



Litton Blast

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN
Volume MMXXI Issue 1 January 2021

The MISSION of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is to preserve the rich heritage of our former school, to provide support to the present Isaac Litton Middle School, and be a positive influence in the lives of ALL the children in our community. We do this with effective communication that continually reaches out to bring the Alumni and the community together to promote our programs and services.

SAVE THE DATE! June 26, 2021, All-Year Banquet

More details TBA in upcoming emails and the April Blast.

As our world heals, we hope we can get together again soon.

IN THE MEANTIME: Please continue to show your support financially through donations and by paying your annual dues (\$15). Thank you for your generosity and STAY SAFE!

MAIL CASH OR YOUR CHECK (payable to ILAA) to:

ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 752

MADISON, TN 37116

**(or to Roy "Buddy" Jones, Treasurer, 100 Windham Drive,
Hendersonville, TN 37075)**

IN THIS ISSUE			
Message from the President	2	Lions at the Watering Hole (Shoney's)	11
UnGarage Sale	3	A Perfect Night for Love	16
Litton High Forever!	4	Litton Legend – Bonnie Ryan Sloan	17
Funnies for the New Year	6	Happy New Year from the Staff of the Blast	20
Santa's Elves at Work (BIM)	7	Gone but Never Forgotten	21
And Now For Something Completely Different	10		



WELCOME TO 2021!!!

As I write this message I am reminded of what a hard year that we all had in 2020. Dealing with the Pandemic and Political and Civil unrest throughout our country. We lost many of our Alumni this past year. That said, we still have much to be thankful for. Family, friends and the freedom we have in our country still. Also, for the family we have in our fellow alumni from Isaac Litton High School and the memories that we all still hold to.

Let me take a moment to thank everyone that participated in our first ever “Un-Garage Sale” and those who made donations to our friends at the Backfield in Motion Program for at risk youth in our city. Our school building may be long gone, but our Spirit is still as strong as it was those many years ago!

Let me close by saying that we hope to have our Annual All Alumni Banquet this year on June 26th. We will follow the guidelines for gathering to make sure that we can still hold this event. The Classes of ‘70 and ‘71 still plan to hold their 50th Reunions this year as well as the Class of ‘60 for their 60th. More information will come in the April issue of the Blast. I also hope to hold a Special Memorial Day Observance for those Alumni who gave their lives fighting for our Country and named on the Blue Bricks at the Memorial Wall.

For now I pray that you and your family stay safe and have had a wonderful Holiday Season.

ILHS.....The Best.....Oh Yes!!!!

**Don Clark (Class of 1970)
President
Isaac Litton Alumni Association (ILAA)**

Wow! Litton Alumni Really Came Through!



Amazing! During the weeks of our UnGarage Sale, our wonderful Alumni contributed **\$10,695!** Way to go Lions!!!

Although the UnGarage Sale dates are done, we hope you'll continue to contribute whenever you can to the Association so that we can keep supporting the great projects that will keep our beloved school in folks' memories.

Remember, all donations to the Alumni Association are completely tax deductible as we are a licensed 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. Please send to:

Roy (Buddy) Jones, ILAA Treasurer
100 Windham Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Litton High Forever

Contributed by Dan Jewell (Class of 1958) (edited for content and space)

The Nashville high school I attended from 1954-1958, Isaac Litton, was a special place. It's gone now, at least the main buildings are, but its memory lingers in the hearts of its graduates, and its influence in the community and the world is still being felt.



I can still remember those brisk cold Friday nights in the Fall when some friends and I from the neighborhood would hike up Riverwood towards Gallatin Pike, cut across the practice fields at Eastdale, and head to the football field where we'd find a place in the stands to watch the Lions. I can smell the hot dogs and the coffee even now. In my mind's eye I can still see Hawkins and Wallace as one of them received the kickoff and started that wild reverse return. And I can still hear those fiery fight songs the band, the Marching 100, played that made you think you could conquer the world.



...

Our school was definitely "old school." And we were dang proud of it. Still are.

Up until the virus intervened, the class of 1958 still had a regular monthly dinner and get together. I'm sure we'll continue it when the virus is finally defeated. The dinner is always lots of fun. People seem so happy and full of energy. There are smiles aplenty, laughter, glasses tinkling, and lots of backslapping camaraderie.

