

Contents



The May Court was a proud tradition at John Marshall High School. The Class of 1960 will celebrate its 50th reunion this month. (see story on page 18)

Memories haven't faded, even after 50 years

On graduation day, June 11, 1960, seniors at John Marshall High School knew their class would be extraordinary.

"When we graduated, a piece of history died that day," said Sandra Penland.

The John Marshall High School building at Eighth and Main – the one many consider the "real" Jayem – was vacated and bulldozed after 51 years in service to Richmond students.

Underclassmen were sent to a new John Marshall building that still stands on Old Brook road and to George Wythe High School.

But to the Class of 1960, it was the end of an era. "When the building closed, everything changed," said Penland. "We understand that we had the best of what was.

The new decade ushered in a change in attitudes and in educational policy. Today's high schools bear little resemblance to those 50 years ago, when fans attended football games in coat and tie and Penland says she could leave her books and purse unattended.

"There is a long and lasting bond between those who attended the 'old' John Marshall, and we take great pride in being the last class of the old," she said.

Jayem's history is rich. Richmond High School was established in 1872 on Broad Street between Ninth and Tenth streets. In 1909, students there moved into a new building christened John Marshall High School. In

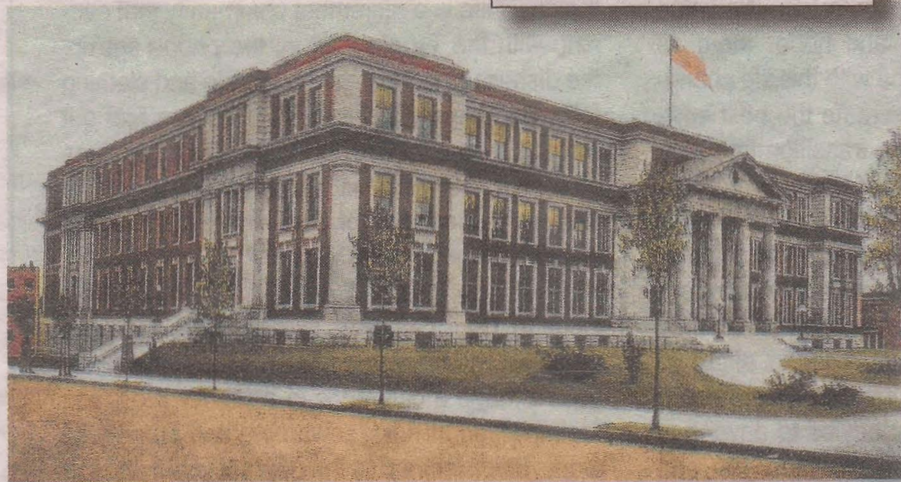
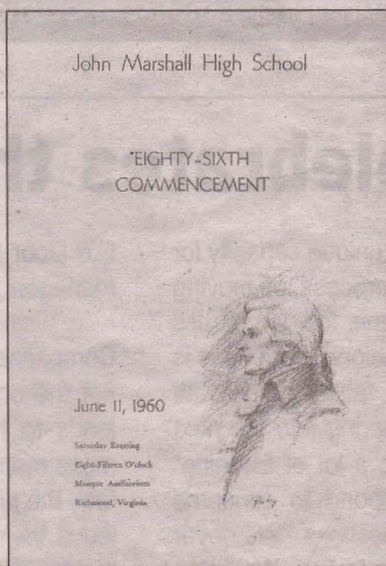
1923, Jayem added class space in the nearby George Wythe building; students used a tunnel to cross the street.

Between 1909 and 1960, the years the building was in use, 18,943 students graduated (many more attended, but did not graduate because of the Great Depression, military service and other reasons).

Over the years, there were plenty of accomplishments and school pride was strong.

Academics were important, said Kenneth and Claudia Murray, both class of '60 graduates. "John Marshall laid the strong foundation on which we built our careers."

Perhaps no tradition was more important than the Corps of Cadets, established in 1915, which became an integral part of the school. Members marched in the inaugural parades of Herbert Hoover and Dwight D. Eisenhower.



MARY JANE MITCHELL ROY LUTICAN MONTGOMERY, III CLAUDIS JEANNE MOORE WILLIAM MASON MOSS
 DOROTHY JEENE MUNDORD GERALDINE ALLEN MURPHY WINNETH HAROLD MURRAY JOHN PETER NEUROHE
 LILLIAN GALE NICHOLS TRUMAN DENNIS NOHRIS PAUL HOWARD NOWELL, III RUDOLPH LOWELL O'BRIEN



Best wishes for success and the best of everything in the future.
 Gale



The Sight-Saving class



[41]

Members of Jayem's Class of 1960 will reminisce at their 50th reunion this month.

A wreath-laying ceremony is held at Hollywood Cemetery every Memorial Day to honor John Marshall cadets for their military service. A popular exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society focused on the Corps recently.

Owen Yates was a member of Company A. "I enjoyed the camaraderie and the discipline," he remembers. "The drills and competition and good fun we had. I made a lot of friends that I still had today.

"We had one simple goal in sports, education and the military: Beat TJ."

Thomas Jefferson High School,

explained Penland, was JM's biggest rival. The competition used to be so fierce that the schools played football on Thanksgiving Day in front of thousands of fans.

Members of the class of 1960 can relive all those memories and catch up on more recent happenings at its 50th reunion, May 14-16. The celebration has been in the works for nearly a year and a half.

"There's no pretense," said Penland. "We remember each other as we were.

"I'm amazed at how quickly we revert back to those people," she said. "It's like 50 years didn't exist."