MARLIN HIGH SCHOOL

BY LEE MILES

When the seniors of '25 were reading in their first primers, the corner stone was laid for the Marlin High Scool building, which has become one of most loved of all Texas schools. In the last decade several hundred boys and girls have spent their four years here amid the multitude of pleasures that await the high school students. From the first day's timidity to the sad farewell of graduation the young people can look back upon hours passed on the tree lined campus and in the class rooms. Many have gone higher in the realm of learning, but not one has had his love for this Alma Mater lessened.

There is a general air of cheeriness about the building itself with the many sunny windows open to the sweet summer zephers. At the early opening of the doors the merry whistle of some boy rises and falls along the corridors As the studyhall bell rings, all clamor ceases and heads are bowed over English composition, an alrebra problem, a Latin phrase, or perhaps, a lenghty note to the girl just across the isle. The clicking of the typewriters in the commercial room in unison with the subdued sounds of a cornet in the music studio lend a peculiar soothing effect to the minds perplexed with hard lessons. The hum of the classes reciting, the buzz of machines in the industrial arts department, and the hurried footsteps in the halls fill the building with life

At the sound of the gong doors are opened to class room and office. The halls are crowded with students and techers going to recitations. Pupils hurry upstairs with armloads of textbooks and tablets, from which protrude pencils, penstaffs, and rulers. A boy shuffles past with a yellow pencil cocked above his ear and his hands thrust in his pockets. A teacher pauses to give a few instructions to a student. Girls compare English notes at the foot of the stairway. Many pause to read and discuss the posters and notices on the bulletin board. The youngsters gather around the drinking fountain gaily clattering until a teacher approaches to hasten them to classes. Talk and laughter crowd those five minutes between the class period. Many are the smiles and salutations; many are the welcome little courtesies shown by both teacher and student. Not a few times have affectionate letters slipped from the hands of the lovelorn in those fleeting moments. Quite often has a frown been smoothed out of a brow by a cheery greeting.

When the yellow spring sunshine filters down through the leaves to fleck the grass below, when butterfly wings lazily flutter in mid-air, when sparrows chirp in the gutters and robins soar up in the face of the sun, it is only human nature to turn to the life of out of doors. Then is the campus filled with crowds of joyous youths. Tennis rackets glisten in the sunlight as they swing up to meet the white balls. The bat cracks with impact of the base ball which thumps into the cup of the waiting mitt. The girls parade the walks arm in arm or sit at the foot of the trees to discuss lessons and to gossip.

For years the "well" has been the favorite meeting place for a certain group of girls from each class. It is a spot noted on the campus for witticisms, opinions, gossip and occasionally verbal battles. Here girls have gathered from every class;quite often teachers are included in the group. At the "well" the Freshmen girls receive their first lessons in the ways of the high school students; the Sophomores gain and lose their sohistication; the Juniors hear the grave words of the fourth year students and patiently await the time when they shall take the place of the Seniors, who impart such weighty council to the underclassmen. Here the newest styles are approved or disapproved, the latest shows are discussed, plans are made for socials, lesson assignments are spoken of, jokes are told. A conglomeration of topics common to the conversation of the high school girls may be heard daily at the "well". The custom of gathering here has long been followed by girls who have now graduated; may the custom never be broken by those who follow them.

As the "well" is to the girls, even so is the main entrance to the boys- The rising sun often finds two or three young fellows seated upon the steps, placidly awaiting the early morning ball game. The front steps serve as a grandstand for all athletic feats tried upon the campus in front of the building. This entrance has another purpose beyond that for which most entrances are generally used. Year after after the classes have made the steps

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