

Reminisces of Huntington High School

by Hattie Spruiell Suber, Class of 1968

Eagerly anticipating eighth grade orientation at the citadel of Viking land, Huntington High School, I approached the auditorium all bright eyed, chatting and laughing with my friends. Guided to our seats by the SPA representatives, I naively waited for Mr. W. D. Scales to greet us heartily and with a smile. These naive thoughts were dashed by Mr. Scales who proceeded to put us in our place thereby setting the tone for our behavior at Huntington. He said, "You have two rights at Huntington High, the right to breathe and graduate if I say so." Properly chastened I silently trudged out of the auditorium looking for my homeroom. "Welcome to Huntington!", an upperclassman cried, "Scales won't send you home for a reason, but he will send for a season."

I did not question Mr. Scales' authority or run home to my mother complaining about a wounded self-esteem. We all seemed to know that we had better behave and return to Huntington with one goal in mind, gaining a good education while behaving like ladies and gentlemen. I personally tried to mind my P's and Q's for it was considered poor form to appear on Mr. Scales list for ill-behaved miscreants. Scales reminded the students on a frequent basis that we could always be sent to Hanover "with the rest of our kind." Just mentioning Hanover, the



notorious reform school, was enough to frighten many of us.

W. D. Scales was serious about the student body behaving like ladies and gentlemen. It was common knowledge that boys were to keep their hands off the girls and vice-versa. I am certainly glad that Mr. Scales has never witnessed the lascivious behavior of the students of today. I remember a friend tapping her male cousin on the shoulder and consequently being summoned by Scales. He said, "Little girl didn't I tell you that girls do not touch boys in this school." She replied, "But Mr. Scales, he is my cousin." To this Scales retorted, "I don't care if he is your daddy, do not put your hands on him or any other male again or I will send you home." Enough said, and we governed ourselves accordingly.