I've been to the dinners in warm days of spring and summer and the cool and cold days of fall and winter. The weather doesn't matter to us. It may be 20 degrees outside with snow on the ground or maybe a hot sticky July night. Whenever and wherever we meet, the joint is always jumping.

In the language of country rock musicians, athletes, and the milkman, "We Bring It, Man."

It's been sixty-two years now this past May since we got our diplomas from Mr. Foster and walked away from the old school for the last time as students. That's a very long time. It's a cliché I know, but it seems just like yesterday.

I remember sitting there at one of the dinners this winter before the virus hit. I looked around at the happy crowd and remembered, as I'm sure all my classmates do, the teen angst and uncertainty that we all experienced in those years, the doubts, the fears all mixed up with youthful hubris. And I also thought of how generous and confident we seem now that all those youthful wars and the other ones we fought through the years are behind us now.

Sure, we had our struggles.

But we found our strength and energy and pushed ahead. Most of us didn't realize it back then, I know I didn't, but Old Litton gave us a solid and enduring foundation to build our lives on. Besides giving us a high-quality education, it taught us the meaning of friendship and gave us a fighting spirit for the journey ahead.

And, even though most of us are retired, we still have great pride in our school and what it meant to us. And we still have that fighting spirit. We're not just "busy." We're living to the limit. Back then, and now too, you'd have to get up pretty "Early in the Morning" to get ahead of us.

And baby, when we're gone, you're gonna miss us. Right, Mr. Holly? (This song came out the year we graduated, 1958).

You're Gonna Miss Me (Early in the Morning)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jxt7cZgYhXk>



Well- you're gonna miss me Early In The Morning one of these days

Oh yeah - You're gonna want me Early In The Morning when I'm away

Yes, you'll be sorry for the times I cried

You'll be sorry for the time you lied

Well you're gonna miss me Early In The Morning one of these days.

Well you know a rolling stone don't gather no moss

And you cross your bridge when it's time to cross

Well ya broke my heart when you said goodbye

Now the milk is spilt but you're gonna cry

Yeah Early In The Morning you're gonna know that I was right

Early In The Morning when there's nobody to hold you tight

Well you're gonna want me, want me bad

You're gonna miss the best man you ever had

Yes you're gonna miss me

You're gonna want me

One of these days

FUNNIES FOR THE NEW YEAR



Even when you seem to be in over your head, approach your day with joy.
Don't let the messy stuff pull you down!





Santa's ILAA Elves at work!

BIM Gift Wrapping Event and Contribution

Contributed by Judy Butler Cline (Class of '70)

On Sunday afternoon, December 6, 2020, several members of the Isaac Litton Alumni Board gathered at Alumni Hall to wrap 135 Christmas gifts for the boys served by Backfield in Motion. In past years, BIM has hosted a Christmas meal for the boys. This year due to the Coronavirus pandemic they had to forgo the meal, but they still gave gifts and asked us for help with the gift-wrapping.

Additionally, Buddy Jones, ILAA Treasurer, presented checks to Todd Campbell, Executive Director of BIM. Donations included \$2250 from the ILAA and \$2050 in other donations to help defray the cost of the gifts and other BIM expenses.



ILAA Executive Board Treasurer, Buddy Jones presents checks to Todd Campbell, BIM Executive Director.

Because Metro is limiting gatherings such as this to eight people, we complied by working in two shifts so that we could socially distance. You can see from the pictures that we were very careful and wore masks. BIM furnished all the supplies, and the following Board members participated:

(From 2-3:30) Don Clark (making selfie), Kitty Woodson, Buddy Jones, Mickey Collier, Pat Martin, Pat Collier, Johnny Haliburton.



(From 3:30-5:00) Seated: Judy Cline, Pat Martin, Kitty Woodson. Standing: John McHenry, Mike Riggins, Phil Watts.

In past years, the Isaac Litton Alumni Association Board helped to serve the boys at the two-night Christmas dinner event during which the gifts were distributed. This year, due to Covid-19, BIM delivered the gifts to the boys at their homes.

We enjoyed being able to gather together to help with the gift-wrapping, but certainly hope for a Coronavirus-free Christmas next year so that if BIM resumes the Christmas meals, we will be able to serve once again.



Buddy Jones wrapping a gift for BIM.



Mike Riggins, Pat Martin, and Kitty Woodson wrap while Phil Watts supervises!



