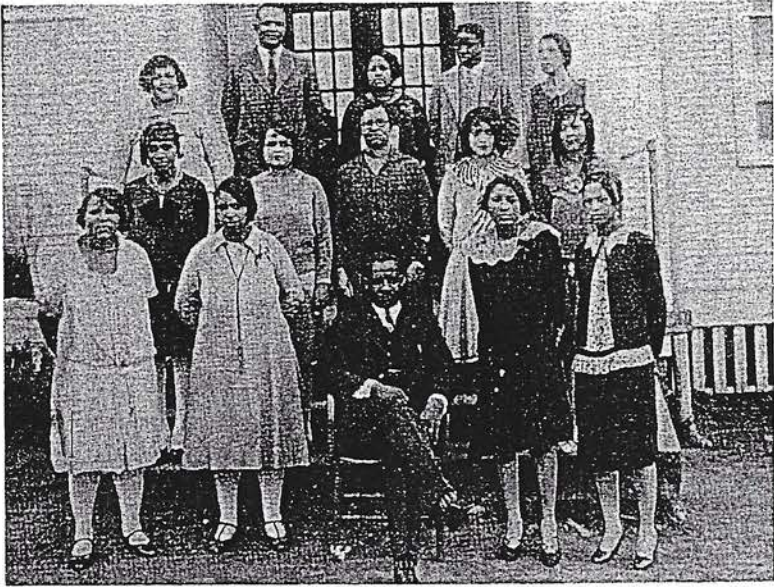


DR. LANIER
PARISH FAIR DAY SPEAKER



ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES

SOME FACULTIES OF WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL



1928-29 FACULTY



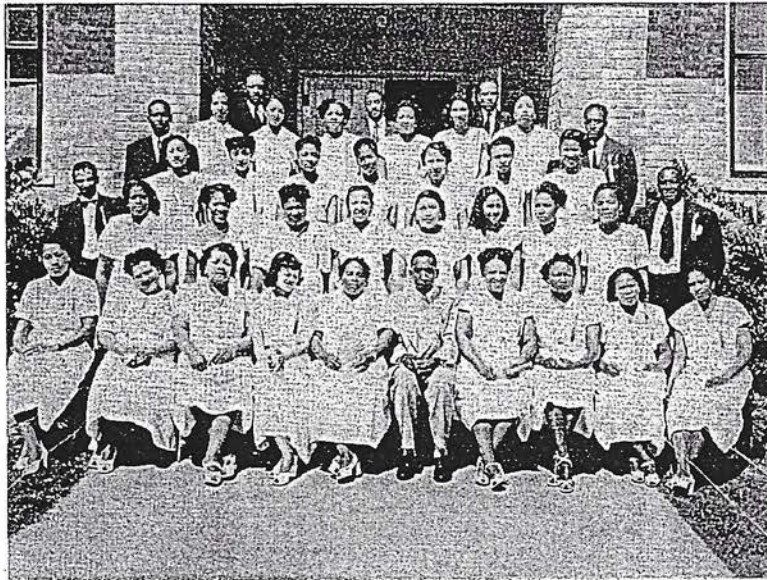
1938-39 FACULTY



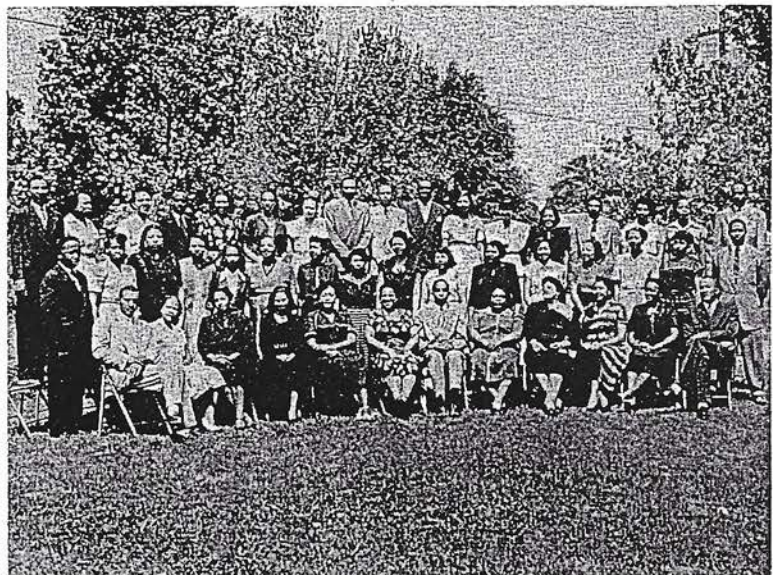
1939-40 FACULTY



1945-46 FACULTY

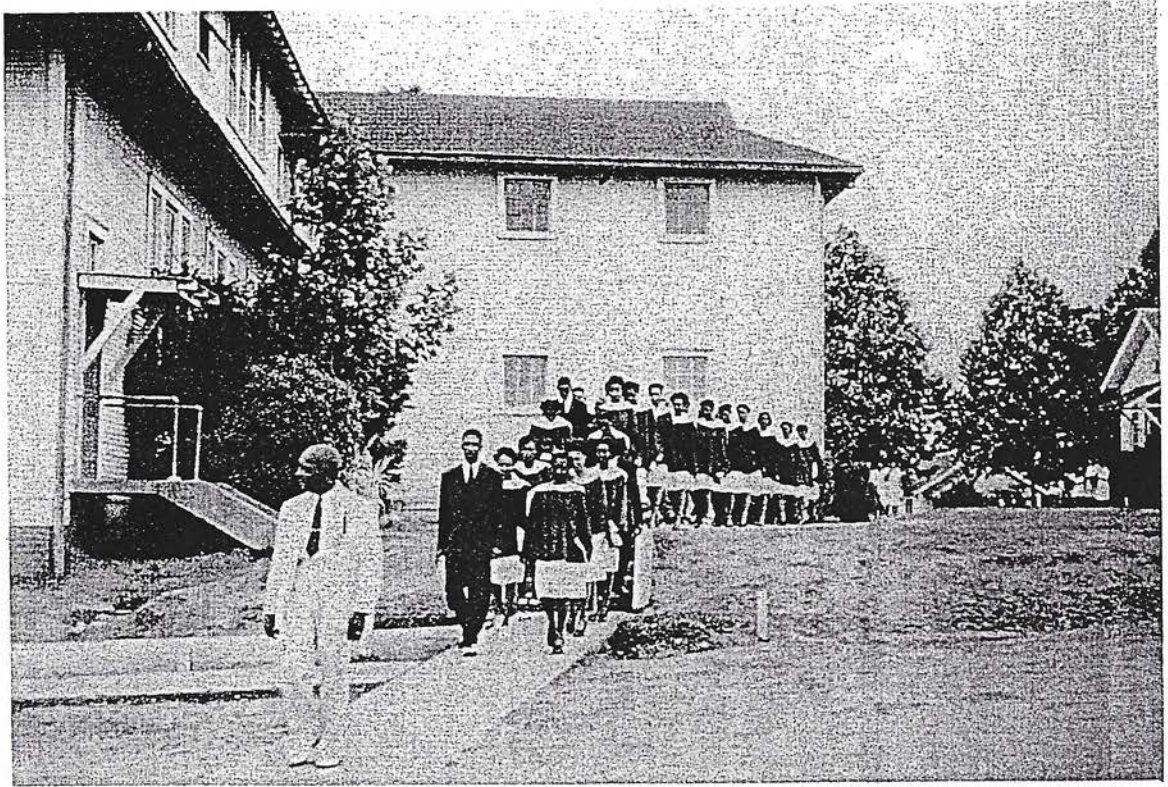


1949-50 FACULTY

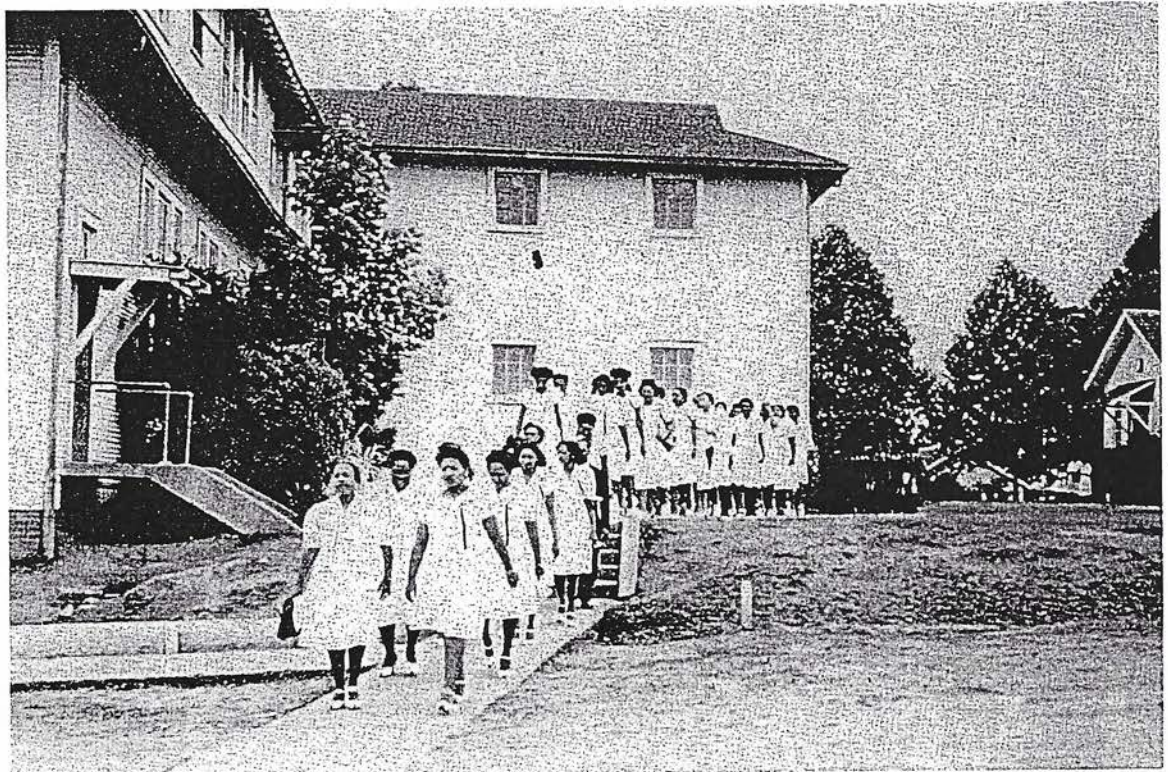


1951-52 FACULTY

WEBSTER GRADUATES

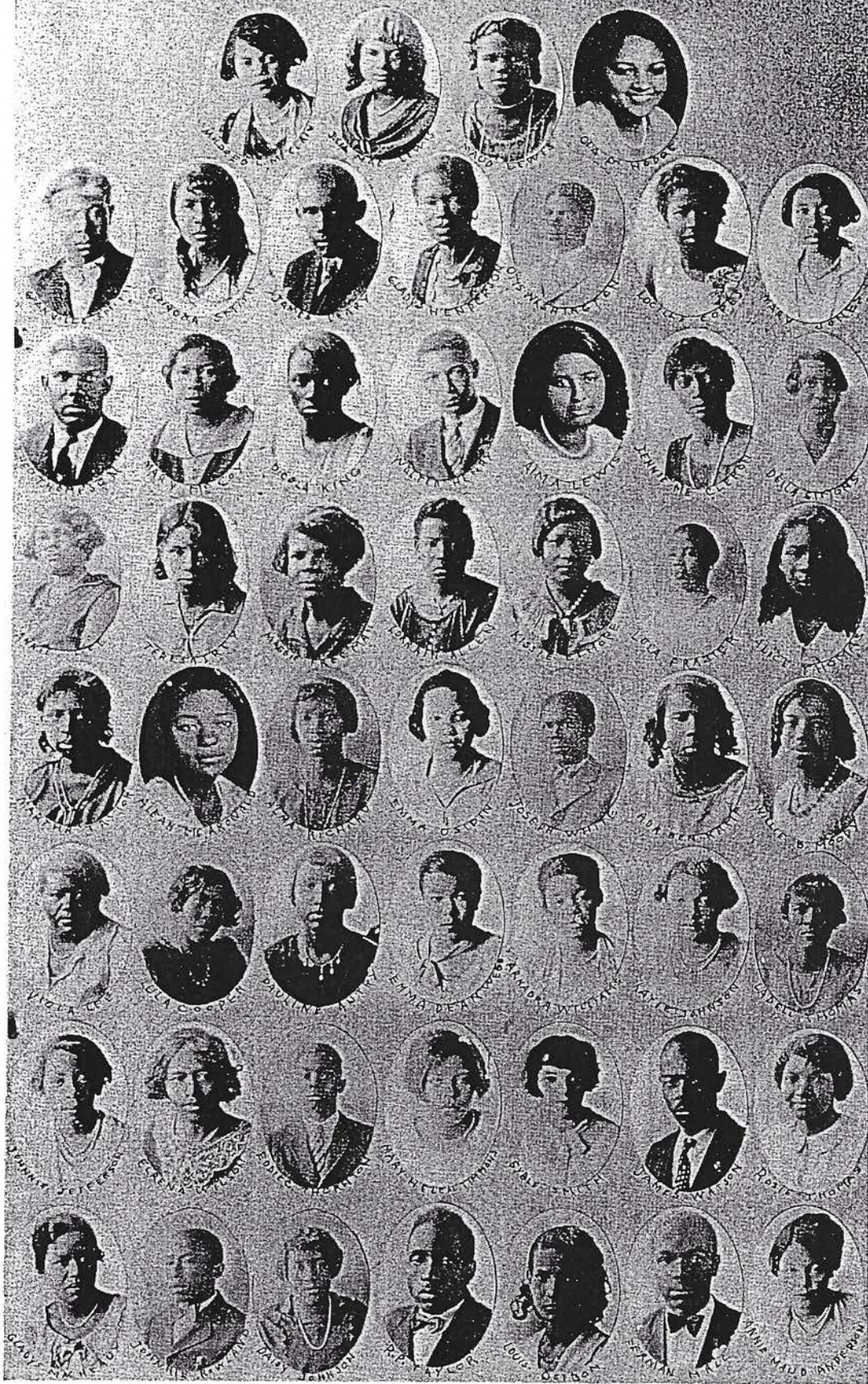


MR. J. L. JONES' LAST GRADUATING EXERCISE 1947

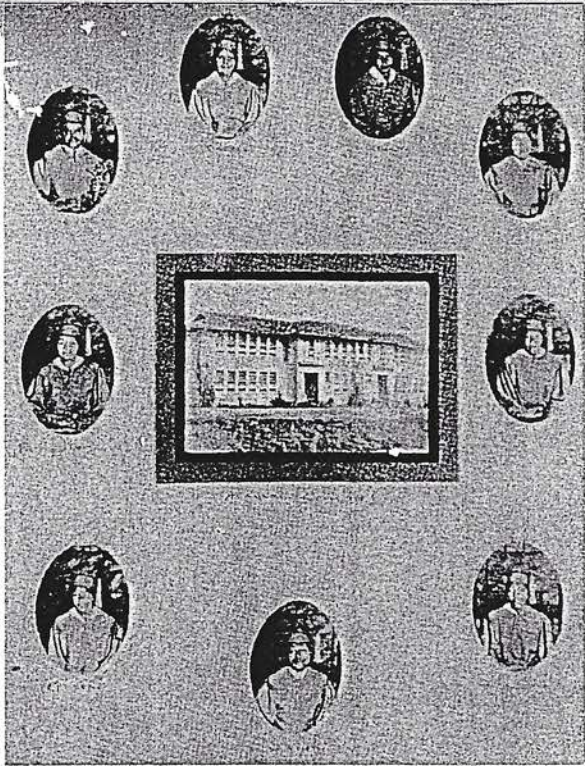


TEACHERS LINE OF MARCH 1947

CLASSES 27-30



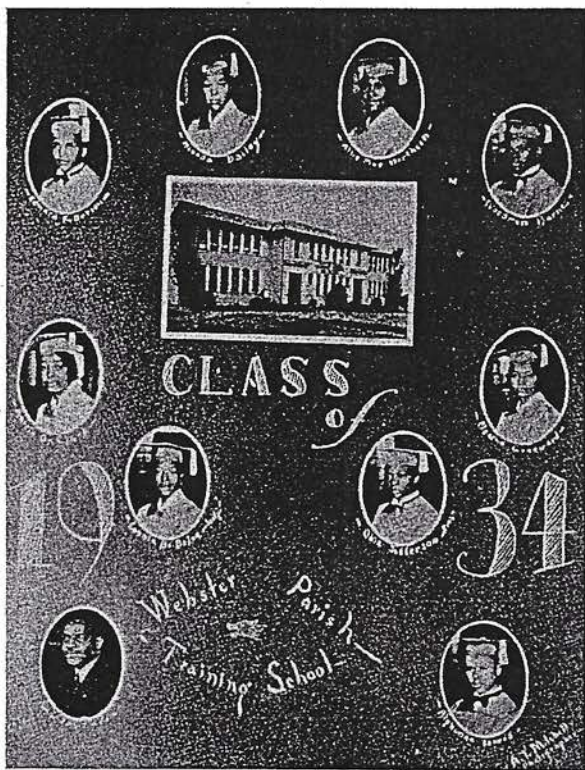
CLASSES OF 1927-28-29 AND 1930



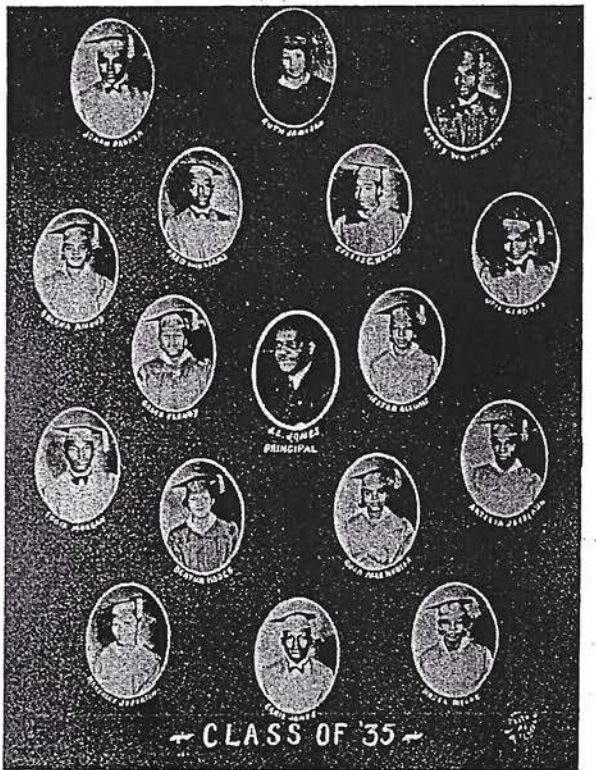
CLASS OF 1933



CLASS OF 1933



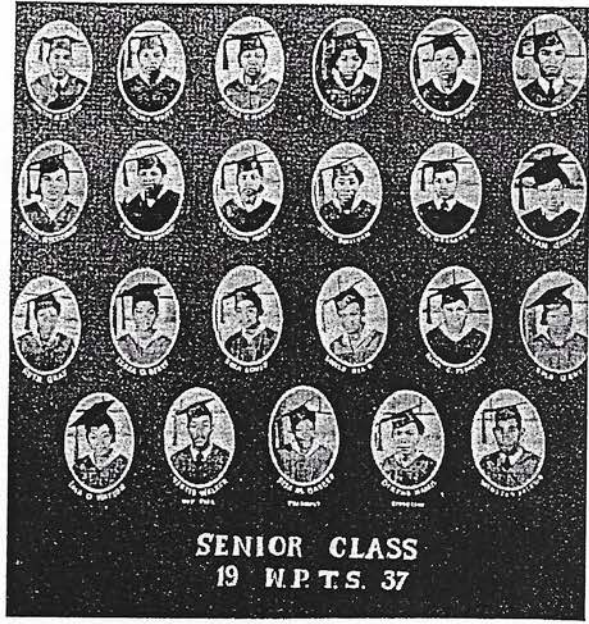
CLASS OF 1934



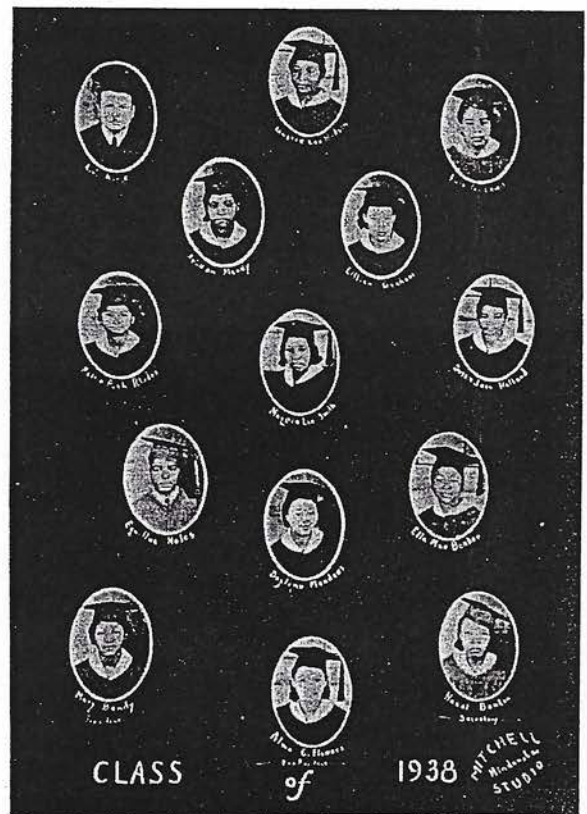
CLASS OF 1935



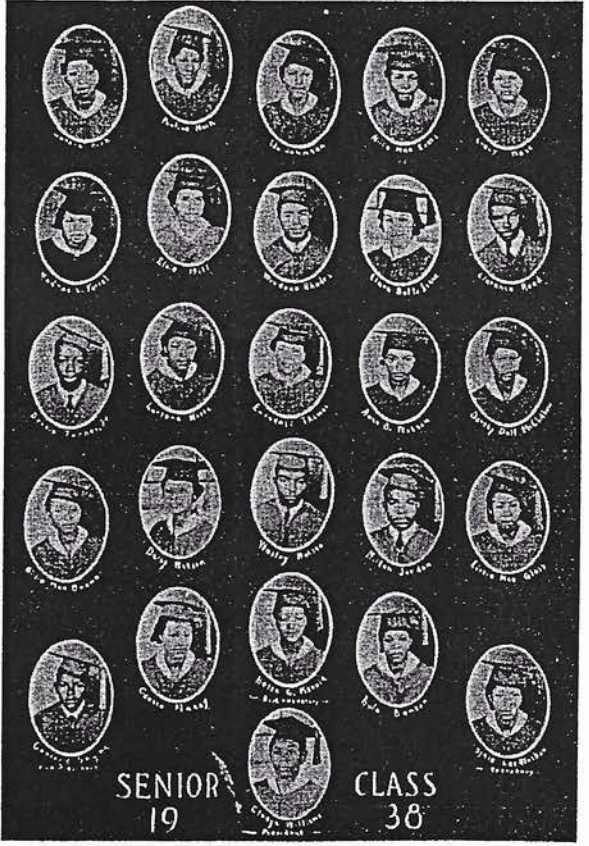
CLASS OF 1936



CLASS OF 1937



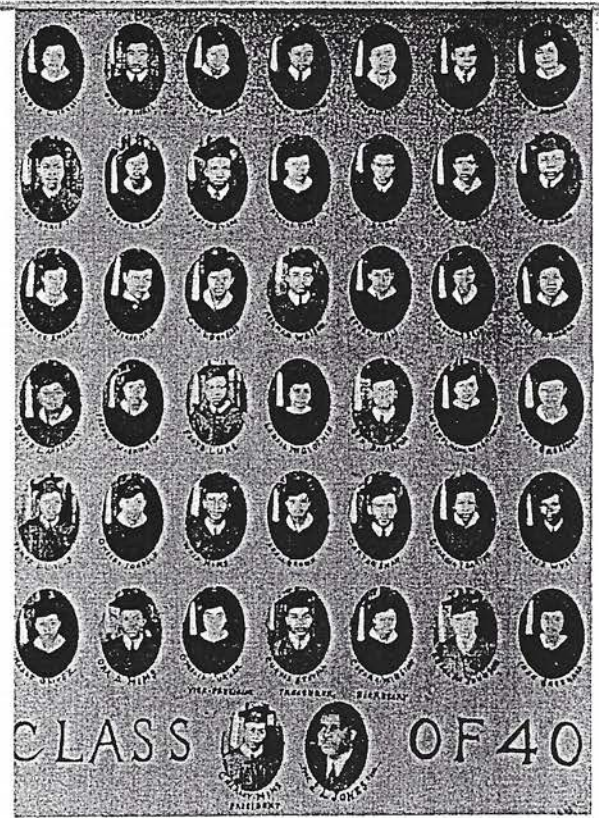
CLASS OF 1938



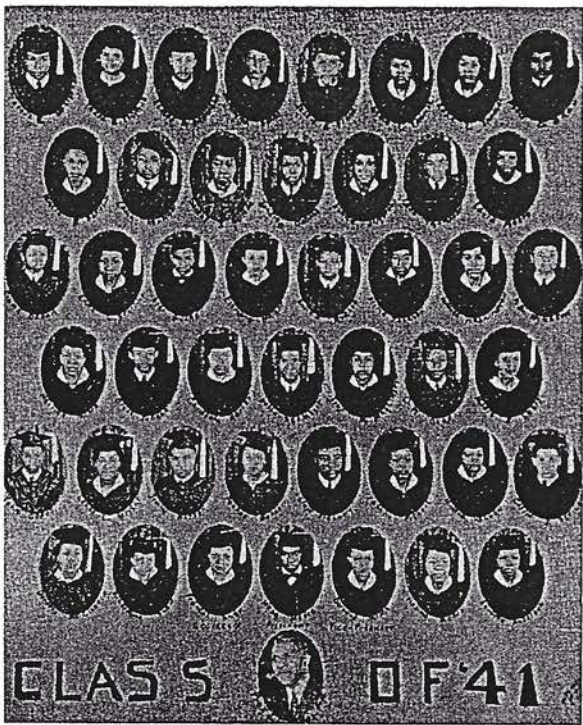
CLASS OF 1938



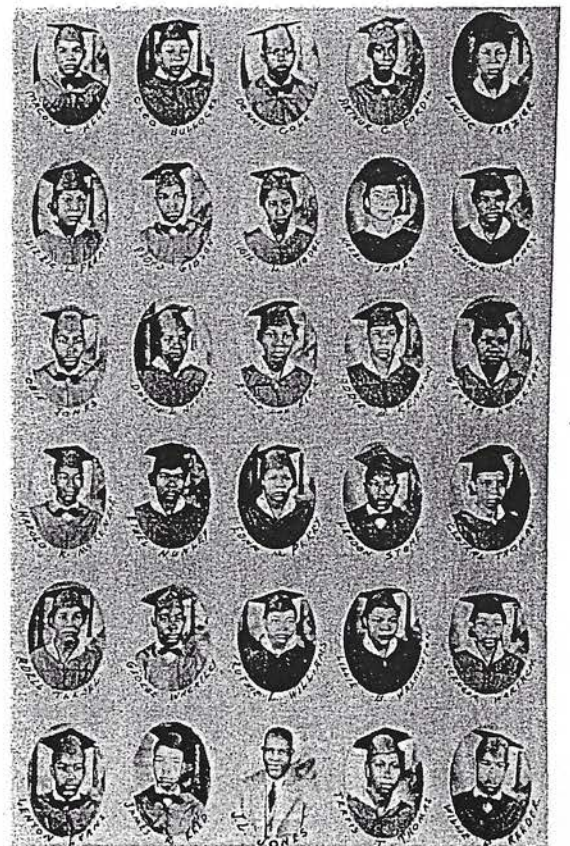
CLASS OF 1939



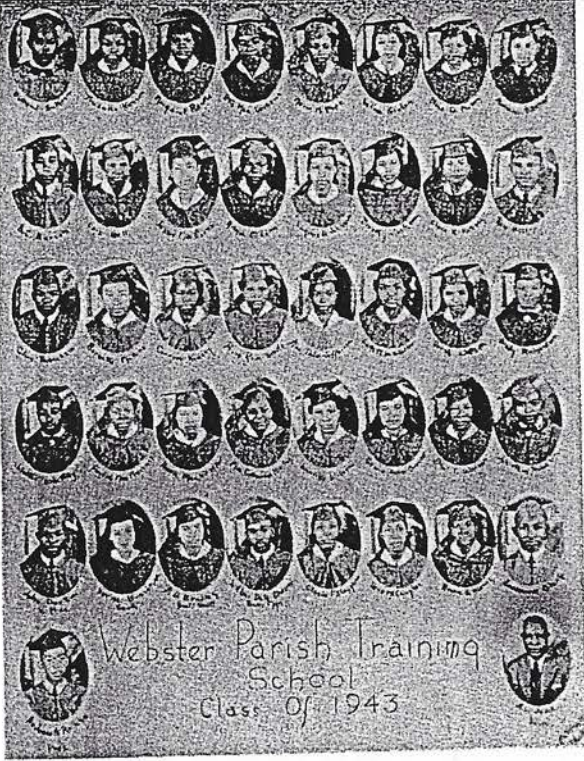
CLASS OF 1940



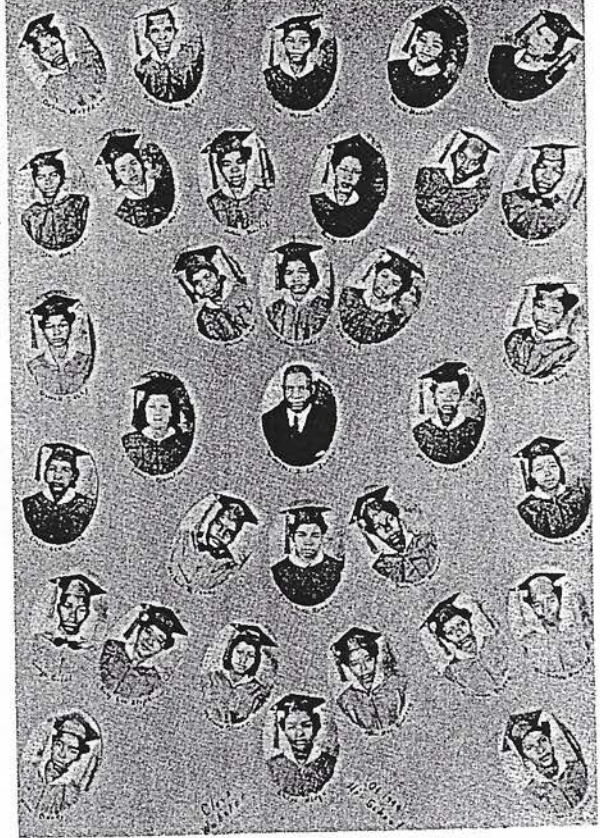
CLASS OF 1941



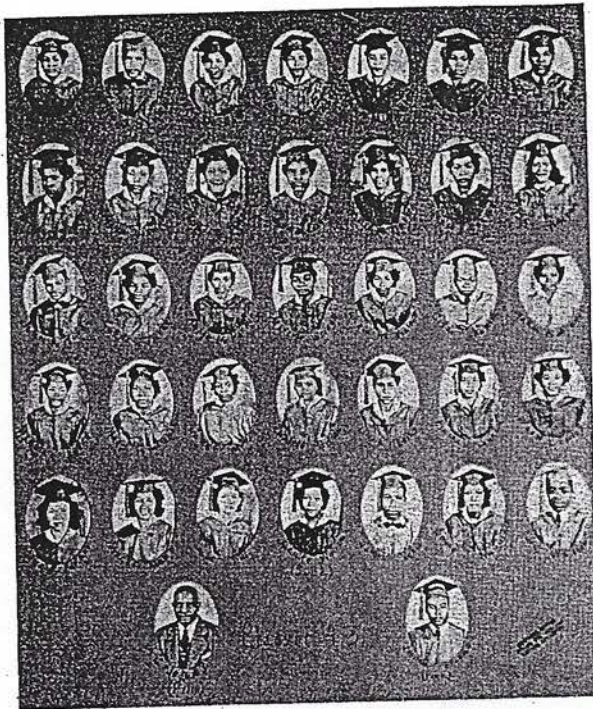
CLASS OF 1942



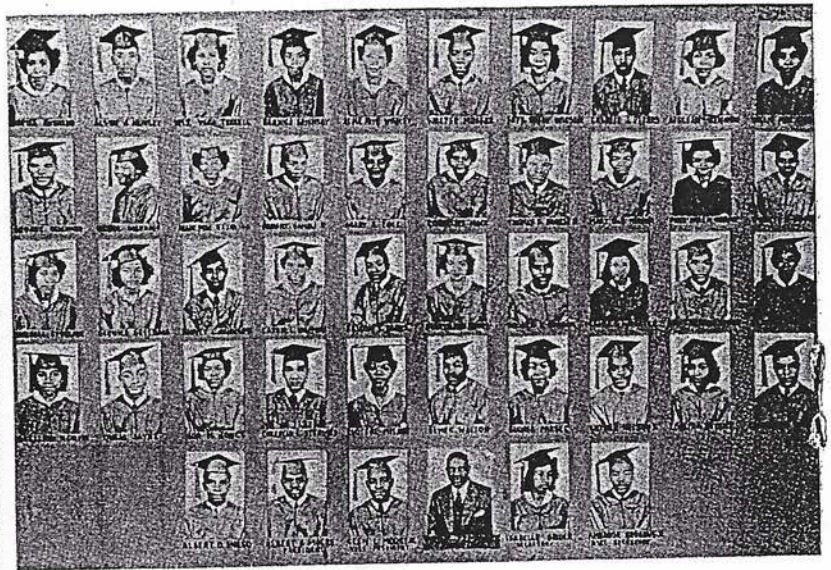
CLASS OF 1943



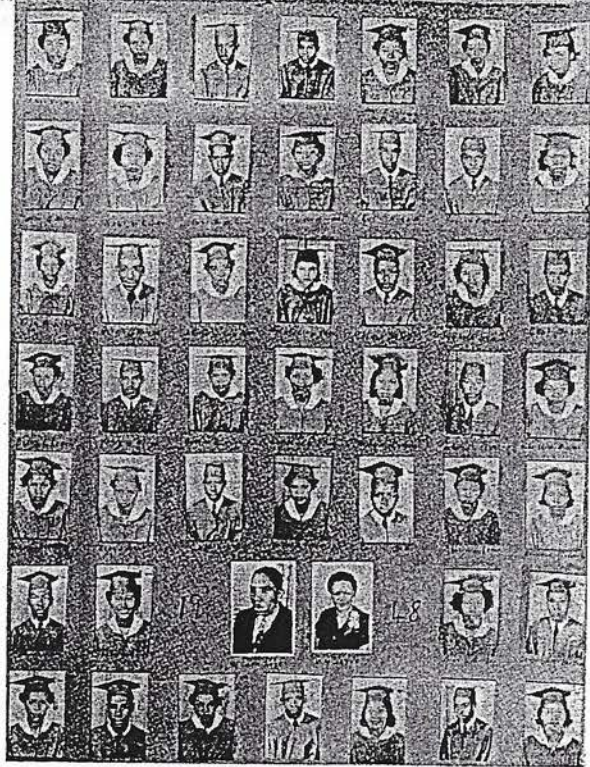
CLASS OF 1944



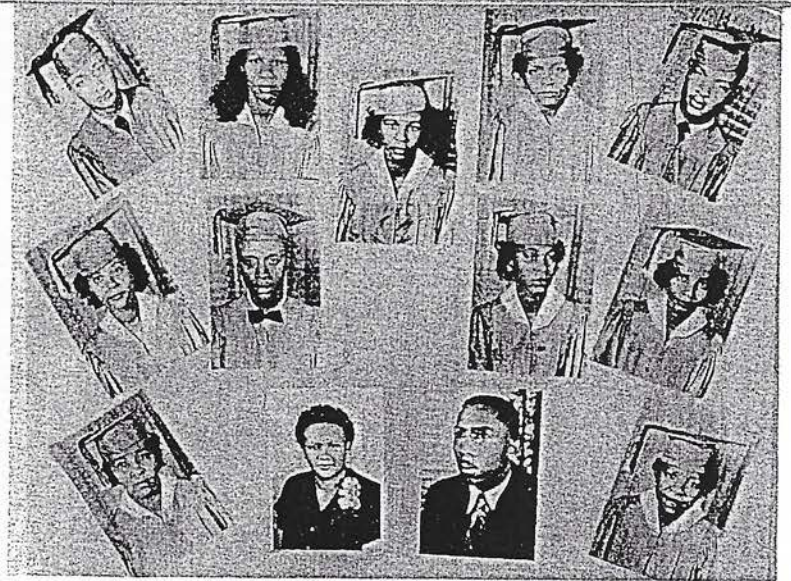
CLASS OF 1945



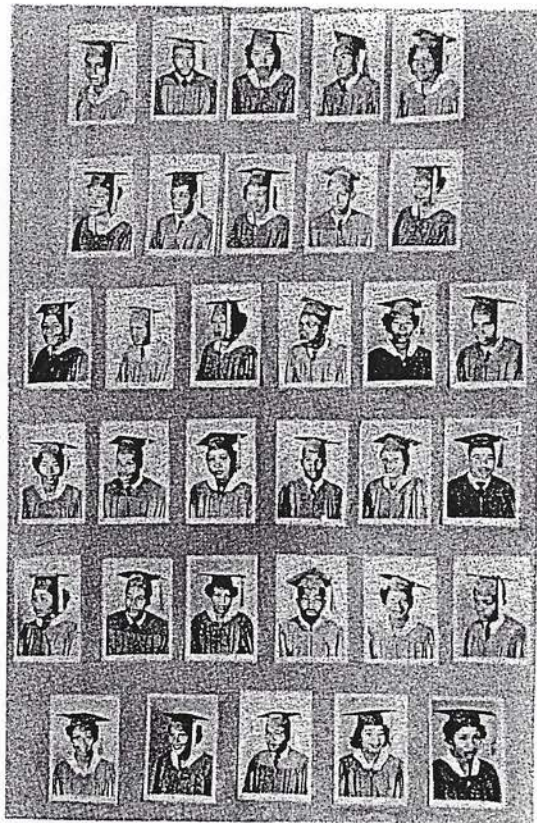
CLASS OF 1947



CLASS OF 1948



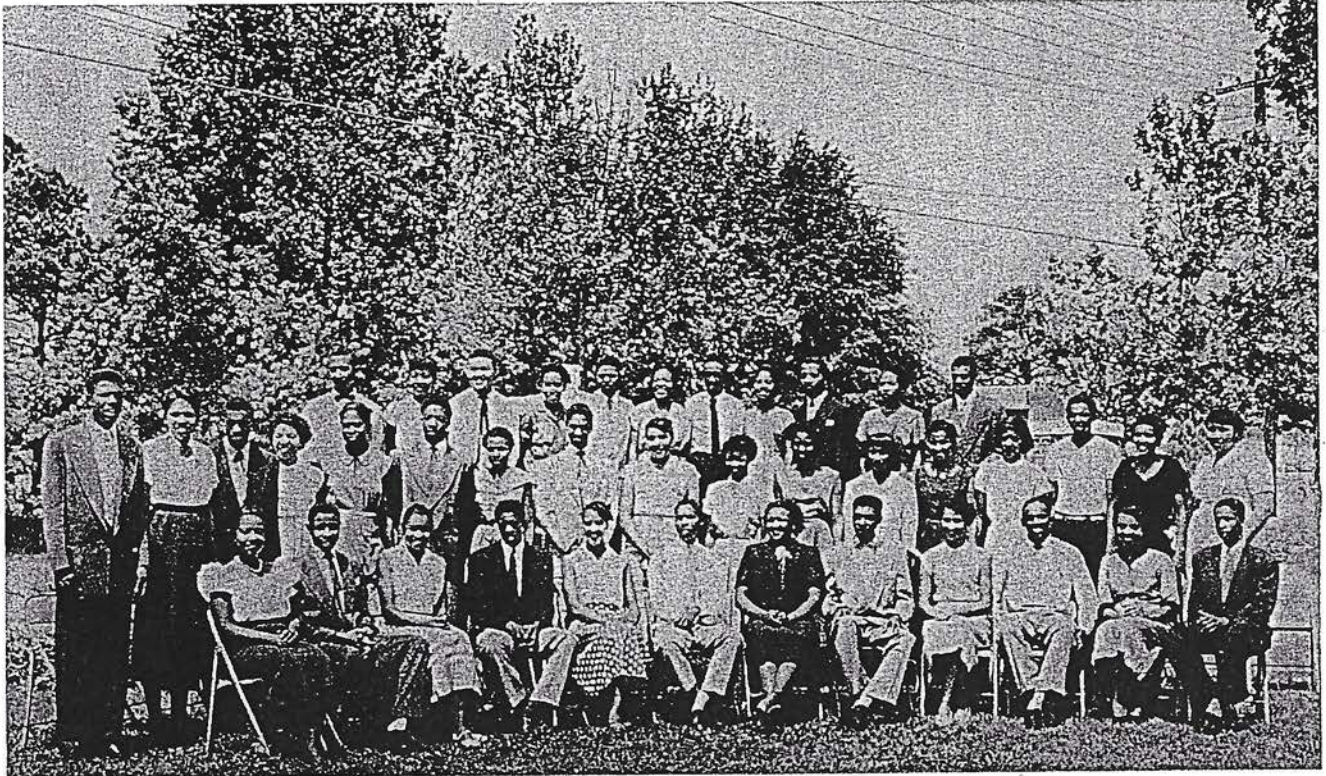
CLASS OF 1949



CLASS OF 1950



CLASS OF 1951



CLASS OF 1952



Miss Webster 1936
MISS SIBIL WALKER



