Dr. Mae McMillan: A DREAM CAME TRUE
by Mary McGreevy

INTRODUCTION

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on."

The McMillan family had almost 87 years to share with Mae McMillan; Pine Crest had 51. All of those years were filled with vitality, meaning, friendship, joy. Truly to honor Mae McMillan is not to dwell long in the past. Our real memorial must not be in our memories or even in our words of today, but in how well we dream new dreams and shape the future of Pine Crest School.

The above dedication to Mae McMillan, founder of Pine Crest, is inscribed on a plaque in the Founder's Circle, a memorial area at the school. These words stress the future of the school and its students, but we are well advised also to think of Dr. McMillan's past and of the legacy left by this amazing woman. She founded an exemplary school; she did so by leading an exemplary life. She remains an outstanding inspiration to all who knew or learn about her. Until her death in 1985, she dedicated herself to spreading learning and culture in the community, teaching and inspiring a moral and healthy life, and administering the school, its expansion and development.

Twice Dr. McMillan overcame personal tragedy; twice she moved her school from limiting circumstances, taking a chance on an increasing student body and expanding campus facilities. She was successful in realizing the dream of creating one of the best preparatory schools in the South.

Today, Pine Crest, now headed by

In the years between her arrival in 1925 and her death in 1985, Mae McMillan made an indelible mark on the educational history of Broward County. Under her leadership and guidance, Pine Crest School gained a reputation for academic excellence, and is today counted among Florida's largest and most prestigious private schools. In this article, Mary McGreevy describes how Dr. McMillan overcame poverty, tragedy, and adversity to achieve the goals she set for herself, her family, and her school.

Dr. McGreevy is the founder and executive director of the Dora Achenbach McGreevy Poetry Foundation, Inc., and a member of the Broward County Women's History Coalition and several other civic organizations. Three of her seven children, David, Mariya, and Dora Rosenbaum, are graduates of Pine Crest School.
President William J. McMillan, one of the sons of the founder, is an independent, all-faith, coeducational boarding school for grades seven through twelve and day school for pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. The school serves about 1,500 students on a forty-seven-acre campus in Fort Lauderdale. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Florida Council of Independent Schools, the Association of Independent Schools of Florida, and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools. Of its 134 faculty members, over sixty percent hold post-graduate degrees.1

The beautiful campus, located on Sixty-second Street in the northeastern portion of the city, contains the school's classrooms, library, administrative offices, the student services building, and a large football field and other athletic fields and facilities, including an Olympic pool complex. The campus is dominated by the Alumni Bell Tower, rising high beyond the pine trees, and is characterized by shaded lawns and walkways, interior courtyards, and attractive landscaping, which add comfort, variety, and bright color to the overall scheme. The arrangement and design of the buildings is not symmetrical in the usual sense, yet the ambiance is one of overall serene harmony and a form of symmetry brought forth by the cohesiveness of the whole. The architect was William Gilroy, and the style is British Colonial. It is an impressive monument to Dr. McMillan and to those in whose names money was donated for the buildings added since the campus opened in 1965.

HARD TIMES
"Slow rises worth by poverty depressed."

Mae McMillan's teaching career hardly began with a paradisiacal dream campus. Her time in Fort Lauderdale dates from 1925, when she and her family arrived from Rapid City, South Dakota.2 Her husband, Albert McMillan, had been a lawyer and a city judge in South Dakota, and Mae felt lucky to obtain a public school teaching position in Broward County, as she had to support her family while he studied for the Florida Bar. Nevertheless, they had "high enthusiasm for becoming a part of the Florida boom which was causing excitement throughout the United States," she reports in her autobiography, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years.3 This autobiography was published in 1978, when she was eighty years old and still actively involved with the school. By writing her life story, she hoped to give her students, staff, and parents of students "insight into what made a teacher in those days and the life style and educational opportunities at the beginning of the century so different from ours today."4

Mae Horn McMillan was born on a farm near Corning, Iowa, on May 9, 1898, the daughter of her father's second wife, the first having died of overwork, the struggle against poverty, and tuberculosis. Mae's father, Stephen J. Horn, had a hard time raising his first three children alone while continuing to work the farm, and was glad to find and marry an eligible, thirty-five-year-old woman named Ellen Barker.5

The Alumni Bell Tower at Pine Crest has become a campus landmark and the school's symbol (photo by Mary McGreevy).

