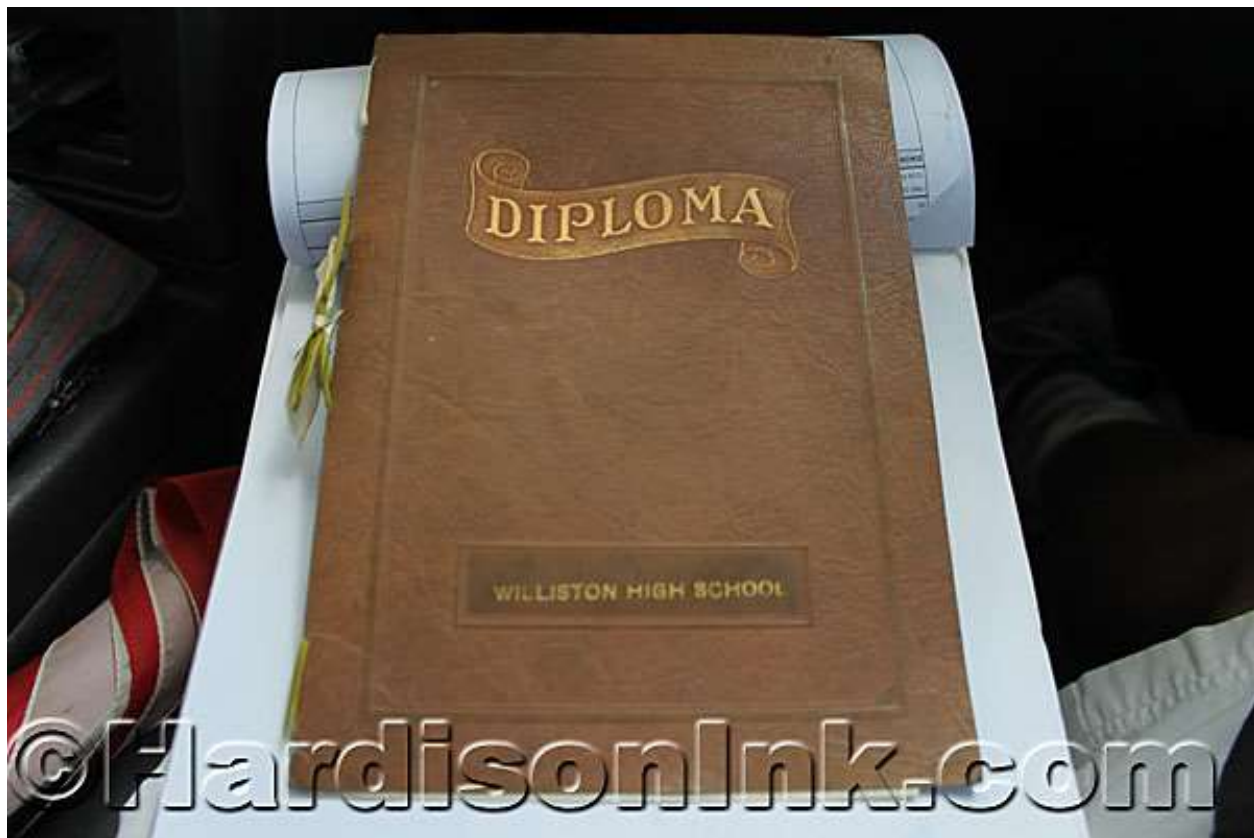


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## WHS Class of 1927 remembered



**This is a picture of the cover for the folded diploma of Ida Mae Barton from May, 6, 1927 - 90 years ago.**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © June 14, 2017 at 1:07 p.m.**

**WILLISTON** – With the recent graduation of the Williston Middle High School Class of 2017, Jim Mixson, a member of Rotary Club International for four decades, noticed a chance to reminisce about his mother.

The 87-year-old man shared an opportunity with *HardisonInk.com* to see the actual diploma his mother accepted on May 6, 1927 – 90 years ago.

Mixson also provided a chance to photograph the front and back of an original class picture of that group, with handwritten names to identify the members listed in order on the back of the photograph.

His mother at the time was named Iva Mae Barton (May 30, 1910-Oct. 11, 1996).

