



Mrs. Florence Smith Harrison

Mrs. Harrison is among the best known and most revered of all teachers who ever taught at Perry High School. She taught English grammar, composition, and literature from 1940 until her retirement from Perry High in 1970. For most of these years, she was also the faculty advisor for the Speech Club and director of many award-winning dramatic productions, especially one-act plays in interscholastic literary competition.

Many of her former students attribute much of their success in life to their knowledge and use of the English language as learned from Mrs. Harrison. Sam Nunn, former U.S. Senator, recently described Mrs. Harrison as “my all time favorite teacher. She had a profound effect on my life and career.” She is renowned for her teaching methods requiring memorization of prose and poetry passages by authors ranging from John Milton and William Shakespeare to Robert Frost.

The *Panther* yearbook was dedicated to her in 1957. She was described as, “one who has given unselfishly of her time and efforts to every dramatic production in high school; who corrected our speaking voices and grammar, and encouraged our literary attempts; who inspired us, pushed us, and taught us; we dedicate this edition of the *Panther* to our Academy Award winner.”

Mrs. Harrison was born in Macon in 1915. She graduated from Hapeville High School and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Georgia State College for Women. Mrs. Harrison and her husband, Willis, continue to reside in Perry.