Mae McMillan, c. 1940 (courtesy of Pine Crest School).
Although her parents had been schoolteachers, Ellen had attended a small country school only through eighth grade. She was able, however, to memorize countless poems from books that her parents had left behind; these she shared with her children. A poem she wrote about the death of her son is included at the end of her daughter’s autobiography:

Let us plant the flowers beside the path
In the lives of those we love,
And helping others to find the way
Shall lead to our home above.

The mother was clearly the inspiration for the daughter, Mae, to enter a teaching career. In 1901, Mae’s father had moved his family to South Dakota, first to a small house in the hills near Bonesteel, then farther into the hills to a farm graced with an old log cabin that her mother had to try to

Family photos depicting Mae McMillan’s early life in South Dakota: (top left) Mae with her brother Lawrence; (above) parents Stephen and Ellen Horn; and (below) the Horn family home on the Rosebud Reservation (courtesy of Pine Crest School).
Danai public school, 1925, the year Mae McMillan began teaching high school classes there.

turn into a home. During this time, Mae’s brother Lawrence, two years her senior, was her childhood hero and constant companion: “Lawrence was my hero and my strength, and I loved him deeply; unlike most siblings we never quarreled, but were always proud of each other.”

Mae was happy when she and her brother finally had a one-room schoolhouse to attend, in Gregory, after the family had moved again, this time to the Rosebud Reservation, formerly Indian territory. She was then seven and her brother nine. She later recalled that their early school building also provided a location for Christmas socializing and religious gatherings. Mae’s closeness to her brother continued through the years until his tragic drowning in 1913.

Too sorrowful to continue local schooling without Lawrence, Mae persuaded her parents to send her to college at Yankton, in the southeastern corner of the state. Years later, this college would award her an honorary doctorate. In her autobiography, Dr. McMillan clearly remembers her courses at Yankton, a small Congregational college. She especially recalls an incident in 1919, when her professor of philosophy took her into his home to recuperate after she nearly died of influenza. French was her favorite subject, and she became a part-time teacher of that language while still in college.

Back home in Gregory, Mae found a job at her old high school, teaching French, Latin, and algebra, which, along with English, were her favorite subjects. Living with her parents, she was able to save enough money to spend summers studying French at the University of Chicago. There she met her future husband, a fellow South Dakotan, and was married after a brief courtship. Then the story so typical of women’s lives and lost careers became true of Mae McMillan. Before Mae was able to write her master’s thesis, the couple moved back to South Dakota when Albert McMillan completed his law studies. This loss of her intended career became doubly regretful when she was called upon to provide the entire support for her family, as was the case not only when they first moved to Florida, but also later in life when her husband died suddenly at forty-six. “She never lacked courage,” son Bill McMillan remarked. “She entered into every new venture and undertaking with staunch determination to succeed—and she usually did.”

Mae McMillan felt lucky that before her move to Florida she had acquired enough education and experience to find a job at Dania High School. There, her work helped ease the recent loss of five other teachers. Besides algebra, French, Latin, and English, she was also called upon to teach physics—the only subject for which she had had no preparation. The wee hours of the morning found her busy studying physics books before going to her classes.

After Albert McMillan passed the bar, the family built and moved into a small frame house east of the future location of Broward General Hospital. The family at that time included son Steve and baby daughter Patty, both of whom had made the move to Florida with their parents. The devastating hurricane of September 1926 moved this small family home into a neighbor’s yard and deposited it against a tree—without harming any of the family caught inside. A second hurricane struck in 1928, and a third in 1929. These natural disasters, plus the stock market crash of 1929, brought very hard times for the people of Broward County and much of Florida. Many, like the McMillans, were thankful when they had twenty cents for a hamper of beans, seventeen cents for three pounds of hamburger, or five cents for a loaf of bread.