Mickey Collier wraps a video game.



Kitty Woodson is our wrapping expert.



Pat Collier can wrap a mean gift, too!



Pat Martin works her magic for the boys.



Having Lunch with Friends
is Much Better than therapy!
And Much More Fun!

And Now For Something Completely Different:

(Puns 4 you)



Turning vegan would be a big missed steak.

Crushing pop cans is soda pressing.

I have a chicken-proof lawn. It's impeccable.

I ate a frozen apple. Hard core.

When the smog lifts in California, UCLA.

I hate this snow! No, wait. I love this snow!

Signed, Bi-polar Bear

Roses are red. Beer is great. Poems are hard.

Signed, Beer

I'm terrified of elevators and I'm taking steps to avoid them.

Cows have hooves because they lactose.

Huge fight at local seafood diner! Battered fish everywhere!

I'm friends with 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know Y.

Whenever I try to eat healthy, a chocolate bar looks at me and Snickers.

Electricians have to strip to make ends meet.

Well, to be Frank, I'd have to change my name.

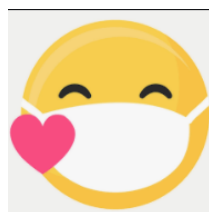
Dogs can't operate MRI scanners, but catscan.

Double negatives are a no-no in English.

Irony. The opposite of wrinkly.

I'm pining for a good tree pun. I wish they were more poplar.

Sweet dreams are made of cheese. Who am I to dis a brie?



Lions at the Watering Hole

(Shoney's!)



Contributions compiled by Kaaren Frazier Andrews (Class of '1959)

After football games and proms, teens in the 1950s would gather at the Frozen Castle near East High School, the Krystal, the A&W Root Beer stand, or the Hi-Ho for cokes, snacks or just general hanging-out. On really special occasions, they might drive over across the river to Melfi's or Varallo's for pizzas, but usually, they stayed on home turf in east Nashville. Then in 1959, a new restaurant opened in Madison. It was at the north end of Madison Square Shopping Center, just a few miles down Gallatin Road from Litton. Since it was close to schools and movie theaters, it became a great place to go on weekends. Car-hops brought your food outside to cars on trays which they'd attach to car windows. The food was good: thick burgers and shakes and strawberry pie and hot fudge cake, among others. It became a great place for cruising around and seeing friends and catching up. Shoney's had come to town.



Shoney's Ray Danner

Shoney's had its beginning in 1947 when Alex Schoenbaum opened the Parkette Drive-In next to his dad's bowling alley in Charleston, West Virginia. In 1952, after meeting with Bob Wian, the founder of the Big Boy franchise, Schoenbaum became a franchise owner in the Parkette Big Boy Shoppes. In May, 1954, a contest was offered to the public to choose a formal name for the restaurant group, and in June, 1954, the name "Shoney's" was chosen. In 1959, Ray Danner and partner James Craft bought a Shoney's franchise for \$1,000 (yes; that's right: one thousand dollars) and opened Tennessee's first Shoney's in Madison. And then the fun and a lot of memories began.

Kaaren Frazier Andrews, Class of 1959: Shoney's was the place my boyfriend and I went on weekends after going to the Skyway Drive-In or the skating rink. He usually ordered a chocolate milk shake and I'd have a chocolate sundae. In the late 1970s, my daughter was a flag girl in Goodpasture School's marching band and had to be at the school by 5:00 p.m. on football game nights. She and my mom would be waiting at the front door for me to get home from work and would come running out to the car as soon as I pulled into the driveway. We'd head straight for the school to drop her off, then my mom and I would go to Shoney's for dinner before the game. Fish and chips was a favorite order, as were hamburgers and fries, and sometimes, we'd have dessert. The marching band members gathered there after the games, too. Those were very special times!



Alice Stewart Shehane, Class of 1965: A long time ago in a shopping center not far away, there was a magical place called “Shoney’s.” Boys and girls would go there to eat onion rings, Slim Jim sandwiches, the “Half a Pound of Ground Round” entrée with two sides, fudge cake, and fantastic strawberry pie. They’d drink gallons of Coke floats and cherry



Cokes. (Didn’t I say it was a magical place?) I remember when the restaurant opened. We were so excited! Teenagers drove around and around the drive-up stalls outside the main building, meeting up with friends or checking out members of the opposite sex. Many of the band functions were held there. I was in the band’s Color Guard and we’d often go there for meals or to gather and visit. My father was crazy about the fish sandwiches. I’d never had fried onion rings before, and Shoney’s version remains the standard for me to this day. (I didn’t even mind if the crust pulled loose from the onion,

leaving a slimy string of stinkiness on my plate.) I’m not sure what happened or why its popularity waned, but I still miss Shoney’s to this day. A couple of other locations still exist in the middle Tennessee area, but the Madison Shoney’s will always be dearest to my heart.

