

The Junior Hi-Lites

In September 1927 it was suggested that Young Junior have a school paper of its own, and we give the credit to Miss Margaret McCall for originating this idea. The pupils favored this suggestion and the paper had its beginning in this year.

A title contest open to all students for the purpose of naming the school paper was opened in October 1927. Benton Foy of Miss Stafford's advisory, submitted the title "Junior Hi-Lites" which was the one chosen. As a prize, he received a free subscription to the paper.

The first year's subscriptions amounted to three hundred and fifty-eight.

Miss McCall was the teacher chosen to guide this little paper during the first three difficult years. Robin Bird was the first editor of the Hi-Lites.

In 1926-27, the first year of the Hi-Lites existence, it was awarded first honors in the National Scholastic Press Association's Annual Contest. It then fell to second place and remained there until 1932-33 when it again took first place.

Miss McCall had charge of the Hi-Lites from 1927-1930. Then Miss Ellis took the paper for the 1930-1931 session. Miss Turner followed Miss Ellis as manager for two years from 1931-1933. Under her leadership the paper was greatly enlarged and again reached the high rating given it during its first year of existence.

Miss Letson took the responsibility from 1933-1934. Miss Lisenby has charge of the paper during the present 1934-35 session.

The Junior Hi-Lites was the first junior high school paper to be printed in Alabama, and we feel very proud of this fact.

Some students who have written for this paper have later published some poems in different magazines and papers. Agnes Scott and Lavetta Tatum are two of these young writers.

Not many people think of the Hi-Lites as a money making concern but it is. From money receipts since the paper was first issued three-hundred forty-seven dollars (\$347) have been paid for shrubbery. The Hi-Lites is also the donor of many gifts to the school which include: a flag which cost thirty-two dollars (\$32), the emblem for our curtain in the auditorium which cost thirty dollars (\$30), physical education equipment valued at forty-eight dollars (\$48), new books for library at a cost of sixty dollars (\$60), and other incidentals amounting to twenty-dollars (\$20) and nineteen cents.

The Hi-Lites is the pride of the students as a whole as well as every individual. It is strictly a school paper, publishing things of interest to the pupils along with helpful information and news. It gives Junior High pupils a sense of pride to say, "We have a school paper of our very own".

During the year 1935 Miss Mary Joe Cook assumed sponsorship for the paper with Miss Timmerman assisting as advertizing manager. Under their direction the paper was given second-honor rating, a place which it held for the next four years.

In 1941 Miss Carolyn McCallum took over the sponsorship of the paper, and continued in this capacity until 1952.

Mrs. Elizabeth Whitsell next became Hi-Lites sponsor when Miss McCallum transferred in the fall of 1952-1953 to become librarian.