



Edna Whitlock Cooper “Margie” – Class of 1946

“Our graduation was in the Southeast auditorium. H. Roe Bartle was the speaker. We had 89 graduates in the class of '46. The Junior Senior Prom was downtown at the Little Theater.

I know the round table was in the rotunda by the time I graduated, but I do not remember the first year it was there. It was dedicated to the first soldier killed in World War II.”

High School Memories

I lived 5929 Kensington, east of Swope Parkway. My family moved to the area in 1943 when I was a sophomore. I went to Southeast for 2 ½ years.

I was on the Crusader staff. I remember that Vernon Kincade and Ray Lyles were photographers. They took the underclassmen’s photos under Mr. Shirling’s direction. There was a dark room where they developed the pictures. The seniors went downtown to have their pictures taken. Once we got everything ready, we took the layout to Lowell, the printer, down where KCPT is today.

I also enjoyed being in music groups. I was in the girl’s glee and the a cappella choir. Each year, there was a Spring Assembly in the evening. It was a serious musical program, but Mr. Markley included at least one fun song. We also had Knightlites.

I remember attending basketball games at the Municipal Auditorium and football games at the old A’s stadium. There were no stadiums or basketball courts at the school big enough for the games. Southwest was our bitter rival. I remember we beat them in 1946, and we may have won the league that year as well. We had pre-game assemblies in the auditorium to pep everyone up. The teams were well supported.

Of course, I was in high school during World War II. I remember hearing that President Roosevelt had died. It was just before graduation. I was on a streetcar around 47th and Troost when I heard the news. Someone probably heard the news on the radio and then got on the streetcar and told everyone else.

My brother and my children are all Southeast graduates.

My brother, Charles Whitlock, graduated in 1957.
My children also graduated from Southeast:
Christina – 1967
Donna Jo – 1969
Gary - 1976

Memorable Classes and Teachers

- Mr. Shirling taught zoology, biology and physiology. He was very nice and easy to get along with. He explained things so well. He was also the Crusader sponsor.
- Mr. McMillan and Mr. Powell were the principal and vice-principal.
- Miss Clark taught English and Latin.
- Miss Ballinger was a math teacher.
- Miss Fetters may have been the drama teacher.
- Miss Latshaw taught history. She amused me. There was a mirror in the coat room for the teachers. Miss Latshaw would look in the mirror to comb her hair. However, she turned her back to the mirror when she put on her lipstick. I never understood how she could do that and put on her lipstick perfectly.
- Miss Abbott taught art.
- Miss McMasters was the history teacher.
- Mr. Bills taught bookkeeping.
- Mr. Smith was a teacher.
- Mr. Patterson was in sports.
- Mr. Harmon taught science.
- Mrs. Wright taught home ec.
- Mr. Markley taught music.

After Graduation

I went to work at Sears at 15th and Cleveland. I was an invoice clerk. I worked there until I got married; I quit to be a full-time mother. My husband wanted me to stay home, so I was a homemaker and mother. Later, I wanted to have my own money to buy surprise gifts, so I worked short hours at Macy's at the Landing. Then they asked me to work full time. I worked in the children's department and had a great time. I worked for Dillard's after they took over for Macy's. I was a homemaker and worked at Macy's and Dillards. I worked until 1990 when my husband died.

What message would you like to give to other Southeast graduates?

"I enjoyed my time at Southeast. There were ups and downs and all arounds, but we had a lot of fun."