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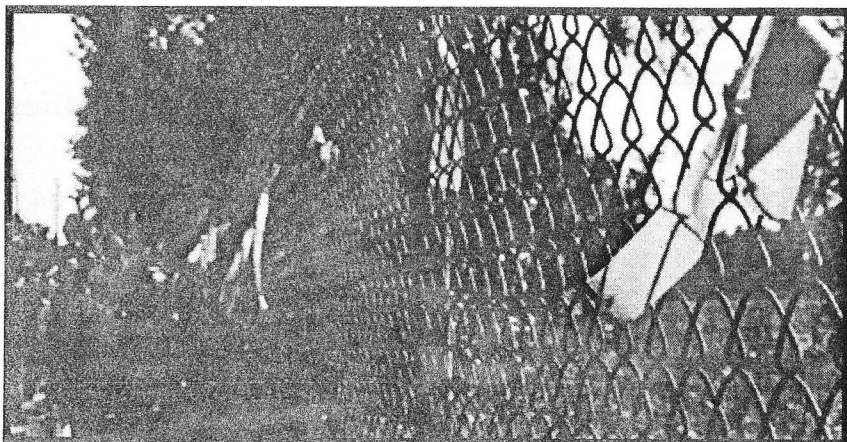
## Help save our alma mater!

Boylan Haven - Mather Academy (BHMA) alumni voted unanimously at the 1996 October Summit Meeting to endorse a Camden-based pro-BHMA group that is working to preserve the school site. The land is still under contract to be sold to a shopping center developer as this is being written in late October 1996.

The group, known as the Camden Coalition to Develop the Tent of Reconciliation, consists of Camden residents who have joined local Matherites on the front lines of the struggle to monitor the situation for those of us who cannot be there. The mission of the Coalition is to "heal, educate and restore the minds, bodies and souls of God's people".

The Coalition was inspired to form by Agnes Thomas-Abernethy ('46) in August after Sylvia Haile ('54), Ruby Minton ('52) and others went before numerous Camden City Council zoning hearings during the past three years to voice strong objections to the rezoning of the land from multi-family to commercial. That effort successfully prevented such action until August 27, 1996, when the Council voted to rezone.

The paramount need is funds (\$1 million by March 1997) to hire a lawyer to pursue legal strategies that might help stop the sale of the land.



BHMA alumni tied yellow ribbons on the fence surrounding the now-vacant school property following a prayer vigil at the corner of DeKalb and Campbell streets in Camden. Like the popular song, the ribbons symbolize an undying belief and faith that a loved one --- in our case the BHMA legacy --- will one day prevail.

One interesting potential defense is the deed document from Rev. James Mather and his wife, which stipulates that the property is to be used "for divine purposes only".

The Tent in the Coalition's title refers to the tabernacle which the Jews carried with them to help keep alive their worship of God after they fled Egypt into the wilderness. In Mather's case, the Tent means love and cooperation that will be needed to formulate what would best serve BHMA's legacy.

A key to success is the power of

prayer. All alumni are urged to become Prayer Warriors and "saturate everything with prayer" --- especially every Monday night at 6:30 p.m., when the Coalition holds its regular meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Coalition needs volunteers to serve as (1) "Visionaries", who develop the legacy idea, and (2) "Facilitators" to serve as publicists, persons to lobby United Methodist Women locally and nationally, fundraisers, legal advisers, and grants experts. ■

## What happened

1986 --- Under the leadership of then-president Eddie McGirt ('40), the BHMA National Alumni Association (NAA) asks the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries to donate the BHMA property to the NAA. The Board refuses.

1990-1991 --- The NAA forms a subsidiary, the Mather Development Corporation (MDC), which offers to purchase the land for \$295,000, which is higher than the appraised value of \$145,000, but lower than the Board's asking price of \$1,800,000. The Board refuses with no counteroffer or statement as to why the offer was refused. The MDC also submits an architect's drawing for a retirement community to be built on the property. The Board has no comment.

1993-1994 --- Zoning hearings are held, and each time then-president Sylvia Haile ('54), Ruby Minton ('52), and others raise objections and present strong arguments, and submit petitions, succeeding in convincing City Council to defeat the request.

