

The 1930's



The Takoma-Silver Spring School (TSS).

school in the spring of the 1934–1935 school year. Students had to walk up the snow-covered hill to the lone building (later to be known as “C” Building) to attend classes (although at first many students had classes in both the old and new buildings). The cafeteria was located on the top floor (according to one student “if you weren’t hungry before the lunch bell rang you sure were by the time you got to the cafeteria on the third floor.”)

In addition to taking classes and dealing with all of the challenges of being in a new school, the first Blair students (they weren’t called “Blazers” until several years later) had to be the ones to establish Blair’s traditions. “We didn’t consciously sit down and say ‘what traditions do we want to start today,’” said Clyde Linkins, a member of that first class in 1935. “As things came up we just sort of realized that there wasn’t any precedent so we dealt with it. Some of our classmates took a shot at things like a school motto or a school song, but we were only there a few months so we turned a lot of that over to the classes of ’36 and ’37.”



Cress Bride, one of Blair's first coaches.

Among the traditions that these early classes DID begin were the great school dances and cruising the Hot Shoppes on Georgia Ave. The school fight song, “On Blair High School,” was also a creation of these early classes

As new facilities were added (the first gymnasium was built in 1936) Blair’s sports programs began (Clyde Linkins played baseball, soccer, and basketball) and the Class of 1938 became the first class to spend three years entirely at the new school. Blair’s pioneers were asked to endure some hardships, but the adventure and excitement of starting a new school brought them all together. 75 years later, they can look back and be proud to know they earned the thanks and respect of tens of thousands of Blair graduates.

At the height of the Great Depression, as the Government’s recovery programs drew more and more workers to Washington, the once-sleepy Maryland suburbs began to grow as never before. New families moving in put a strain on the ability of the Takoma-Silver Spring School (TSS), the major school serving Silver Spring and Takoma Park, to meet the needs of these new families.

Montgomery County allocated \$193,000 to build its first high school-only facility “removed from the center of activity” on Wayne Ave. at Dale Drive. Under the direction of Principal Merritt Douglass, the faculty and students began to make the move from TSS to the new