Throughout the Depression years, tourists continued to come to Fort Lauderdale, maintaining the idea that “Fort Lauderdale was a good spot in which to weather northern winters, or at least have a respite during the severe periods.” Some of these visitors also brought their children, who needed tutoring to keep up with their studies while away from home. One of the chroniclers of Pine Crest’s history, Mario J. Pena, relates:

In 1934 Mae McMillan and Edna Herriott joined efforts to operate Fern Hall as a tutoring school for winter students in quarters rented from the Elks Club in downtown Fort Lauderdale...

Following lesson outlines provided by the home schools, the two teachers and their faculty made it possible for the children to keep up with their work and have the
Mae McMillan and the Pine Crest faculty and staff at the "Old Campus," 1940s (courtesy of Pine Crest School).

advantage of a one-to-one learning atmosphere that enhanced their preparation. This rendered a great service to families who could enjoy longer winter holidays in the area, and it made the area an especially attractive place to visit.  

By autumn 1939, Mae McMillan had moved her operation to a new location. She explains the move thus:

...hearing of Carl Wismeyer's desire to dispose of the Pine Crest Sanitarium on 1515 E. Broward Boulevard, I worked out a lease arrangement with him by which I moved in with more than a hundred pupils in the autumn of 1939... "McMillan-Pine Crest" [was the name] to identify the new location. What fun to have a beautiful all-tile swimming pool and a large, attractive, rambling building with an arch of purple bougainvillea above the entrance?

The property at Fifteenth Avenue and Broward Boulevard, on which the sanitarium was built, had originally been sold by Ivy Stranahan, a Fort Lauderdale pioneer and the area's first school teacher. Mrs. Stranahan also "providentially" sold Mrs. McMillan the acreage across the street from the sanitarium, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Avenues, for use as an elementary school. Because Mrs. Stranahan had been interested in education all her life (she was a member of the Pine Crest School board of directors later in life), she let the property go for the "munificent" sum of $1,000 at the end of each year for ten years. Mae McMillan, with the help of her devoted husband, who contributed much of his time and financial assistance to Pine Crest, was able to build two simple buildings, one each for kindergarten and elementary classrooms, on this additional parcel.

The McMillan-Pine Crest School was popular and flourishing in a short time. In order to obtain state accreditation for her school, Mae McMillan had to add education courses at the University of Miami and correspondence courses in administration and supervision from the University of Florida to her B.A. degree. She found this additional work to be an "ordeal," but the accreditation was granted, and Mrs. McMillan subsequently continued her education by taking a number of classes at the University of Chicago.

In the meantime, the school continued to expand, adding a library, science laboratory, girls' dormitory, and boys' dormitory. New tennis courts were added, as well as an auditorium and a football field. Although during these years the school had no air conditioning, nature cooled the buildings and the grounds, which soon grew beautiful with sub-tropical landscaping. As Mae McMillan recalls:

The pine trees grew tall and the fucus tree spread to give such welcome shade that Señorita Auger [a teacher] talked us into building a cement platform under it, with benches where students could sit and study or visit. We planted crotons all around the buildings and soon had a campus so beautiful that former students are still nostalgic over it.
McMillan School Exercises Planned

Dr. Charles Woodward will deliver address.

Commencement exercises will be conducted at McMillan Pine Crest School at 8 p.m. tomorrow, with Dr. Charles O. Woodward delivering the principal address.

Candidates for graduation are Carol Lauzon, Ruth Joan Lund, Lawrence Miller and Leslie Maxwell.

The program follows:

Processional—"Largo" Handel
Helen KaDel Shelden and KaDel Shelden
Harp Duo—"Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms" Traditional arrangement by Virginia Bliss—Viola Lovejoy and Virginia Bliss
"If" Kipling
Phyllis Rhoads
"Alleluiah" Mozart
"The Little Shepherd's Song" Watts
"Viola Lovejoy"
Address—"America's Trinity" Dr. Charles O. Woodward
Nocturne Chopin-Sarasate
"Gypsy Dance" Naches
"Schizzo Tarentella" Wieniawski
"Marjorie Poetic" Marjorie Poetic
Presentation of diplomas—Mrs. McMillan, principal.
Recessional—"Pomp and Circumstance."

