

Our family affairs were serene enough most of the time but, if you are a crusading editor, that serenity is disturbed at times. There were two brothers in Middlesboro, Alva and Floyd Ball. Alva was known to have killed four men. These brothers had a great way of proving self-defense in court. The Ball brothers had slot machine concessions and an interest in retail liquor stores in Middlesboro, which town was wet at that time. Herndon had been fighting the slot machines in the paper and also the retail liquor interests as a local option election was coming up. One night about two o'clock our telephone awoke us from a sound sleep and it was Alva Ball, who threatened Herndon, telling him to let up on this local option election. I was never more frightened. I felt that one more killing would mean nothing to someone who had already killed four. Herndon tried to calm me by saying, "If a man wants to kill you, he doesn't warn you, he just shoots you." I will not say that my husband was fearless because to be fearless is foolhardy, but he was brave and never gave an inch when a principle was involved. Bell County did vote dry and eventually through the influence of the Attorney-General's office in Frankfort, with Judge J. M. Gilbert working on it, the slot machines disappeared.

* * * *

Wally was the salutatorian of her high school graduating class. She had made straight A's all through junior and senior high schools. She was on the debating team. It never surprised me that she made the team as she had always thought clearly and made me give reasons for the things I said. Once when she was pre-school age, I said, "Brush your teeth because you are going to the dentist." That little child looked at me and asked, "Why do I have to brush my teeth when the dentist is going to clean them? You don't wash your hair before you go to the beauty parlor." No wonder she could debate as a teenager. She was a quick thinker. When she was four we were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. W. D. Funkhouser in Lexington. Wally picked up her spoon to eat her pie. I said gently, "I believe I would use my fork." With a big smile she said, "Oh, I thought it was ice cream."

She entered Sweet Briar College in Virginia in 1942, where she had to compete with girls from the best preparatory schools - it was a struggle. She had spent only three and a half years in high school with no summer sessions and had had less than the number of hours of foreign language required by Sweet Briar. They had accepted her because of her excellent grades and high recommendations. She passed her subjects but I know that she had to work very hard.

These were war years and PATRIOTISM was a hallowed word in those years, but perhaps not so great as in World War I. Herndon decided he should enlist and do his bit for his country. He went to Louisville to sign up. He had been a second lieutenant back in 1917-18 in the first World War and he felt that this experience entitled him to a much higher rank now. Besides, he had been the highest ranking officer on the University of Kentucky campus in R.O.T.C. following his army service. He had twenty-five years experience