Miss Webster 1937
MISS ALMA C. FLOWERS



Miss Webster 1940
MISS HAZEL JONES



Miss Webster 1941
MISS BARNETTA MULLEN



Miss Webster 1942
MISS TRUZELLA KENNON



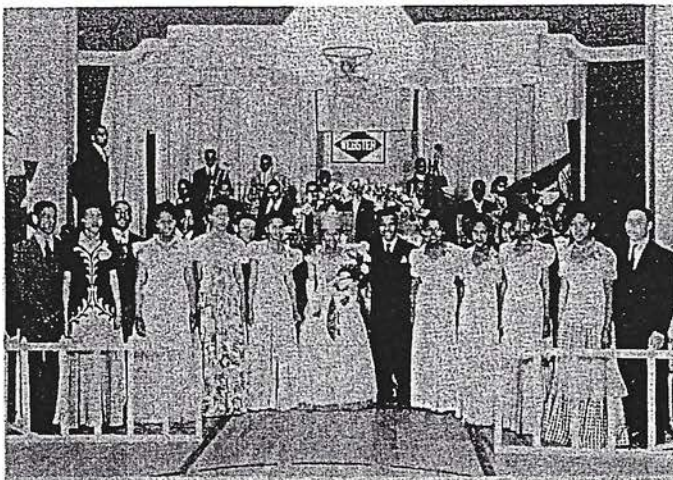
Miss Webster 1943
MISS IRMA BROADUAX



Miss Webster 1944
MISS LIZZIE MAE DILLARD



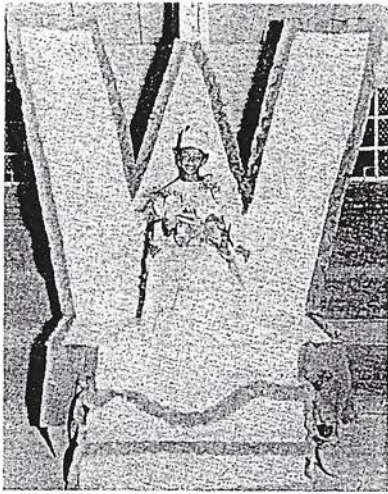
Miss Webster 1945
MISS LOREAN WINZER



Miss Webster 1946
MISS INEZ TERRELL



Miss Webster 1947
MISS CLARA SIAH



Miss Webster 1948
MISS MARY JEWEL BAILEY



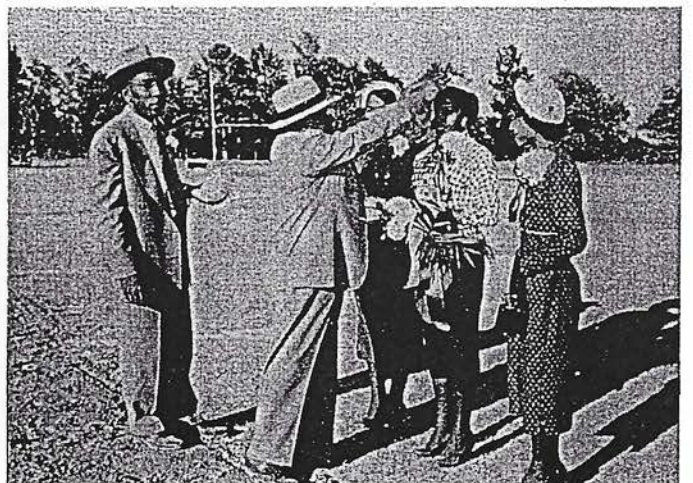
Miss Webster 1949
MISS MILDRED ROBINSON



Miss Webster 1950
MISS VENESSA MALONE



Miss Webster 1951
MISS GEORGIA ANN TARKINGTON



Miss Webster 1952
MISS CALLIE MORGAN

Pictures not available: Miss Webster 1935, MISS RUTH AMOS; Miss Webster 1938, MISS DOROTHY MIMS; Miss Webster 1939, MISS CHARITY FINLEY.

WEBSTER MOVES ON

The following article was written by a committee composed of members of the faculty of the Webster High School of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana. Composition of the committee is as follows: Mrs. Ann Lane Smith, Chairman; Mr. W. Leon Hayes, Mrs. Loreana Walton, Mr. Clifton Shaw, Mr. E. Everett Jackson, Mr. Coleman Sterling, and Miss Elizabeth M. Gunn.

The situation: In the northern part of the State of Louisiana, between Bienville and Bossier Parishes, lies the town of Minden, the political seat of Webster Parish. In 1940, the population was 6,677 of which 2,861 were Negroes. Its citizens have always referred to Minden as "a good place to call home."