Jerry Newman, Class of 1958: Guys were especially proud to circle the drive-in area of Shoney’s to show off their new wheels or even their old ones. And there was always a possibility that there might be a few ladies without dates that would enjoy some company and us guys were there to fill the bill. The food was nothing short of remarkable. They had the best fried onion rings that you ever tasted. My personal favorite was the Slim Jim sandwich with thin sliced ham and Swiss cheese with their own special sauce to bring it all together. Shoney’s was definitely one of the best places to be on a Friday or Saturday night after ball games, drive-in movies or a special date such as the prom. I wish we could turn back the hands of time just for a few hours so we could cruise Shoney’s one more time. Are you ready?



Larry Collier, Class of 1969: When we were in the band, several factions in the band would get together before a football game. The drum rank, majorettes and the color guard were among the groups that got together socially. Sometimes, they would meet at Shoney’s for a pre-game meal. Another Shoney’s memory is that from New Year’s Eve. Hundreds of people would be there for an unofficial fireworks display set off by the patrons. It was quite a celebration that I will never forget. Once, a cop who was attempting to direct traffic in the Madison Square lot close to Shoney’s was seen holding a beer. He may have just removed it from an under-age teen, but he was holding it while directing traffic. It was a fun evening of relatively safe celebration. The souped-up cars cruising Shoney’s were soooooo cool. It was quite a show just watching them roll by. I just loved the Big Boy onion rings and hot fudge cake, all washed down with a chocolate milk shake. We certainly did not eat healthily back then!

Mickey Collier, Class of 1965: What a great way to show off your car and your hot date! I worked 16 hours on Saturday and 12 hours on Sunday at Chapmans Gulf, Ardee and Gallatin Rd., for a month to pay for a set of chrome reverse wheels for the '55 Chevy wagon. Your date would ride in the middle of the front seat next to the driver. Of course, no seat belts. On many occasions, that old wagon would have 6 or more on board for the evening. They looked so good cruising Shoney's. It was the place to meet people from other schools. Some of those initial friendships have lasted for decades. There were more hook-ups at Shoney's than E-harmony or Tinder ever had. Tommy Ward and I would stand at the circle turn to inform certain people of the location of that night's Hootenanny. Our choices were Old Hickory Lake locations, or Hendersonville Park or locations we had named Stanley's Island or Falstaff Flats! The management of Shoney's also donated a portion of the profits one night toward the Marching 100's trip to the Macy's parade in 1964. The taste of a Big Boy at the original cost of fifty cents. And then the hot fudge cake! We did not need to worry about cholesterol or sugar in those days!

SHONEY'S NATIONALLY FAMOUS FEATURES OF THE HOUSE:



THE "BIG BOY" HAMBURGER
Two patties of the finest steer beef on our specially baked Sesame Seed toasted bun with crisp lettuce, a slice of fine American cheese and the special dressing we make ourselves. **.60**

THE "SLIM JIM" SANDWICH
Baked Ham, Fresh, Seltzer Swiss Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato, SHONEY'S Own Sauce, on a Hot Grecian Bun. **.60**

Sandwiches

SHONEY'S TENDER STEAK SANDWICH
Tasty, Tender, and Tempting Chopped Steak, Served as a Grecian Roll, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayonnaise. **.65**

KINGFISH SANDWICH
Neptune's Favorite, French Fried, Served with Lettuce and our Special Sauce on a Giant Grecian Roll. **.60**

BAKED HAM .50 GRILLED CHEESE .30

SHONEY'S fabulous Deep-Fried Sweet

Bermuda Onion Rings **.35**
Large Order **.65**
Idaho Golden French Fried Potatoes **.25**
Large Order **.45**

