College High Grand Gathering

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Thousands of elementary and later high school students received their education at College High between 1906 and 1970.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham talks to several graduates about their unique memories of attending school on WKU’s campus.

Last weekend hundreds of graduates of College High were in Bowling Green for a Grand Gathering celebration. They don’t miss an opportunity to reminisce about the good ole’ days.

 “ I just treasure my years at the training school and College High.”

The Training School for lower grades was established in 1906 along with the Western Kentucky State Normal School (now WKU). The first high school graduation was held in 1926.

 “It certainly proved to be great that we had the opportunity to go to College High and have the teachers that were so dedicated and so kind and caring and knowledgable.

When remembering their days at College High, these ladies agree discipline was never much of an issue.

 “You knew you weren’t supposed to run or chew gum. You just minded. You didn’t even think about it..being real bad.”

Most of the teachers already had their Masters degrees.

 “I don’t think there’s any doubt about it, the teachers we had demanded perfection you had to do the work.”

But it wasn’t all work and no play at College High.

 “We played all over that campus, there was a tree we could climb and a stone wall. You were really chicken if you wouldn’t jump off that ledge.”

There was also a lot of school spirit.

 “We really were into basketball. If we didn’t go to the game, we sat around with a list of the players and kept track of the score, that was during Ed Diddle’s time.”

Attending school at College High was a grand tradition passed down through generations.

 “My mother went to College High too and she graduated in 1941 so I remember her telling me how her mom had sat in line to get her in school at College High.

 “Even my daughter who went to a large county school said I would love to have grown up in your time period and gone to a small school like that.”

College High closed in 1970 and became Science and Technology Hall. Last year it was renovated and renamed College High Hall. It’s now home to the Department of Mathematics and the dean’s offices for Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.