APRIL 1993 --- All of BHMA's buildings --- Browning Home, Bryan Hall, and the cross-shaped school building --- are torn down at the request of the Women's Board. Their reason: having to pay citations issued by the Camden Fire Department, which declared the empty buildings a fire hazard after a sprinkler system froze, burst and remained unrepaired.

1994 --- The Board takes the land off the market.

1995 --- The Board quietly enters into a contract with Collett and Associates, a shopping center developer from Charlotte, NC, for a sum unknown to the NAA.

May 1996 --- Collett requests Camden City Council to rezone the land from multi-family to commercial.

August 19, 1996 --- The Camden Coalition to Develop the Tent of Reconciliation forms. The convener is current NAA president Agnes Thomas-Abernethy ('46).

August 27, 1996 --- The Camden City Council votes to approve Collett's rezoning request.

October 1996 --- The NAA endorses the vision and mission of the Camden Coalition. The land is still under contract to be sold. ■

## How You Can Help

- Donate money and expertise to the Coalition.
- Write letters to: Ms. Connie Takamine, 475 Riverside Drive, New York NY; or to: Ms. Sara Shingler, National President of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Church, 210 Lakewood Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29302.
- Send petitions endorsing the Coalition and protesting the sale of the land for commercial use.
- Join the Warriors team and Pray. ■



Farewell . . . Browning Home!

Camden, SC 29020  
P.O. Box 825  
National Alumni Association, Inc.  
Boylan Haven-Mather Academy

## In Memoriam



Sylvia Haile ('54), served as BHMA National Alumni Association president from 1993 until her death in September this year. She loved her alma mater dearly and played a key role in the struggle to preserve the legacy of Boylan Haven-Mather Academy. She was loved and she will be missed.

## Boylan Haven-Mather Academy Officers for 1996-1999

**President**  
Agnes Thomas-Abernethy ('46)  
P.O. Box 3477  
Annapolis, MD 21403

**1st Vice President**  
William Durant ('66)  
7786 Wethersfield Drive  
Jonesboro, GA 30236

**2nd Vice President**  
Hansel Boykin ('50)  
7006 Liberty Hill Road  
Camden, SC 29020

**Treasurer**  
James McGirt ('52)  
P.O. Box 3825  
Camden, SC 29020

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Knorphe Byrd, Jr. ('73)  
115 Honeysuckle Lane  
Quincy, SC 29506

**Recording Secretary**  
Lyrne A. Thomas ('74)  
2714 Noble Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34234

**Executive Secretary**  
Roberta D. Durant ('40)  
409 W. Marion Street  
Florence, SC 29501

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Sara Morgan ('41)  
392 Central Park West #11-B  
New York, NY 10025

**Chaplain**  
Hayes F. Samuels, Jr. ('61)  
P.O. Box 452  
Manning, SC 29102

**Parliamentarian**  
Madeline Dash-Pickett ('50)  
172-22 133 Avenue, #3A  
Jamaica, NY 11434

## BOYLAN HAVEN-MATHER ACADEMY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S FUNDRAISING GEOGRAPHICAL ORGANIZATION

### 5. WEST

Theresa Parks Wilson ('50)  
4275 Don Jose Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90008  
and

Esther J. Lewis ('54)  
5512 W. Tierra Buena  
Glendale, AZ 85306

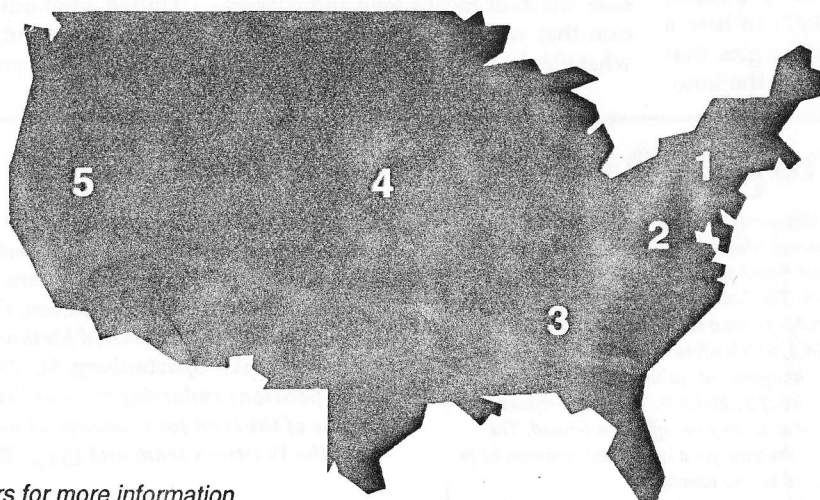
AL, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR,  
UT, WA, WY