Fort Lauderdale Daily News notice of first Pine Crest graduation, 1940.

The first graduation at Pine Crest was somewhat unimpressive. The Fort Lauderdale Daily News reported in May 1940 that four students, Carol Lauzon, Ruth Joan Lund, Lawrence Miller, and Leslie Maxwell, had graduated from Pine Crest. The same newspaper had reported a day earlier that the commencement address was to be delivered by Dr. Charles Woodward, pastor of the Croissant Park Christian Church. A traditional program was printed, and the recessional was (and still is) "Pomp and Circumstance."26

The basic story of the school, whether on the Old Campus (1939-65) or the New (1965—), is the story of an ever-increasing enrollment and demands for new facilities. The major difference between the two eras of the school's development was that the Old Campus and school were privately owned, and Mae McMillan had to sign the mortgage, whereas the New Campus was purchased and the school built as a non-profit enterprise from the beginning. The non-profit status was deemed necessary because very large sums of money had to be raised, and such sums could only be accomplished with a competent board of directors. Pine Crest thus became dependent on donations for expansion and also to meet the cost of many necessities not provided for by the collection of tuition alone.

It was while she was still at the Old Campus that Mae McMillan realized the need for "attracting and holding outstanding teachers who feel an obligation to make their values clear to their students."27 Among the teachers she mentions in her autobiography were John Harrington, Director of Admissions since 1975, and Lourdes Martinez, who came from Cuba to teach at the Broward Boulevard campus in 1961 and later headed up the foreign language department.28

Dr. McMillan relied strongly on the strengths and skills of Marjane Packard. Mrs. Packard came to Fort Lauderdale from Evanston, Illinois, in 1938 and taught fifth and sixth grade at Pine Crest before being promoted to elementary principal when the school was still on Broward Boulevard. She retired in 1973 after thirty-four years, and a building on the New Campus was dedicated in her honor.29 "Countless parents and students still express gratitude for her outstanding care and supervision," Dr. McMillan wrote in 1978. Mrs. Packard also was unstinting in her appreciation of Dr. McMillan:

I am grateful for the privilege of working for many years with a dear friend and great educator, Dr. Mae McMillan. It was the major part of my life devoted to the best in Education for all, regardless of race, religion, or color. I shall be forever grateful for her friendship and her guidance. I shared her pride in seeing Pine Crest become an outstanding opportunity for the best in education. — And it is with continuing pride to share this happy association with her son, William J. McMillan. Pine Crest has really been "My Life—" I am proud and grateful.30

TOWARDS A NEW CAMPUS

"Each venture is a new beginning, a raid on the inarticulate."

The dream of a new campus became more and more real for Mae McMillan as she and her husband took frequent evening walks around the Broward Boulevard area. As they planned for the new Pine Crest, he predicted that it would become "the great private school of the South."31 Their involvement with the school was deepened because by that time they had four children to attend to. Twins William and George McMillan had been born in Fort Lauderdale in 1929, making four dependents for Mae to consider. Her husband, "Mac," had always provided great support for her ideas and school projects. It is clear that his death in 1943, at the age of only forty-six, was a severe blow to his wife. He had been her almost constant companion for twenty-one years. At the time of his death, their oldest

Marjane Packard, longtime Pine Crest teacher and elementary school principal (courtesy of Pine Crest School).
son, Steve, was in the army; daughter Patty a nursing cadet at Johns Hopkins University, and the twins juniors at Pine Crest. Thus, Mae McMillan still had a young family for which to care and help plan careers.\[32\]