The city proper has a few industrial plants and a progressive business area. The railroad shop, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company and a garment factory are its chief industrial centers. About five miles west of Minden is the United States Ordnance Plant and thirty miles north in Springhill, Louisiana, is the world's largest paper mill. These centers offer employment to many of the citizens of Minden. Besides these areas of employment there are many business enterprises. The business area comprises two banks, a first-class post office, a number of dry goods stores, several cleaning establishments, a city laundry, an ice plant, two printing offices and numerous businesses. These establishments employ only a few of the Negro citizens. Many of the Negro citizens have awakened to the need of having something of their own and have established funeral homes, several filling stations, a number of grocery stores, several taxi lines and a hospital owned and operated by the only Negro Physician in the town. These businesses received the loyal support of the majority of Negro citizens and are stepping stones to future enterprises. Even though Negroes have made rapid progress in business, many are still engaged in farming, fishing, and domestic services for economic security.

Along with the rapidity of growth in business has been the expansion of school facilities to meet the educational needs of the students of Minden and closely allied areas.

Webster High School, the oldest high school for Negroes in Webster Parish and one of the oldest in the State, was established in the year 1922. It has the reputation of having only two principals during its twenty-nine years of existence, the late Principal J. L. Jones, who was considered "Dean of Negro High School Principals" and his worthy successor, Principal W. Leon Hayes.

The school during these twenty nine years of existence has made rapid progress in physical development and educational growth because of the support of a working, foresighted, cooperative School Board, a progressive community and an ever-growing student body.