### 4. MIDWEST

Myrtle Tindal Robinson ('52)  
18611 Santa Barbara  
Detroit, MI 48221  
and

Edith Miller Mattison ('33)  
9030 Quincy  
Detroit, MI 48204

IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH,  
OK, SD, TX, WI



### 1. NORTHEAST

Virginia Montgomery Washington ('50)  
2 Newman Drive  
Hilton, NY 14468  
and

Stanley Russell ('60)  
163-29 130th Ave.  
Jamaica, NY 11434

CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT

### 2. MID-ATLANTIC

Wilbur Cooke ('49)  
4733 Bonnie Brae Road  
Pikesville, MD 21208

DE, DC, KY, MD, VA, WV, and all  
areas outside continental U.S.

### 3. SOUTHEAST

Delmarcia J. Mitchell ('75)  
530 Reedham Court  
Charlotte, NC 28208  
and

Adrian Gray ('70)  
P.O. Box 254  
Whites Creek, TN 37189

AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN

Contact your regional directors for more information

**BHMA**  
**National Alumni**  
**Association**  
**Dues**  
**are**  
**\$10**  
**per year**

Send dues to:  
James McGirt, Treasurer  
P. O. Box 825  
Camden, SC 29020

## ADDRESS CORRECTION

If your address on this mailing is incorrect, please return the form below to: Sara Morgan, Corresponding Secretary, 392 Central Park West #11-B, New York, NY 10025.

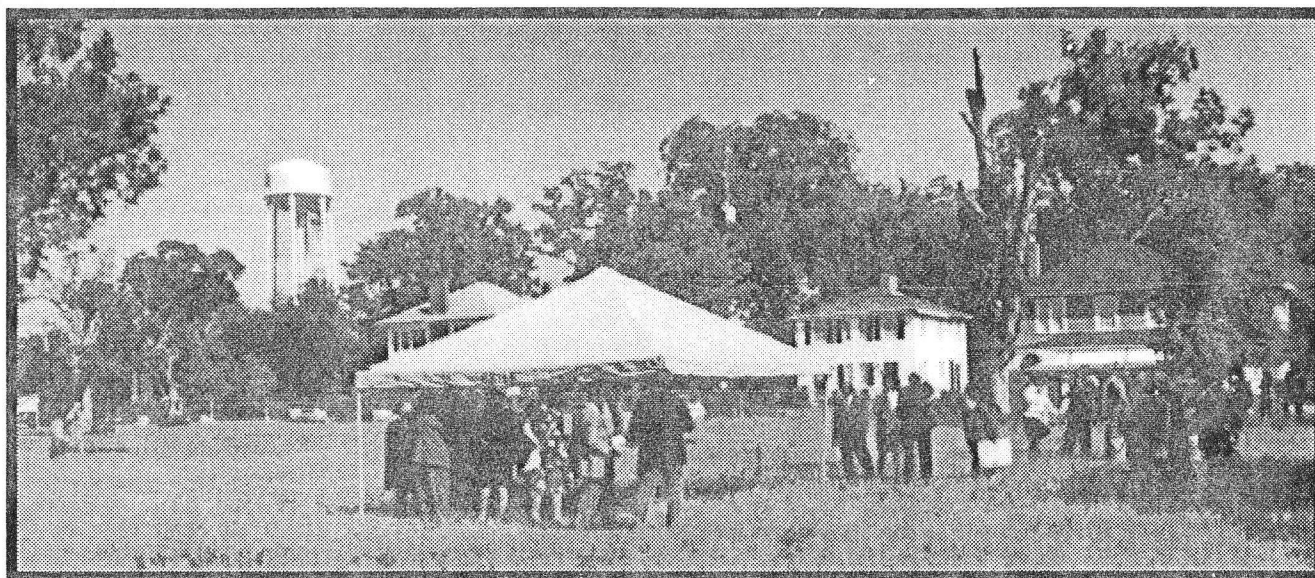
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

