

A *true* 'Southern lady gives to Birmingham-Southern



Mildred Tillman Camp '30 (seated in chair, center) with four generations of women in her family.

Mildred Tillman Camp '30 wanted to go to Birmingham-Southern so badly that it almost hurt.

"My daddy told me that I ought to go ask. He sat me down in a chair and told me, 'You may not be the prettiest girl or the richest girl... I'll have to give you the money to go to Birmingham-Southern... but you remember that in Holland, France, England... there's no place that has as fine blood as a Tillman,'" she remembers.

So with her father's encouragement, she caught the train to go to Birmingham-Southern.

"I went to Dr. Snavelly's office and told his secretary that I would like to speak to Dr. Snavelly. And here came Dr. Snavelly out of his office to get me. I told him, 'I'd like to have a scholarship to Birmingham-Southern. I'm sure I want to go here, but I haven't got any money,'" she says.

"Dr. Snavelly said, 'Here's a four-year scholarship for you.' Can you believe that?"

Camp says she remembers that she and three other coeds came to college together and joined four different sororities. (Camp joined Zeta Tau Alpha.)

"We formed the first Panhellenic, too," she adds. While at BSC, she also played basketball, and was in the Glee Club. She was a history major.

After graduating from the college, she taught school for Woodward Iron Co. in its employee school. "At that interview,

which lasted two hours, the person I was interviewing with said, 'I'm going to give you this job, but you have to promise me that you'll never raise your voice.' And, to this day, I don't ever raise my voice."

Camp married Ehney Camp, who went on to become the first treasurer of Liberty National Life Insurance, where he served for 41 years.

While she chose not to work while raising her three children, she was very active in the community. She was involved in a literary club, dance club, and the Bethany Class at the First United Methodist Church. She and some friends formed the first Community Chest drive and women's organization in the area. She also was on the board that formed the city of Mountain Brook.

Devoted to her family, Camp has two daughters, Patti Alyce Faulkner and Mary Jean Camp; a son, Ehney Camp II; 18 grandchildren; and 21 great grandchildren. There are five members of the family named Ehney.

Even though she is helping educate the children in the family, endowing a scholarship—the Mildred T. Camp Scholarship at BSC—was an easy decision, she says.

"I love Birmingham-Southern. If I had more money, I'd give it to the college now. But I've got all these grandchildren to send to school," she laughs.