Salads

CHEF'S SHRIMP SALAD BOWL
Delicious Fresh Shrimp, Crisp Lettuce, Tomato, with Choice of dressing, Served in a Chilled Bowl, with crackers and butter. **1.10**

DICED HAM AND CHEESE SALAD
Generous Portions of Baked Ham and Cheese, Served with Crisp Lettuce, Tomato, in a Chilled Salad Bowl, Choice of Dressing, Crackers and Butter. **.85**

PINEAPPLE AND COTTAGE CHEESE
Three large Scoops of Cottage Cheese on Crisp Lettuce with Chilled Pineapple, Crackers and Butter. **.60**

TOSSED GREEN SALAD
Crisp Fresh Greens and Tomato, Choice of Dressing, Crackers and Butter. **.30**

POTATO SALAD (Shoney's Own Recipe)25
Our dressings are 100% Fat, French, Bleu Cheese, Or Vinegar and Oil

Beverages

SHONEY'S "FAMOUS" MILK SHAKE All Flavors
A Rich Creamy Delight, with Whipped Topping and Cherry. **.30**

COCA-COLA **1.50** - Giant **.25**
PEPSI-COLA **1.50** - Giant **.25**
SOFT DRINKS **1.50** - Giant **.25**
MILK **.15** ICED TEA **.15**
HOT TEA **.15** ICED COFFEE **.15**
ORANGE **.15 and .25** COFFEE **.15**
LEMONADE **.15 and .25** COFFEE **.15 and .25**
HOT CHOCOLATE (with Marshmallow) **.15**

"BIG BOY" COMBINATION PLATE
The Fabulous Big Boy Hamburger served with Golden Brown French Fried Idaho Potatoes, Tossed Salad Bowl, Choice of Dressing. **.95**

"SLIM JIM" COMBINATION PLATE
Our Famous Slim Jim, Served with French Fries, Tossed Salad Bowl, Choice of Dressing. **.95**

TENDER STEAK COMBINATION PLATE
Our Famous Tender Steak Sandwich, Tasty and Tempting, Prepared to Your Taste, Served with French Fried Potatoes, Tossed Salad Bowl and Choice of Dressing. **.95**

KINGFISH COMBINATION PLATE
Our Famous Kingfish Sandwich (Neptune's Favorite), French Fries, Tossed Salad Bowl, Choice of Dressing. **.95**

Appetizers

SOUP OF THE DAY Homemade, for Soup Gourmets. **.30**
CHILI WITH BEANS (In Soppin) **.35**

Dinners

HALF-POUND O'GROUND ROUND
One-Half Pound Finest Quality Beef, Grilled to your Desire, Topped with Onion Rings, Served with French Fries or Potato Salad, Tossed Salad Bowl with Choice of Dressing, Grecian Roll. **1.50**

OLD FASHIONED CHICKEN
Six Generous Servings of Golden Brown Fried Chicken, Flump Tender and Juicy, Served with French Fries or Homemade Potato Salad, Tossed Salad Bowl with Choice of Dressing, Grecian Roll. **1.25**

SEAFOOD DINNER
GENEROUS PORTION OF FISH, SHRIMP, SCALLOPS, OYSTER, Cole Slaw or Tossed Salad, French Fries or Potato Salad, Grecian Roll. **1.65**

JUMBO SHRIMP FRY
Six Golden Brown Shrimp Fried to perfection, SHONEY'S Cocktail Sauce, French Fried Idaho Potatoes, Tossed Salad Bowl, Choice of Dressing, Lemon, Grecian Roll. **1.50; Lg. 1.85**

FRENCH FRIED OYSTERS
A Mouth Watering Ocean Delicacy: Six Succulent Golden Brown Sauteed Oysters, Served with French Fries or Potato Salad, Tossed Salad Bowl with Choice of Dressing, Grecian Roll. **1.50; Lg. 1.85**

HAM STEAK DINNER
3 Oz. Center Cut Select Ham, Grilled Pineapple, French Fries or Potato Salad, Tossed Salad Bowl, Choice of Dressing, Grecian Roll. **1.35**

FISH DINNER
8 ounce Portion of Fish, French Fries or Potato Salad, Slaw, Grecian Roll. **1.25**

OLD FASHIONED BEEF STEW
Choice Beef with Fresh Vegetables, Cole Slaw and a Grecian Roll. **.85**

SPAGHETTI with Our Special Shoney's Meat Sauce, Parmesan Cheese, Grecian Roll. **.85**

