

HOSTESSES

P.T.A. TABLE.....Mrs. Ivan Havel
 Mrs. Jim Langley
 Mrs. Harry Melton
 Mrs. Elvin Ewing
 SWEDEN.....Mrs. Bill Chandler
 Mrs. Eloise Chandler
 HOLLAND.....Mrs. Richard Ard
 Mrs. Elton Keating
 ITALY.....Mrs. Alex Jones
 Mrs. Pete Macon
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA.....Mrs. Ben Kucera
 Mrs. George Kucera
 EGYPT.....Mrs. Janette Legrone
 Mrs. Maxine Fendley
 GERMANY.....Mrs. Gene Vasko
 Mrs. Diane Kaiser
 SPAIN.....Mrs. Eddie Sturma
 Mrs. John Sturma
 FINLAND.....Mrs. Gladys Phildius
 Mrs. Phyllis Jordan
 JAPAN.....Mrs. William Doss
 Mrs. William Bigham
 Mrs. Lelaus Oden
 TROPICAL ISLANDS... Mrs. Walter Pope
 Mrs. Lollie Gravett

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 Carol Passmore
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Founders Day Banquet

February 21, 1970

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PROGRAM

Invocation Rev. Bill Courington

Welcome Mr. Ivan Havel
President P.T.A. 1969-70

Introduction of Hostesses
and Serving Girls Rev. C. A. Simmons

Meal Served

Introduction of Special Guests Felix Bigby, Jr.
Principal

American Field Service Student - Suzanne Millner
Turku, Finland

Speaker Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon
President,
University of South Alabama

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FOUNDERS DAY

The Silverhill School PTA welcomes you to this, their twenty-fifth Founders Day Banquet. You are cordially invited to lood at the beautiful array of tables that represent the following countries: Germany, Egypt, Italy, Spain, Finland, Tropical Islands, Holland, Japan, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and the annual traditional PTA table. The hostesses will carry out the uniqueness of their country in the table decorations and dessert, and the serving girls will do so in their costumes and hairdo.

Silverhill was founded by a group of Swedish men, 'The Svea Land Company', from Chicago, who wished to build a colony in a warmer climate for their fellow-countrymen, who had migrated from Sweden to America. These men, headed by Founder Mr. Oscar Johnson, came to Baldwin County, Alabama in 1896. They purchased land, had it surveyed, began building a house, but were forced to leave because of the yellow fever epidemic along the Gulf Coast. Returning to Chicago, they waited for the quarantine to be lifted. On the first train leaving Chicago for New Orleans came the Svea Land Company and the first family, Mr. and Mrs. Axel Westerlund and Ester Louise (the now Mrs. Lundberg) being an infant, she became the first child in the new colony, "Svea".

This area since the War Between the States, had been known as "Silverhill" because of the workmen having all been paid by "Silver money" at a Turpentine Still on "the Hill" just to the north of Silverhill's presentday Oscar Johnson Memorial Park. So, later on "Svea" was legally changed to "Silverhill".

Since there were no towns or schools in this part of Baldwin County, the wives and children of the "Land Company" stayed in Chicago, and Mr. and Mrs. Westerlund were asked to lodge and board the "Land Seekers" and early settlers. Before the arrival of their furniture, boards were nailed together for tables and benches, beds were made of pine straw covered with blankets, and the food was cooked on a stump fire. An influx of Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, and later Czechs, Silverhill grew into a substantial town and farming community with a school, churches, Post Office, stores, hotel, library, community and county fairs, etc.

Silverhill was incorporated in 1926 with Mr. Oscar Johnson as the first mayor. At present, Silverhill has a population of well over 500. "Silverhill, A Good Place to Live" boasts of one of the earliest PTA's (being organized in the spring of 1907) and one of the first libraries (fall of 1907) in the county.

In summer 1898 a young visitor from Chicago, Ester Anderson, conducted a school during the summer in a new barn with a class of some eight or ten. The following winter Mr. Johnson paid a Miss Milly Anderson to teach in the Colony Office Building (the present library) where Church and Sunday School were already being conducted. The enrollment grew, and school was conducted in the Baptist Church while a community school (2 rooms, 2 stories, the now Mrs. G. Edhegard home) was being built.

1906 brought two teachers, Miss Mary Feminere (Mrs. Killebrew) and Miss Pearl Campbell (Mrs. Ned Noonan) both of Bay Minette. In the spring of 1907 they organized the "School Improvement Association" with Mrs T.A. Johnson (the former Mrs. Axel Westerlund) as the first president. In 1928 the County built a new modern six room brick building across from the first school, with a large auditorium, principal's office, and a school lunchroom kitchen. The name "School Improvement Association" had now been changed to "Parent-Teacher Assn."

In 1945, Principal Mrs. Wm. B. Wingard and PTA chairman Mrs. Albert Philips founded the Silverhill PTA Founders Day Banquet. It began in a small modest way and has grown to be one of the biggest occasions in Baldwin County. Formerly the tables represented the months of the year; now they represent various nations of the world. They were held in the school auditorium until the school building burned and was totally destroyed in 1955. Since then, the banquets have been held out of doors, at the PZK Hall, at the Baptist Multi-purpose Building, and now at the Robertsdale Coliseum.

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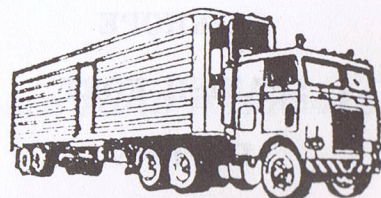
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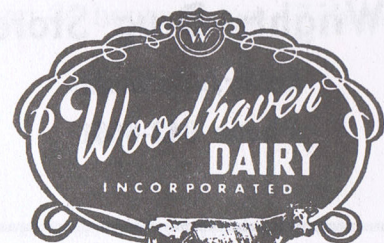
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