In spite of her loss, she did not hesitate to continue her work for Pine Crest and obtain a master's in education, a degree required for the principal of a school before it could get accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a step which would eventually make Pine Crest more secure among other educational institutions in Florida.\[33\] Mrs. McMillan's family, proud of their mother and school, were quick to join her in her enterprise. Even Leo Vincenti, Patty's husband and Mae's son-in-law, took a new role in the school by becoming head of maintenance and transportation. Patty became the very necessary secretary and registrar. Bill McMillan, after graduation Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Swarthmore and obtaining a master's degree from the University of Chicago, returned to Pine Crest in 1950 to teach American and world history. Soon afterward, he married Dorais Lindroth, who worked at Pine Crest as a teacher and head of the pre-primary department until 1967, when she retired to take care of their child, Kathleen Mae McMillan. Eventually, Mae McMillan had three granddaughters attending Pine Crest, Vicki and Paula Vincenti, as well as Kathleen.\[34\]

Other family members also contributed to the operation and success of the school. George McMillan served in a vital consulting role involving the conversion of the school from proprietary to non-profit status. His wife, Christine, had worked as a teacher aide. Dale Wadman, Patty and Leo Vincenti's son-in-law, taught music, primarily band, while William O. McMillan, Stephen McMillan's son, worked as a science teacher and boys' dormitory supervisor. Various members of the family also worked with different summer camp programs as well.\[35\]

Of all of Dr. McMillan's children, it was Bill who was most motivated to work at Pine Crest. He has served there the longest of the children, becoming headmaster and president in 1966, and continues in the capacity of president.\[36\] In her autobiography, Dr. McMillan explains how her son developed his career:

*During these years before 1958, Bill was taking more and more leadership. So important was his work as a teacher, debate coach, and senior advisor, that I was proud to name him Assistant Principal. He soon took over extra duties, interviewing prospective parents and students, engaging new teachers (always with an eye to upgrading the faculty), and supervising school business and expansion...Bill was the real leader, though he put off accepting the position until 1966, when I convinced him to become Headmaster.\[37\]*

Bill Grinditch, the school's current chairman of the board, has noted, "Dr. Mae and her children have devoted over 100 years of their lives to

Albert Lincoln "Mac" McMillan (left, photo courtesy of Pine Crest School), and William J. McMillan (right, photo by Mary McGreevy).
Pine Crest. Bill McMillan's magnanimous spirit and commitment to excellence have helped him lead Pine Crest School from a small institution when the New Campus opened in 1965 with 550 students, to the large, complex institution it is today, with an enrollment of over 1,400. He has published a book, Private School Management, in which he explains why he believes in private school education and justifies the schools' special tax advantage as non-profit institutions. He has also written other books on education, numerous articles, and a novel.

In his role as administrator of the school, Bill McMillan took up memberships in organizations where his mother had "paved the way," as well as new organizations vital to the school's continuing success. The school has also carried on a tradition of "offering scholarships wherever needed by promising students." Mae McMillan explained that she had enrolled many who brought "acclaim to the school by receiving acceptance—often with scholarship—to top-flight colleges." Thus, some of those who had been scholarship students at Pine Crest were, in turn, able to obtain financial assistance for college after graduation. Mae McMillan's generosity almost overwhelmed her family, recalls Bill McMillan, remembering one year when his mother "used all the profits from the school for scholarships," thus being generous to a fault.

ON CAMELOT CAMPUS

"And death shall have no dominion"

The New Campus was made possible only by Pine Crest's achievement of non-profit status, after which the school could conduct its own fund-raising campaigns and enlist a generous flow of alumni and parental gifts that provided land, and later buildings, for the New Campus. Bill McMillan "put a terrific effort into securing" the Pine Crest properties. In 1963, with the assistance of the board of directors under the leadership of capable businessmen, the school was able to make final payment on the land for the New Campus.

The New Campus was dedicated near Easter, 1965. One of the parents who helped raise the final payment of $140,000 on two tracts of land in northern Fort Lauderdale was Festus Stacy, coming in after the "victory" dinner with the final amount needed to complete the deal.

The great generosity of Festus Stacy and his wife Helen began at that time. They subsequently built the Virlee and Irene Stacy Dormitory, and then, in 1968, constructed an addition to that building. In 1966, the Stacys lost their youngest daughter, Irene, in a tragic automobile accident. Mae McMillan tells us that "With characteristic fortitude, they drowned their sorrow in good works for other young people, and gave the gymnasium which they knew was definitely needed for the development of our sports program." In 1969-70, the Helen and Festus Stacy Chapel and Auditorium was built, giving the school the opportunity to instigate a chaplaincy program.