Desserts

SHONEY'S FRESH STRAWBERRY PIE
Our Own Special Feature Dessert: Large, Fresh, Red Ripe Berries with Whipped Topping. **.45**

HOT FUDGE CAKE
Two Layers of Delectable Fudge Cake sandwiched on ample portion of Vanilla Ice Cream, Generous Heaping of Hot Fudge, Whipped Topping and a Mouthwatering Cherry. **.50**

ICE BOX CREAM PIES **.25**
SHONEY'S SPECIAL HOT FUDGE SUNDAE **.40**
SUNDAES with Whipped Topping **.35**
ICE CREAM **.25**
SHONEY'S HOMEMADE FRUIT PIES **.25**

Take Home a Whole Strawberry Pie






698 x 960



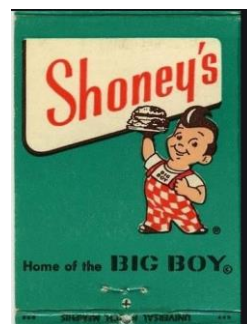
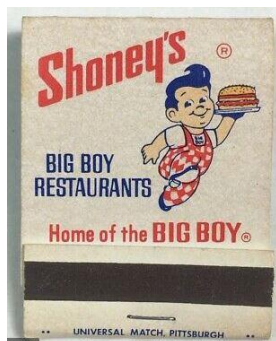
In 2017, it was announced in the Tennessean that this first Shoney's in the state was to be demolished to make space for a planned multi-phased development of retail stores, entertainment facilities, and restaurants. Unfortunately, the director of franchise development and the property could not come to agreeable terms and these projects came to an end. The Shoney's we all knew is now just an empty plot of concrete at the end of Madison Square. But the memories still linger!



Order at the car and the car hop brought it out!



Madison, TN Shoney's opening day, 1959.



Shoney's SPECIAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Served from 11 A.M. 8 to P.M. Thanksgiving Day

COMBINATION SALAD <i>(Choice of Dressing)</i>	SNOWFLAKE POTATOES
YOUNG TOM TURKEY	BUTTERED GREEN PEAS
CORN BREAD DRESSING	CRANBERRY SAUCE
GIBLET GRAVY	PARTS OF CELERY

CHOICE OF DRINK—BUTTERED ROLLS
SHONEY'S SPECIAL PUMPKIN PIE

PRICE \$1.69

CHILD'S PLATE (UNDER 10) \$1.10
SERVED IN THE DINING ROOM, ON THE DRIVE
AND PACKED TO GO

Everyone Is Going To Shoney's Big Boy Drive Ins and Restaurants for Thanksgiving Dinner

MADISON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER THOMPSON LN.
MURFREESBORO RD. DONELSON PLAZA HARDING RD.
CLARKSVILLE GALLATIN ROAD



Nashville Then
January 16, 2019 · 🌐

Nashville Then: A 1969 Highlight – Waitress Mrs. Karen Batten, right, serves David Costello, second from right, a steak at [Shoney's Restaurant](#) in Madison Jan. 23, 1969 as his family, brother Morris Gene and parents Mr. and Mrs. Glen Costello looks on. David, a student at Isaac Litton Junior High and The Tennessean's "Newspaper Carrier Boy of the Month," was reward with a free meal for him and his family for good service to his newspaper customers. [Frank Empson / The Tennessean](#)



1965 sky shot of Madison Square. See the Shoney's drive thru shed at the right? The front and rear lots were always full of kids all week. We had a bunch of fun!!



A Perfect Night for Love

Don Hoover (Class of '61) and Martha Hoover



*The sun is slowly setting cross the valley.
The stars will soon be shining up above.
No clouds are in the sky,
I don't think I know why
This wouldn't be a perfect night for love.*



This surely is a perfect night for love.

*There's just one thing this perfect night is missing...
The one I wish I were kissing.
It's sad but true, what's missing here is you,
And perfect nights cold when you're alone.*

*The coals are slowly dying on the hearthstone,
And soon the dawn will push away the night.
I'll go to bed alone, and wait there by the phone,
For you to call and say you'll make it right.*

And dream someday there'll be a perfect night.