Webster High is located on Highway 80 and has a physical plant of nine buildings. These nine buildings are systematically arranged on thirty acres of land. Of the nine buildings the elementary, the home economics, and the cafeteria are the most recently constructed. The library, a two-room structure, is neatly arranged with books, magazines, and periodicals of all kinds to meet the reading needs of the community as well as the student body; and in collaboration with the library, a Materials Bureau Center headed by Miss Sue Hefley has enhanced the educational growth of teachers and students of Webster Parish.

The school enrolls students from the most remote areas in the parish. A fleet of busses operating throughout the parish bringing students to Webster High is the reason for the high enrollment of 1320 students. This vast student body is guided by a faculty of forty-two teachers, all of whom are college graduates. Twenty of this number have done work on graduate level and three have Master's degrees. The teachers and the principal work "hand in hand" to improve the educational experiences of the children and have the responsible tasks of guiding students in desirable educational practices through various activities.

To be sure that proper guidance is given to the activity program, teachers of Webster High meet in study groups, have regular faculty meetings and assemble monthly with other teachers of the parish to discuss and weigh that which is best for the students' welfare.

The teachers also take an active part in church activities and make an annual visit, along with the principal, to every church in the town. This is a gesture of good-will and friendly relationship that exists between the community and the school. Some of the teachers, to further promote this relationship, have been engaged in giving free services to adult education.

Webster High has always had the good will of the community and as a result of this relationship, has one of the best P. T. A. organizations in the state. The P. T. A. has bought the band uniforms and has assisted in buying lights for the football field and in purchasing playground equipment. This organization cooperates wholeheartedly with the principal in every endeavor.

The past year the teachers, students, and patrons worked diligently to raise money for the purchasing of a school bus. As a result of this effort, \$4,000 was raised and applied to this needed obligation. All monies raised through school projects is accounted for through an annual report to the public at large by the principal and his cooperative committee. This is a means of assuring the public and parents-at-large of an honest application of all monies raised.

Another example of school-community relationship is the spirit of cooperation that existed during the Homecoming Day. It is at this time that every business looks forward to contributing to the Homecoming Parade. Each business strives hard to give a well decorated "float" or car that is in keeping with a suggested theme as agreed upon and chosen by the faculty of Webster High. The past year approximately seventy-five cars were represented in the parade.

Just as the patrons in the community cooperate wholeheartedly in the above named activities, so do they contribute willingly and unselfishly to National Projects as The Red Cross, Junior Red Cross, Infantile Paralysis Fund, Tuberculosis Fund, and The Heart Drive.