His father was Maxey Miles Mixson (Sept. 1, 1898-July 12, 1974).

“My mom was a sweet lady,” Jim Mixson said on Tuesday afternoon (June 13). “My father was a fine gentleman.”

Jim Mixson, who is the sergeant-at-arms of the Rotary Club of Williston, said his father was a farmer.

Mixson said he was glad to share a view of the 90-year-old photograph, diploma and other documents in honor of his late mother’s memory.

As for high school, Jim Mixson is a graduate of Reddick High School in the Class of 1947.

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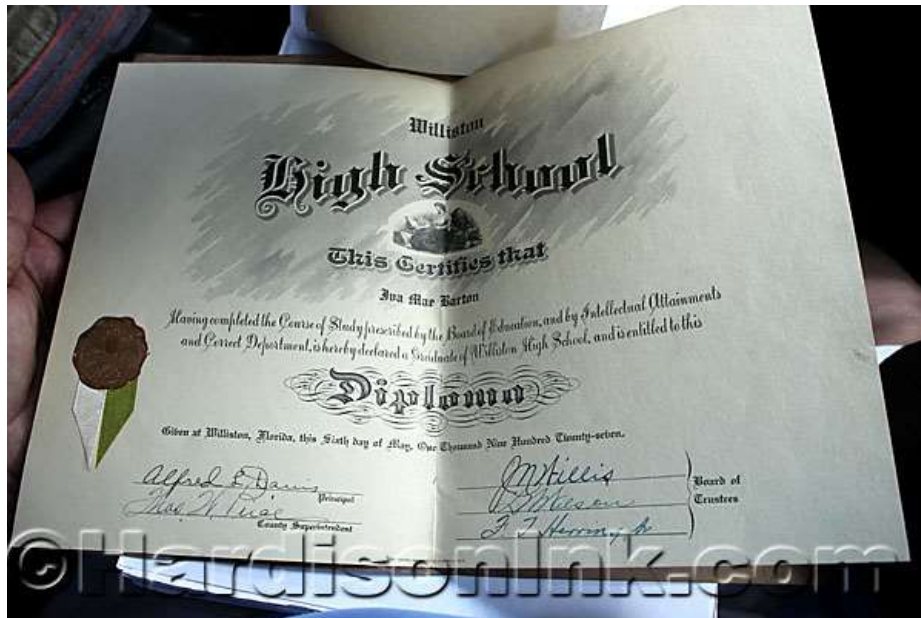


Here the group poses on some steps. They are (left row) Rosa Mae Stephenson; Salutatorian Doris McGoogan, Annie Laurie Elston, Winnie Piper, Elizabeth Reddick, Odessa Roach, Class Vice President Rufus Limbaugh, Principal Alfred L. Davis and (right row) Class President Edna Nelson, Class Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Hinson, Iva Mae Barton, Lila Belle Gunnels, Grace (Gracie) Jane Baggett, Class Reporter Carrie B. McDonnell, Rudolph Denmark, and Miss Luella M. Rouse - Class Sponsor. During the program of graduation exercises, which started at 8:15 that Friday night (May 6, 1927), the introduction was given by J.N. Willis (one of the Board of Trustees). The class colors were green and white. The class flower was the Shasta daisy. The class motto was "Build for Character not for Fame." The sponsors were L.O. Hazen - Ladies and Gents Ready to Wear, Dry Goods and Notions; F.M. Hawkins & Son - The Quality Store, Groceries and Meats Fresh and Clean (Phone No. 2) {Phone numbers were not so long in Williston 90 years ago}; Cut Price Store F. Houraney, Proprietor, Bargains in Everything; and Fletcher's Drug Store (Phone 57) We Appreciate Your Patronage.

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This is the back of the photograph, which shows the name of each person in order on the reverse side. It is in the handwriting of Iva Mae Barton (Mixson).



This is the original diploma from Williston High School made out to Iva Mae Barton who was presented with it on May 6, 1927 after 'Having completed the course of study prescribed by the Board of Education, and by Intellectual Attainments and Correct Department.'

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**Jim Mixson, 87, drives his Chevrolet pickup truck in the Wacahoota area of Levy County on Tuesday afternoon (June 13).**

*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © June 14, 2017 at 1:07 p.m.*