The development of the campus continued with the completion of the Fisher Learning Center and additions.
Dr. Mae McMillan, 1984 (courtesy of Pine Crest School).

tains one of the few sizable growths of indigenous trees, which are highly valued and most interesting. None of these trees must ever be destroyed to provide space for any building project. 47

The east side of the property was partially excavated as a lake and also provided much-needed athletic fields. 48

Development continued over the years with numerous other important additions. Of all the buildings that were added to the New Campus over the years since 1965, the one with which the founder was most involved was the Fine Arts Center. "The buildings in which Mother was most interested," wrote Bill McMillan, "would include the Fine Arts Center, which is named after her (Mae McMillan Fine Arts Center)." He went on to explain that this interest was "partly because she worked very closely with the Founder's Council, which had a special interest in arts and culture." 49

Even at the Old Campus there had been much attention paid to the fine arts. As early as 1939, the school had employed a piano teacher, and subsequently an attempt was made to build up the music department. Marjorie Posselt, a talented violinist, gave many Sunday afternoon concerts at the Broward Boulevard site, and the music department of the University of Miami gave a presentation of Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" there. Arts and crafts were taught by Lois Marshall, and students performed several plays. 50

With the move to the New Campus, the first plays given, "David and Lisa" and "Arms and the Man," were performed in the gymnasium. After the auditorium was completed in 1966, such works as "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Diary of Anne Frank," "Medea," and "Twelfth Night" were produced for the benefit of the school. Exhibits increased the interest in visual arts, and leading entertainers were brought to the school by the Founder's Council, of which Ann Burgess was the first president. 51

A new fine arts building had been the suggestion of Virlee Stacy Stetelton, who had written in 1962 of her Pine Crest education:

"Mrs. Mae" and strict "Willie" [McMillan], along with Patty and Leo, were working as constantly then as they are today. Commitment, dedication, and caring reigned and were obvious to all who came in touch with these molders of students and a great school. 52

Incidentally, Dr. Frederick W. Fisher was the first Chairman of our Board of Directors (1968-1980) and William H. Grinditch, Jr., was the second Chairman (1980-present); Mae McMillan always gave a great deal of credit to the Board of Directors and to these two particular leaders, both of whom were and are very fine men... 46

In 1969, an addition to the campus of great importance involved a trading of land with the School Board of Broward County. The new land acquired became the Friedt Campus, additional sums having been paid by Glenn and Lucy Friedt, whose four granddaughters attended the school. Dr. McMillan warned with prescience:

The north part of this area con-

Tree-shaded courtyard and arched walkways at the "New Campus" (photo by Mary McGreevy).
Dr. McMillan, watching the fiftieth anniversary ceremonies from the Goodyear blimp (courtesy of Pine Crest School).

When the Founder's Council, under the leadership of Donna Qualmann, organized an annual dinner dance for Dr. McMillan around the time of her spring birthday, the latter used the occasion to stress the need for a fine arts building. As she later recalled the event, "It was a great evening with columnist Mike Morgan as a lively MC and Dr. Joyce Brothers as an entertaining speaker." Thus encouraged and inspired, parents soon responded to her request, and the fine arts building was completed and dedicated in the spring of 1977.53

Pine Crest's fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 1984, while Dr. McMillan was still alive and on campus. It was another occasion for staff, students, and parents to commemorate her role in the creation and development of the school. During this time, Pine Crest publications featured many pictures and tributes to the school's founder. The most notable of these publications was the yearbook, The Crestian, which reported, "Festivities inundated calendars as the administration and students alike strived to make this occasion special in all respects." Student Amy Averbuch confessed, "Being a senior is great, but graduating on the Fiftieth Anniversary makes my final year here even more exciting." That year, Dr. Mae turned eight-six. She could be seen "on any given day, ...a stately older woman traversing the campus picking up garbage and litter wherever she finds it."54