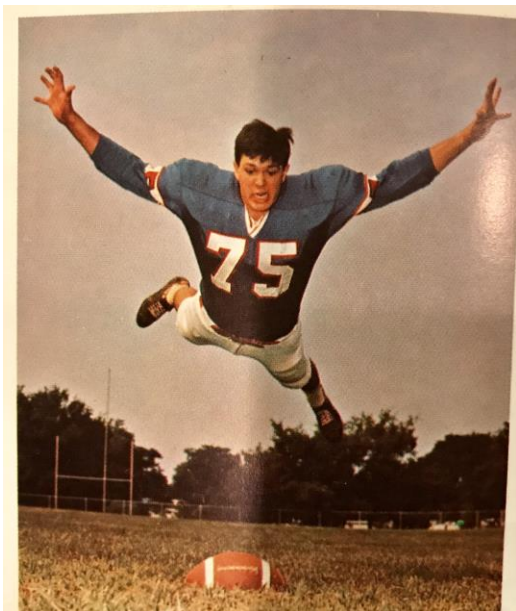


Hoping you have a Valentine's Day full of love!

LITTON LEGEND - BONNIE RYAN SLOAN

Contributed by Larry Collier (Class of 1969)

Throughout our lives, we have been privileged to know and revere legends from all walks of life. Whether it be sports, movies, or music, these people have brought much enjoyment and many memories into our world. Isaac Litton has had a plethora of legends stroll upon the wooden planks of her halls. To be sure, those legends remain firmly implanted in our cherished memories. However, there is one Lion legend unlike any other. His name is Bonnie Ryan Sloan ('69). Bonnie has lived with the sounds of silence since birth, having been born deaf. This is his story.



Bonnie was born in Lebanon, TN and moved into the Inglewood area to attend Jere Baxter Elementary School. In the spring of 1964, the PE teacher at Baxter, Hayden Ray, made a visit to Litton to talk to coaches about Bonnie. Mr. Ray indicated that he had a student who wanted to play football in the fall, but this student was behind schedule in school. When asked why he was behind schedule, Mr. Ray said that Bonnie was deaf.

The coaches suggested that Mr. Ray bring Bonnie to Litton, and in a few days he did just that. Defensive line coach, John Younger, was quite impressed with Bonnie's physical appearance and his ability to read lips. Younger learned quickly that as long as he spoke to Bonnie where he could see the lips, Sloan was intent on communication and his concentration was intense.

When it became time for the beginning of training camp in August, Bonnie and the rest of the team travelled to Linden, TN for a week of football camp. Coach Younger said that perhaps the most impressive thing was how Bonnie was quickly "accepted and embraced by the rest of the players."

*Bottom: John Halliburton,
Bonnie, Mark Accas Middle:
Ronnie Spurlock & Pat Tatum;
Top: Bob Sanford*

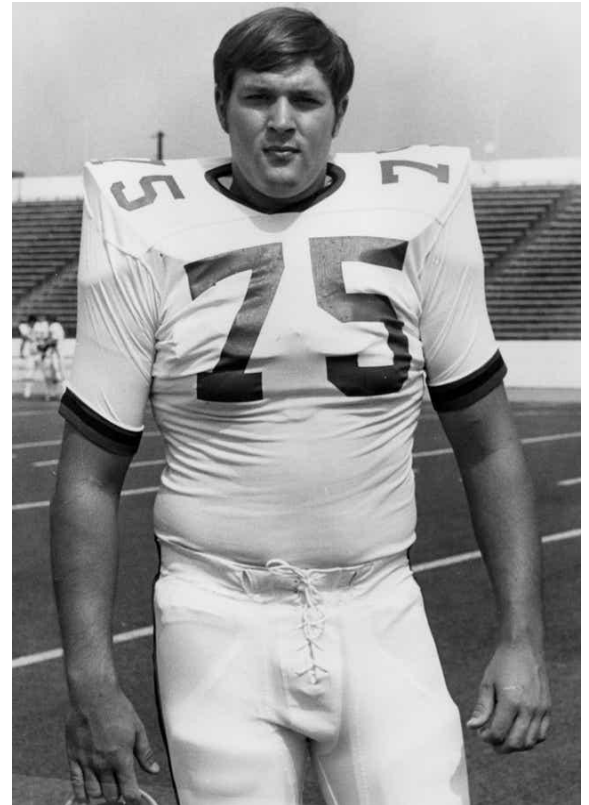


When the hitting began, respect came quickly. At about midweek, Younger saw that this young man was going to be a player, even though Bonnie was just in the 8th grade. Since Younger coached the defensive line, he said, "We learned we had to be very deliberate in talking to him. When we left camp, he was ready to play defense."