For the past two years, the school has been so instrumental in establishing new trends in education by the principal and faculty that Webster High School students have benefited scholastically.

The elementary department of Webster High has adopted a plan to include in its curriculum activities that are related to those of the high school. The purpose of this plan is to give the students a familiar background of the things found when they enter high school.

For the past two years, the school has been instrumental in sending two boys to Bayou Boys' State for the purpose of training youth in governmental practices and interchanging cultural ideas.

As teachers have seen progress in the physical growth of the school, equally anxious are they to see progress in the students cultural and scholastic growth.

During the school day, time is allocated to a wholesome activity program. Each home-room teacher is responsible for some given activity and strives diligently to make the activity period helpful and enjoyable.

The school has one of the best dramatics clubs in the State of Louisiana and has an ever-growing band that is second to none in the State. In order to build finer womanhood and manhood among girls and boys, Webster High endorses the purposes and practices of the girls' Hi-Y and boys' Hi-Y Club, the Boy Scouts, Science Club, the N. H. A. N. F. A. and 4-H Clubs. Besides these activities, football, basketball, baseball, tennis, and a summer recreation program play an important part in developing character.

The school can also boast of a well-developed Audio-Visual center which serves both high school and elementary departments. It is because of the acceptance of this new trend in education by the principal and faculty that Webster High school students have benefited scholastically.

During his visit last year to Webster High School, Mr. L. L. Kilgore remarked that Webster High has one of the best activity programs in the State. He found many clubs existing and witnessed a number of them in action.

In conclusion, we feel that Webster High is one of the reasons why Minden is "a good place to call home."



ILLUSTRIOUS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF WEBSTER HIGH



ANDERSON, DOROTHY J., MRS.
Webster 43; B.S., Tenn. A & I; Graduate work,
St. Louis University; Taught at Webster 5 yrs.

ANDERSON, OZELL S., MRS.
Webster 37; B.S., Grambling College; Teacher
in Webster Parish for 7 yrs.



CAREY, BESSIE W., MRS.
Webster 44; Spaulding Business College 46; Sec-
retary to Attorneys Howard & Bradley of Kansas
City, Kansas.

CITISON, MILDRED L., MRS.
Webster 27; B.S., Southern University 36; M.S.,
University of Southern California 51; Teacher
Webster High School.



COLEMAN, BIRDIE L., MRS.
Webster 40; B.A., Southern University; Grad-
uate work, University of Denver and Atlanta
University; Teacher Ringgold Col. High School.

CROWLEY, VIRGINIA M., MRS.
Webster 41; B.S., Grambling College 45; Grad-
uate work at Hampton and California State Col-
lege; Teacher Central Con. Junior High.



DOZIER, CHRISTOLA H., MRS.
Webster 41; B.S., Grambling College 45; Grad-
uate work at Fisk University; Teacher Webster
High School.

FORD, ARTHUR C., JR., MR.
Webster 42; 43-46 Army; A.B., Kansas Univer-
sity 50; Assistant Bacteriologist at Newark Beth
Isreal Hospital.



FULLER, SERVADA W., MRS.
Webster 32; TT 33; B.S., Grambling College
50; Teacher Webster Parish for 10 yrs.

GIBSON, ZETHA S., MRS.
Webster 37; B.S., Grambling College 50; Teach-
er Webster Parish for 15 yrs.

GLADNEY, OTIS D., MR.

Webster 35; Taught in Parish 6 yrs. ; Now employed as Mechanic for the Pullman Co. ; Educational Director of A. F. L. of San Francisco District.



GRAHAM, LILLIAN M., MRS.

Webster 37; B. S. , Grambling College 46; Graduate work Columbia University; Teacher Brown High School.

HARRIS, MABLE L., MRS.

Webster 41; San Diego Junior College; Employed as Secretary by the Los Angeles Board of Education.



HAYES, MARGUERITE A., MRS.

Webster 41; Extension - Wiley, Summers - Spelman College; Founder and Owner of "The Mrs. Hayes' Kindergarten."

HILL, LEROY, MR.

Webster 43; Army 43-45; Co-owner of the Hill Brothers Plumbing Company.



JACOBS, BUNYAN, MR.

Webster 31; TT 32; Advance Study, University of Indiana; 1st Vice President and General Manager of Lighthouse Insurance Co.

JACOBS, VERNA L., MRS.

Webster 35; B. A. , Wiley College 47; Graduate work University of Southern California; Teacher Bossier Elementary School.



JONES, ANNIE L., MRS.

Webster TT 37; B. S. , Grambling College; Teacher Webster High School.

JONES, CATHERINE E., MISS

Webster 39; B. S. , Talladega 43; M. S. , New York University; Professor of Physical Education Grambling College.



JONES, MAURICE M., MRS.

Webster 37; B. S. , Southern University 41; Graduate Study Atlanta University; Teacher Webster High School.



JORDAN, MILTON G., MR.
Webster 38; 3 yrs. at Southern University; Army;
Now employed at the Veterans Administration,
Washington D. C.

LEARY, JAMES C., MR.
Webster 30; TT 33; A. B., Southern University 37;
M. S., University of Southern California 52;
Assistant Principal Central Junior High, Shreve-
port.



LEARY, MABLE E., MRS.
Webster TT 28; A. B., Wiley College 32; Active
in civic and church work; Teacher at Webster
High since 1925.

LEARY, WARREN, MR.
Webster 39; Attended Texas and Wiley College;
Army; Now employed as a brick mason, U. S.
Civil Service, Omaha, Nebraska.



MAY, TINA W., MRS.
Webster 41; B. S., Southern University 45; Teach-
er Esther Toombs High, Delhi, Louisiana.

MOORE, WOODROW, MR.
Webster High; One of the first Negro Cab Owners
of Minden.



MORGAN, MARY E., MISS
Webster 47 (Val.); B. S., Grambling College 51;
Teacher Brown High School, Springhill, Louisi-
ana.

MORGAN, NANCY B., MRS.
Webster 37; B. S., Grambling College 49; Teach-
er Central Con. Junior High School.



PIERCE, ODIS F., REVEREND
Webster 40; Pastor: Mt. Zion, Liberty Hill and
Mt. Pero Baptist Churches.

RAMBEAU, ARDENIA A., MR.
Webster 43 (Val.); B. A., Tenn. State; Graduate
work, Loyal University, Quebec, Canada; Prof.
of French, Miles College.

REEDER, WILLIE R., MR.
Webster 42; B. S., Southern University 47; Graduate Study University of Iowa; Teacher Central Con. Junior High School.

REAVES, T. ELLA, MRS.
Webster 32; TT 33; B. S., Grambling College 52; Teacher Webster High School.

RHONE, ETHEL N., MRS.
Webster 42; B. S., Grambling College 46; Graduate work University of Wyoming; Teacher Ringgold Col. High School.

SHAW, CARTER, MR.
Webster 40; Army; B. S., Tuskegee Institute 52; Minden's First Negro Car Salesman.

SHAW, CLIFTON H., MR.
Webster 41; Army; B. A., Wiley College; Band Director at Webster High School.

SMITH, GRANVILLE L., MR.
Webster 27; A. B., Payne College 31; Southern College of Morticians 38; Civic and Church worker.

STERLING, COLEMAN, MR.
Webster 47; B. S., Southern University 50; Teacher Webster High School.

STONE, JESSE N., JR., Attorney.
Webster 41; Southern University Law School 51; Practicing in Shreveport and Minden.

STRICKLAND, CALVIN J., MR.
Webster 41 (Val.); Attended Southern University; Played trumpet with Noble Sissle, Buddy Johnson; Arranger and Composer.

TERRELL, CATHERINE K., MRS.
Webster 39; B. S., Grambling College 52; Teacher Webster High School.





TERRELL, ELNORA D., MRS.
Webster 33; Senior at Grambling College; Teach-
er in Webster Parish.



TURNER, STYANO B., MR.
Webster 39; B.S., Tuskegee Institute 43; Grad-
uate work Michigan State College; Army; Teach-
er Webster High School.



WATSON, JAMES L., SR., MR.
Webster TT 30; Taught in Parish 2 yrs.; Active
in Church and Civic affairs of Washington.



WALKER, VERDIS, MR.
Webster 37; Navy; Eastern School for Physician's
Aids 47; X-Ray Tech. Veterans Administration,
Tuskegee, Alabama.



WALTON, LOREANA W., MRS.
Webster 37; B.S., Grambling College; Grad-
uate work San Francisco State; Teacher Webster
High School.



WARD, ARLENA A., MRS.
Webster 37; Work at Southern and Grambling;
Taught 10 yrs. in Parish; Retired on disability.



WARDLOW, VELMA R., MRS.
Webster 37; B.S., Grambling College 50; Teach-
er Webster High School.



WEBB, ELLA F., MRS.
Webster TT; Graduate from Grambling; Graduate
work University of Berkeley; Teacher Webster
High School.



WHITE, ANNIE L., MISS
Webster High; B.A., Wiley College 36; Graduate
work University of Southern California; Teacher
St. John High School, Homer.



WILSON, CLYDE A., MRS.
Webster 45; B.S., Arkansas State College 49;
Graduate work at Prairie View College; Home
Demonstration Agent, Red River Parish.

NUMBER OF GRADUATES FROM WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR A 30 YEAR PERIOD 1923-1952

YEAR	HIGH SCHOOL	T. T.
1923 - 1930		
1931 - - - - -	19	
1932 - - - - -	21	
1933 - - - - -	22	
1934 - - - - -	12	19
1935 - - - - -	24	9
1936 - - - - -	21	17
1937 - - - - -	28	31
1938 - - - - -	26	36
1939 - - - - -	38	14
1940 - - - - -	48	18
1941 - - - - -	45	5
1942 - - - - -	30	14
1943 - - - - -	41	
1944 - - - - -	32	
1945 - - - - -	38	
1946 - - - - -	48	
1947 - - - - -	46	
1948 - - - - -	48	
1949 - - - - -	11	
1950 - - - - -	35	
1951 - - - - -	40	
1952 - - - - -	<u>41</u>	
Total	<u>771</u>	Total <u>163</u> T. T.