As a special celebration, she flew over the campus in a Goodyear blimp, taking pictures while 700 students formed the number "50" on the athletic field below her. Photographs of her in the blimp, as well as of the blimp itself, abounded at that time. The Crestian commented, "The spiritual fortitude of Dr. Mae McMillan as well as her hearty devotion to each Pine Crest student—more than bricks and mortar—are the qualities that have held Pine Crest together for fifty years. It would not at all be surprising if they did so for fifty more."55

On February 10, 1984, the school's Institute for Civic Involvement celebrated "Dr. Mae Day," holding a breakfast early in the morning to honor the founder, who was presented with a plaque naming her "Citizen of the Year." Institute Director Raymond Sessman expressed appreciation at having the chance to "honor properly such an inspiring woman." The many awards Dr. McMillan had received over the years were displayed at the I.C.I. library, where they took up an entire wall.56

Toward the end of the 1984 Crestian, Dr. McMillan is pictured talking to a Pine Crest seventh grade class about her autobiography.57 For those who wish to remember her, re-acquaint themselves with her vital personality, or learn about her for the first time, reading this book will provide endless insights into her thoughts about her life and career. The students who read it will appreciate her real spirit and ambition for Pine Crest.

After a fall removed her from campus, Dr. McMillan died on April 10, 1985, a few weeks before her eighty-seventh birthday. Her son Bill reported that she faced the end with courage, as she did all things in life. She had suffered a long bout with painful cancer and had struggled to keep off drugs until the last stages of the disease.58

Like her athletes at Pine Crest, Mae McMillan never gave up. In 1978, Mike Morgan, columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News, wrote about how ambitious she was—for herself and for others:

**But Mae isn't satisfied. She has a kind of magnificent dissatisfaction that spurs her to greater goals.**

And not all those ambitions are concerned with new buildings or new projects, although such are always on the boards.

**Mae is deeply interested in helping build a scholarship program that will enable worthy youngsters to enroll at the school whose parents otherwise could not meet**
the financial requirements....No
book can reflect the story as does
this school, whose chapters are
being constantly written by an 80-
year-old author with a 30-year-old
verse.50

The commemorative issue of Pine
Crest Previews, published immediately
after her death, contained a
paragraph that Ann Burgess had
written on June 7, 1974:

A good mind deserves the finest
training. A good body deserves
the finest care. A beautiful cam-
pus deserves appreciation and
respect. By these tenets Dr. Mae
McMillan has lived and has asked
her students to join her. In the
quest for enlightenment, individu-
ality, leadership, and
responsibility, she has been our
ideal model.60

Teacher Amzi Barber, in the same
issue, declared:

Mae McMillan more than most
had much of which to be proud.
She had built her dream into rea-
ality; she had made a resounding
success of her professional career
and had done so, for the most
part, on her own.61

Dr. Mae McMillan's life and work
were truly Summa Cum Laude.

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Notes

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2 Mae McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred
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4 Ibid., vii, xi.
5 Ibid., 3-7.
6 Ibid., 6-7.
7 Ibid., 156.
8 Ibid., 8-21.
9 Ibid.
10 William J. McMillan, letter to Dr. Mary
11 McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years,
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12 Ibid., 22-23, 40.
13 Ibid., 25-27.
14 Ibid., 62.
15 William J. McMillan, conversations with Dr.
Mary McGreedy, Pine Crest School, Fort
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16 McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years,
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18 Ibid., 34-37.
19 Mario J. Pena and Amzi Barber, Pine Crest
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20 Ibid.; Mrs. McMillan had joined Mrs. Herriott
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22 Ibid., 36; Mary McGreevy, "Ivy Julia
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26 Fort Lauderdale Daily News, May 24, 25,
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27 McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years,
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28 Ibid., 52; William J. McMillan, "Announce-
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29 McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years,
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30 Marjean Packard, letter to Dr. Mary
31 McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years,
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32 Ibid., 62-63.
33 Ibid., 64.
34 Ibid., 66-71.
35 Ibid., 71; William J. McMillan, letter to Dr.
Mary McGreedy, August 20, 1993.
36 McMillan, My Life, Plus A Hundred Years,
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