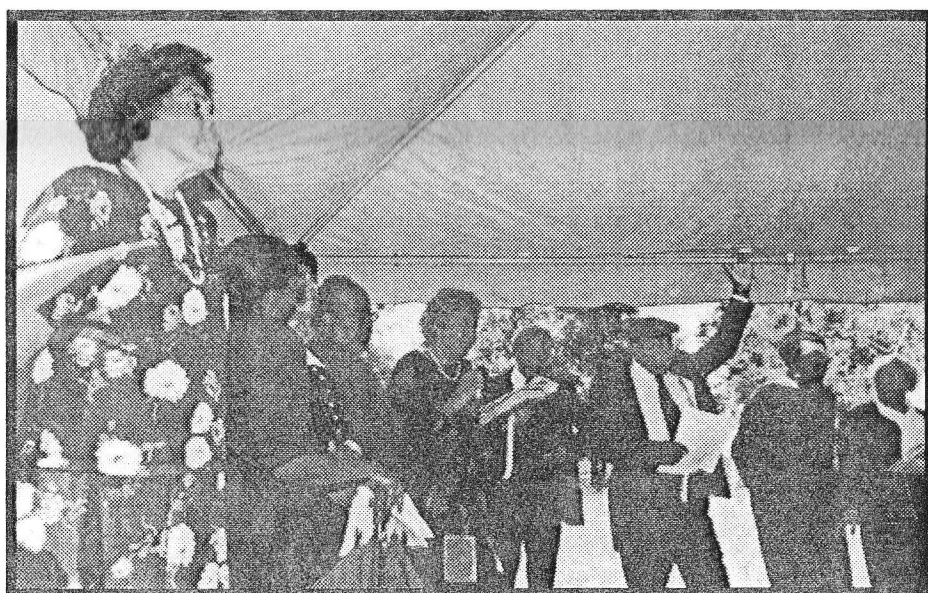
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# Boylan-Haven Mather Academy PHOTO GALLERY



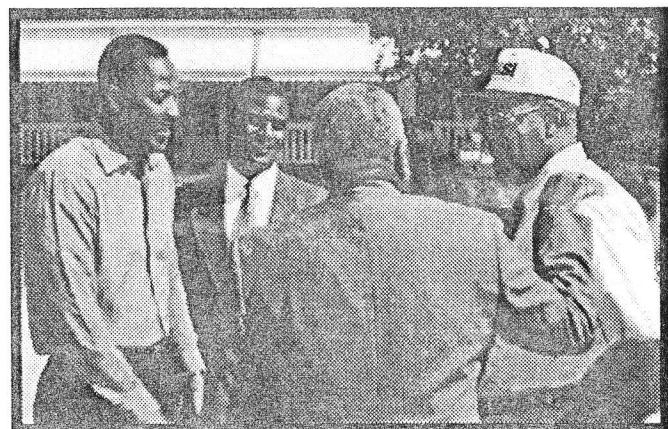
On the last day of the Mather National Alumni Association 1996 Reunion Summit Meeting, alumni and friends gather underneath and around a tent on the vacant Mather property to hold a vigil and tie yellow ribbons to symbolize the desire of alumni to preserve the Mather property.



Ruby Minton and others listen as Mather Alumni President Agnes Thomas-Abernethy reads the Vision of the Tent of Coalition.



Mather alumni from the 1930's and 1940's (above) and later years (below) get reacquainted after the vigil.



Jeannie Siemens of the Camden Coalition Tent of Reconciliation shows her vision of what could be built to preserve the Mather legacy, while Hayes Samuels listens.

*See more photos on other side of this sheet*

# Boylan Haven-Mather Academy PHOTO GALLERY

Henrietta Carrigan ('49) leads the discussion of a group of alumni during a breakout session to determine whether to endorse the Camden Coalition. All those attending the meeting voted aye.

1996 Reunion Summit,  
Saturday, Oct. 12, 1996

*See more photos on  
other side of this  
sheet*



During the traditional candlelighting ceremony, **Morocco Coleman** pours libations for BHMA alumni who have died since the last meeting.



A member of the Camden Coalition shows her manifestation of what the BHMA legacy could look like.



After attending Sunday services at Trinity United Methodist Church, BHMA's "home" church, alumni enjoy dinner in the church Fellowship Hall.