Grand Total 934

WEBSTER HIGH TODAY



MR. J. E. PITCHER
Superintendent of
Webster Parish Schools



MISS GRACE N. LANDRY
Jeanes Supervisor of Webster
Parish Schools



MR. W. LEON HAYES
Principal of Webster
High School



THE WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

TEACHERS WITH 15 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE WHO ARE STILL TEACHING AT WEBSTER



MRS. MABLE E. LEARY



MRS. A. L. JORDAN



MRS. MILDRED CITISON



MRS. GEORGIA L. HARRIS

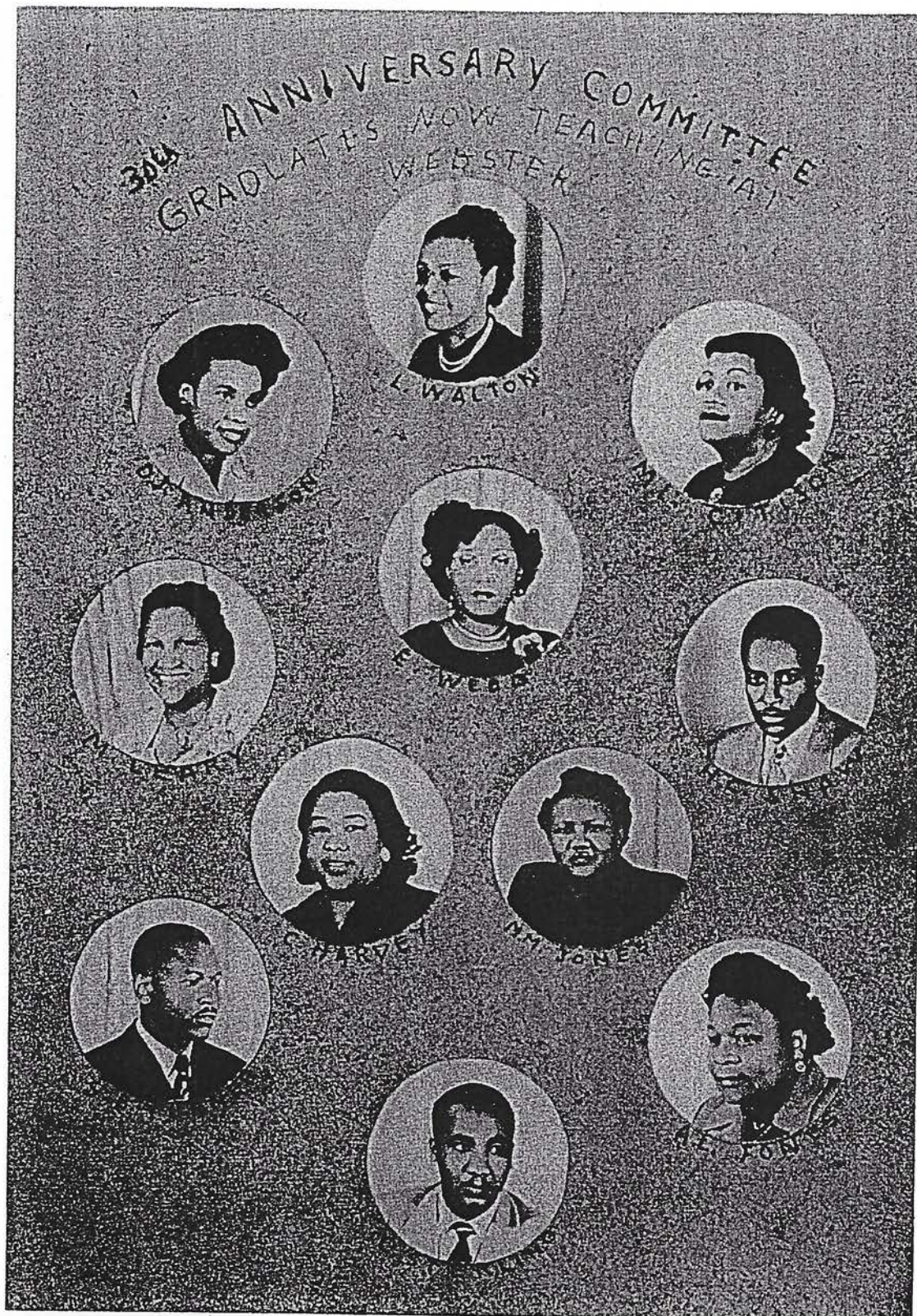
WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE



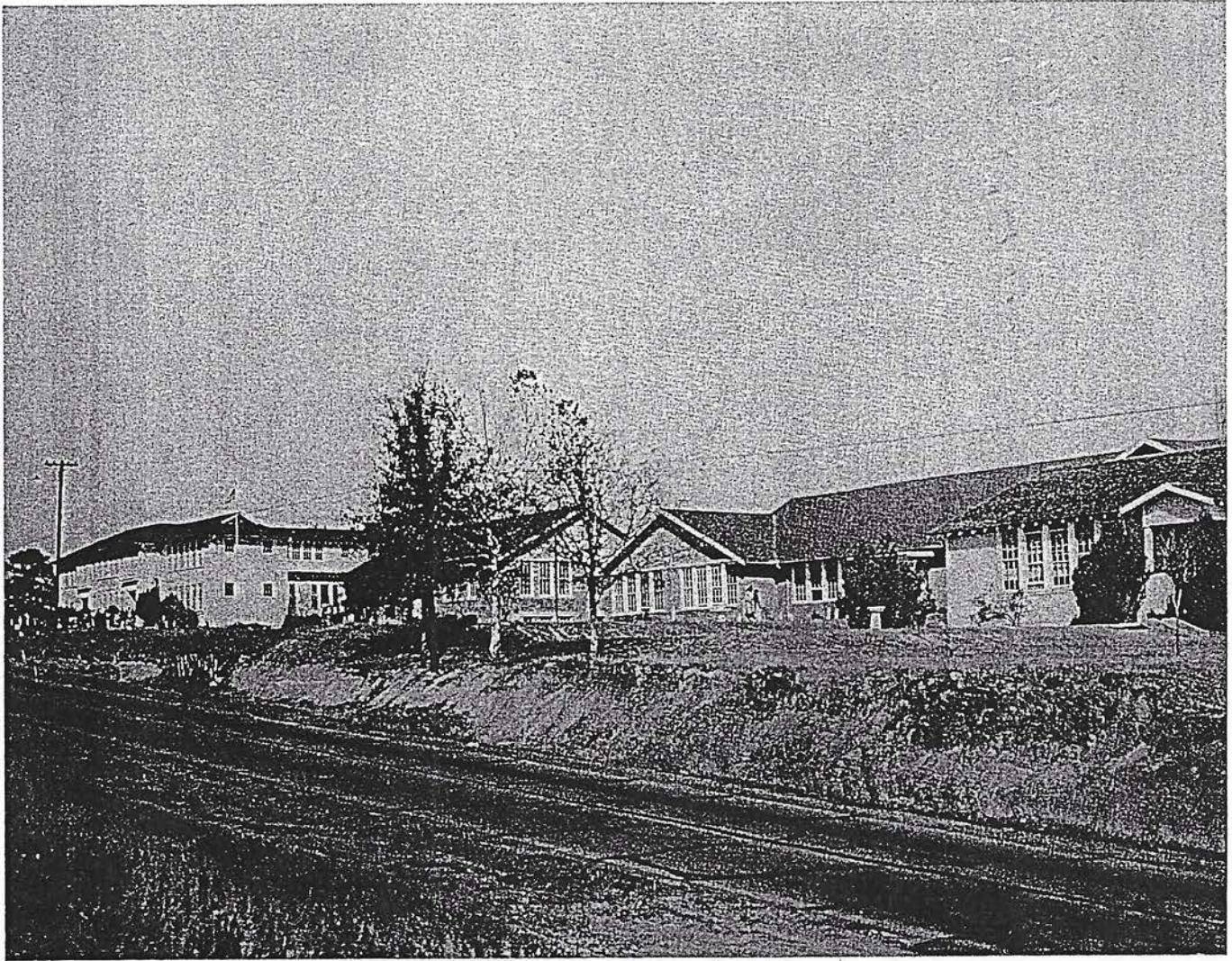
MR. RICHARD BADDIE, MR. BUNRUS HARRIS, MR. RICHARD DREW, MR. ELLIS MONTGOMERY

These men assist the principal with many problems that arise, and have served well.

30TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



MUCH CREDIT IS DUE THIS COMMITTEE FOR THIS PUBLICATION.



WEBSTER HIGH TODAY

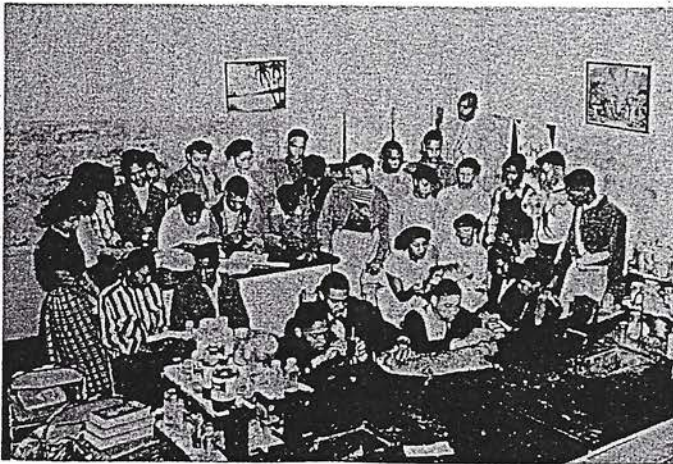
TODAY'S ACTIVITIES



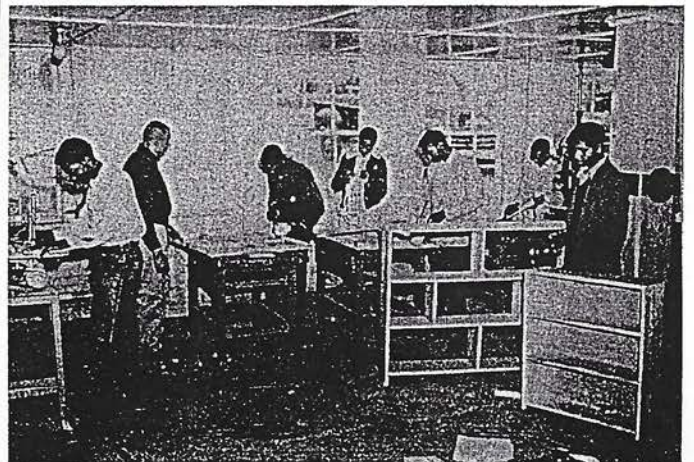
GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM



BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM



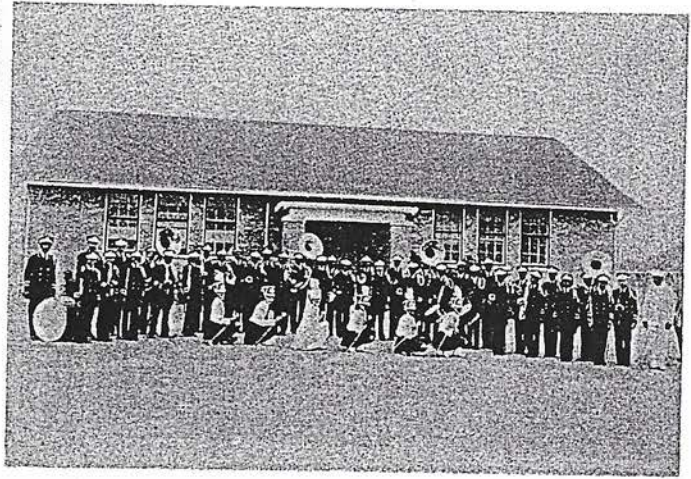
SCIENCE CLUB



INDUSTRIAL ARTS CLUB



MIXED CHORUS



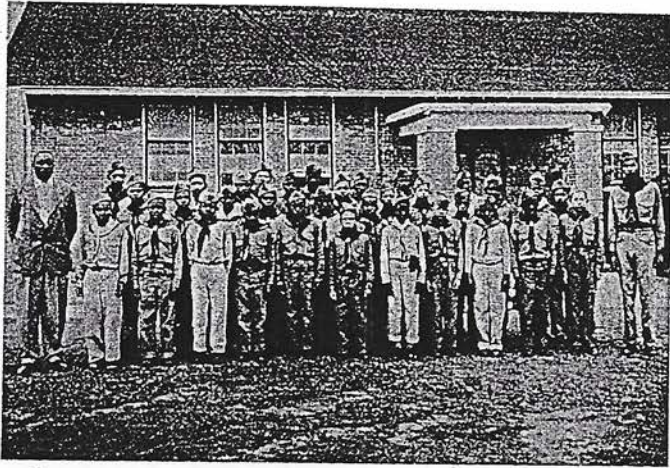
BAND



PROJECTIONIST CLUB



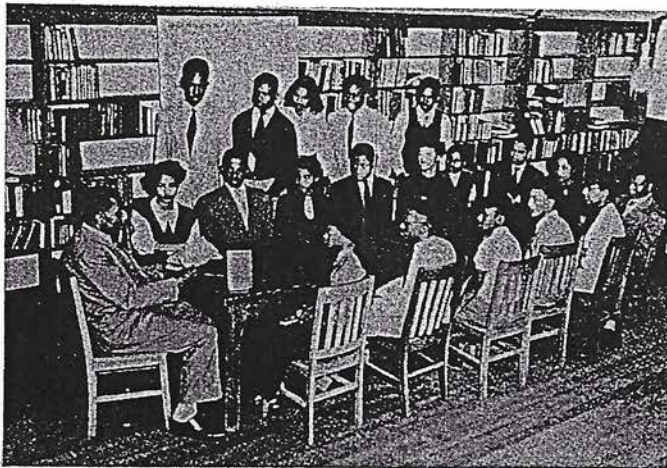
GIRLS' HI-Y



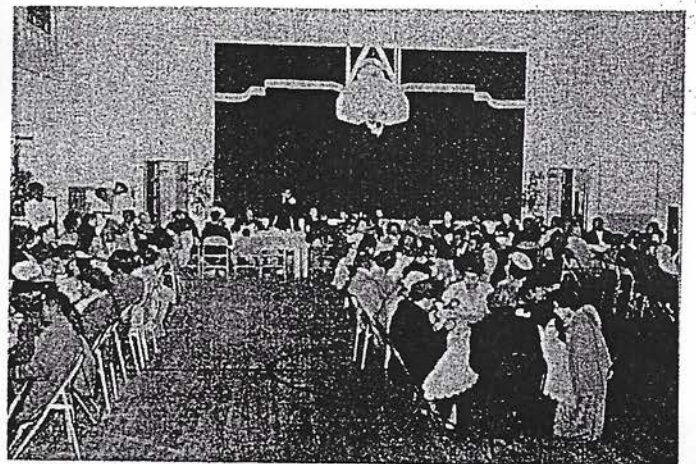
BOY SCOUTS



FUTURE TEACHERS OF AMERICA



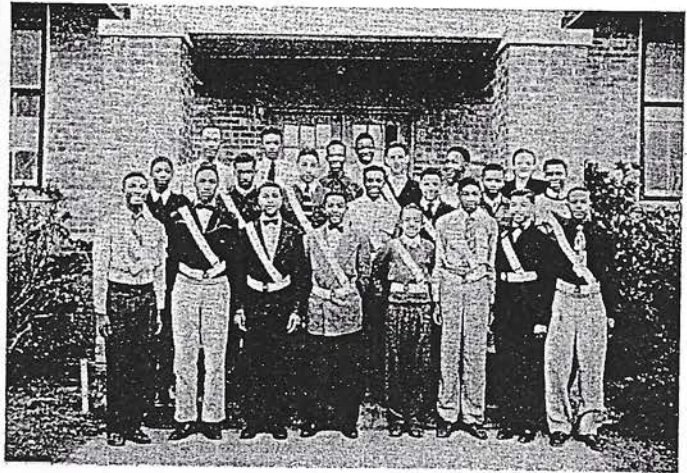
PRINCIPAL'S STUDENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



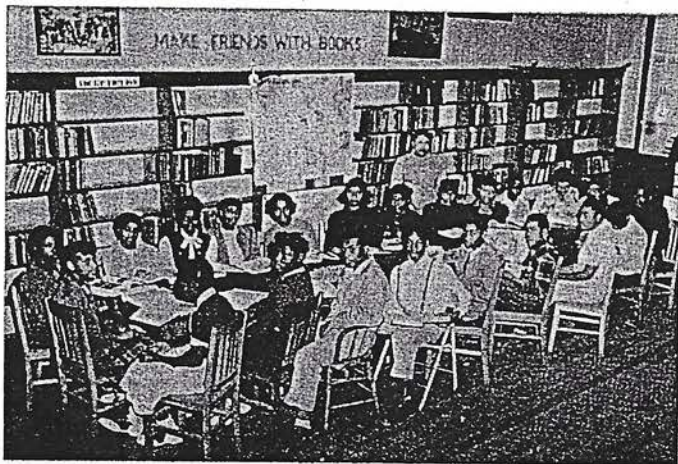
FATHER-SON
MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET



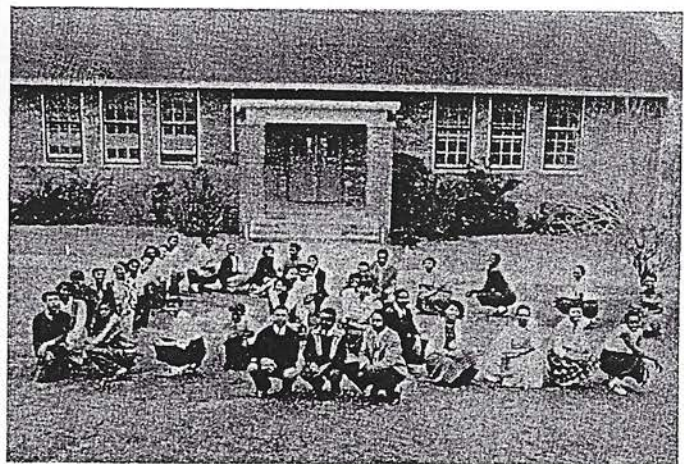
N. H. A. CLUB



PATROL FORCE



BOOK CLUB



DRAMATIC CLUB

PATRON LIST FOR THE 30TH

ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gamble
Nation Brothers
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Hill
Mr. Luther Norton
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leary
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simpson
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Epps
Mr. Odis Davidson
Mr. Alex Barnes
Rev. and Mrs. Stearns
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Willie Turner
Mr. and Mrs. M. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heard
Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cameron
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Ewell
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kirk
Mr. and Mrs. Van Gopes
Mr. and Mrs. Styano Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rice
Rev. and Mrs. T. H. Hughley
Rev. and Mrs. W. M. Davidson
Mrs. O. R. Jones
Mr. Bates
Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Cotton
Rev. and Mrs. W. B. Burks
Mr. and Mrs. C. Rice
Rev. and Mrs. Z. C. Gilliam
Miss Grace N. Landry
Mr. Eddie Williams
Mr. Loyd Graham
Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Williams
Mr. Willie Cornelius
Mr. Jimmie Lee Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Artis Thomas
Mr. Naman Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Scott
Mr. Willie Lee
Mr. and Mrs. W. Leon Hayes
Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Phillips
Mr. L. E. Dufilho (Wolf's)
Mr. Henry Hewitt
Mrs. Viola Armstrong
Mr. Robert Benton
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Allen
Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Sims

Nancy L. Sterling



ALMA MATER

Words and Music
by
Mrs. Florence E. Davis Woods

Webster, dear old Webster,
We owe our all to thee.
Webster, dear old Webster,
We pledge our loyalty,
To the white and blue
We'll always be true.

II

Webster, dear old Webster,
The dearest school of all.
Webster, dear old Webster,
We will ever heed thy call.
No matter where we roam,
You'll be our high-school home.
Webster we love you.

III

For Webster, dear old Webster,
Let your banners be unfurled.
For Webster, dear old Webster
Sing praises O'er all the world
And the birds as they sing,
Will adoration bring
To our beloved old high.

I became a member of the Webster Parish Training School Faculty and teacher of the Sixth Grade in September of 1931.

After having been there for a short time the late Mr. J. L. Jones suggested that the school should have an Alma Mater. I readily agreed to his suggestion and undertook the task of writing one. For, within that limited time I became aware of the interest, loyalty and esteem of the alumni and students - and the manner in which they loved and cherished "Dear Old Webster."

Florence E. D. Woods