

# 1936 graduate reflects on her Tiger years

Story by Alyssa Kramer

The spring of 2016 marked 80 years since Mrs. Evelyn Rohlack graduated from Thrall High School. When she visited the yearbook staff to talk about her experiences as a student in the 1930s and her career as the school's secretary, she still proudly wore the tiny silver basketball charm she earned playing in the 1935 state tournament.

Mrs. Rohlack, a 1936 graduate, played guard on the girls' basketball team, known as the "Tigeresses".

"It got pretty rough at times," said Mrs. Rohlack whose job was to keep the other team from stealing the ball. They played half-court basketball then, receiving a foul if they crossed the line in the middle of the court.

The Tigeresses finished 4th at the girls' state tournament held at the Gregory Gym in Austin, before girls' basketball was part of the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

The team did not ride buses to their games, so Mrs. Rohlack carpooled with her coach, Mrs. Perle Worth Modessett.

"I would always ride with her to ball games," she said. "I thought a lot of my coach. She tried to tell us to play fair, not to be ugly. Don't try to trip them. You were out there playing to have fun."

The team played county schools first and then worked their way up.

"We went to a lot of different communities to play," she said. "I think we played Thorndale and places further out."

There was always a large crowd

at the games to show their support and pride for the Tigeresses.

"I was always proud of Thrall. We were a little school, but I was proud," Mrs. Rohlack said.

After basketball season, Mrs. Rohlack took to the field.

"I was a captain in baseball," she said. "I thought I was really

at a school," she said.

"Life works in wondrous ways. Things you would never imagine happen."

Like today, when Mrs. Rohlack was in school people were excited to be Thrall Tigers.

"You were proud to be going to school there," she said. "We had a lot of pride. We were Thrall."

*"We had a lot of pride. We were Thrall."*

*— Evelyn Rohlack  
Class of 1936*

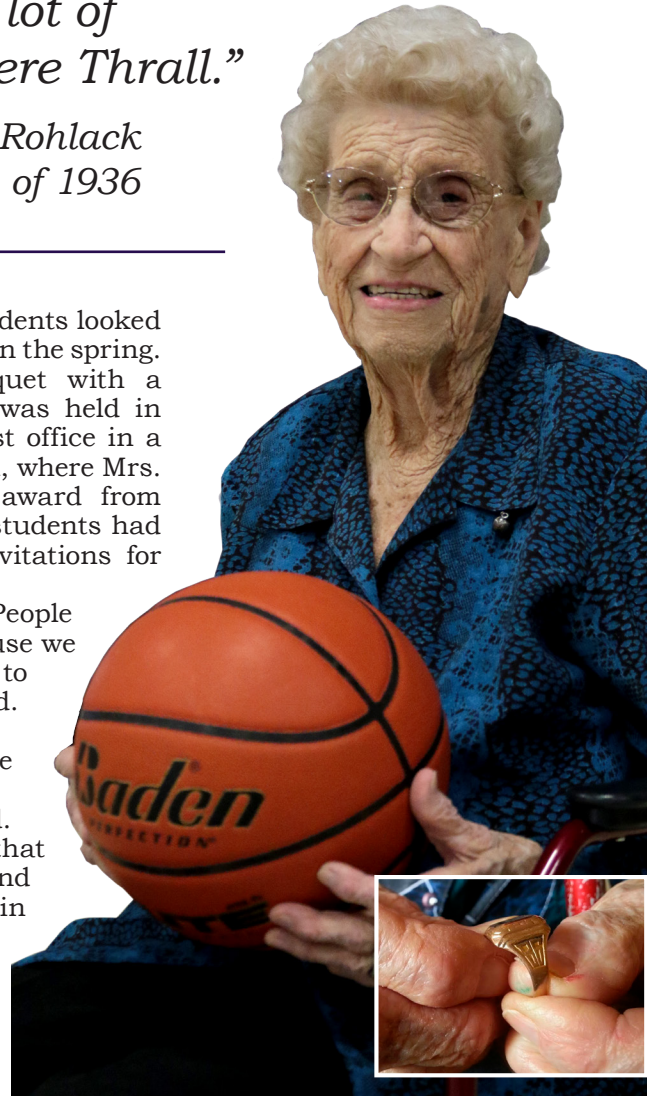
something."

Similar to today, students looked forward to a gathering in the spring. A junior senior banquet with a meal and a program was held in town, south of the post office in a hotel from the oil boom, where Mrs. Rohlack received an award from the townspeople. The students had to make their own invitations for the event.

"It was hard times. People made everything because we didn't have any money to buy anything," she said.

In 1964, Thrall had an open position to hire a secretary and Mrs. Rohlack was suggested. She started in July of that year, retired in 1987, and returned for five years in 1993.

"I would never believe I would be the secretary. I never even thought I would work



Opening: Generations of Pride

## Handmade invitations from the 1936 Junior/Senior Banquet.