Bonnie progressed so much that he started the 2nd game of the season. Coach Younger recalled, "Any concerns about him hearing the snap count were quickly discounted. He could key on the movement of the ball. He was never offside."

The 1964 season was an off-year for the Lions. So when the Big Blue matched up with a highly rated Glenclyff team, odds were that Litton would lose and it wouldn't be close. However, the game was tied late in the 4th quarter and Glenclyff was marching toward a winning touchdown. They had the ball inside the 10 yard line on 4th and goal. Bonnie was double-teamed as the Colts' running back ran behind it. Coach Younger said Bonnie broke the double team in textbook fashion, allowing the linebacker on Bonnie's side to make the tackle for a loss. Litton ran out the clock with the final score 0-0. It was a huge upset. Coach Younger said the time he spent with Bonnie was some of the most rewarding of his career.

Of course, Bonnie went on to many more outstanding plays and continued to impress everyone. However, Bonnie was much more than a football player. He was a true gentleman and was much admired, loved and respected by Litton students of those years. He was simply inspirational.



Bonnie at Austin Peay



Bonnie with the Cardinals

At a pep meeting before Bonnie's last game at Litton, all the senior players were lined up and introduced by Coach Richard Hewitt. When Hewitt finished, one of the most inspiring moments in the history of Isaac Litton surprised all students. Most of us had never heard Bonnie speak. Yet, here he was walking to the microphone. Suddenly, you could have heard a pin drop in the gym. He bent down to the microphone and said "Beat Stratford." Well, there were a few students with dry eyes but not many. The roar which erupted for him was enormous, even though it was silence for him.

Bonnie went on to play at Austin Peay and was selected in the NFL draft by the St. Louis football Cardinals. He became the first deaf player ever to play in the NFL. Unfortunately, a knee injury cut his pro career short.

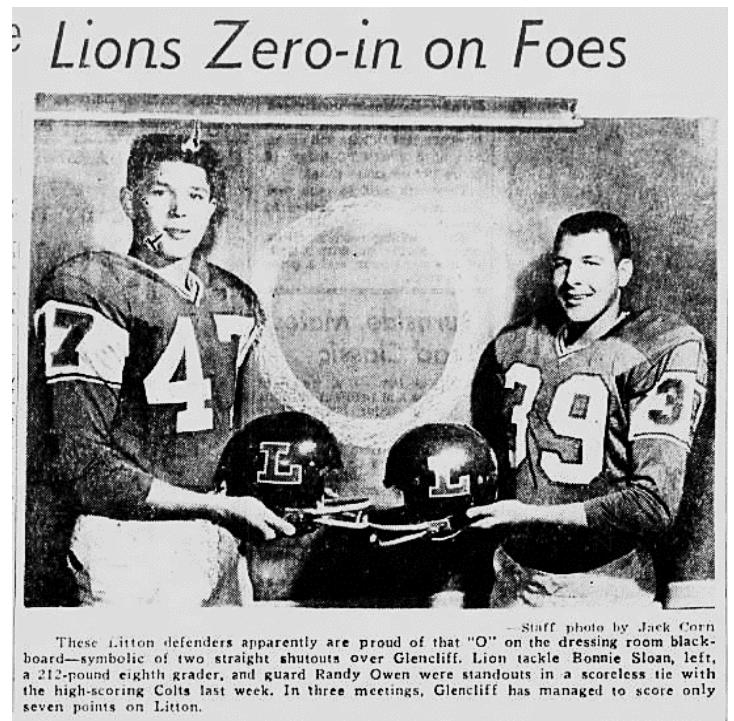
Years later, Coach Hewitt said, "Bonnie did it all for us. Offensively or defensively, he had no peers." Nashville Banner sports writer C. B. Fletcher named Bonnie the Lineman of the Decade for the 1960s.



Bonnie receives recognition for his work with the hearing impaired.

Bonnie has been honored with a long list of awards. Among them are all-city, all-state, all-OVC, MVP at Austin Peay, inducted to the Halls of Fame at Austin Peay and Metro Nashville Public Schools Sport Hall of Fame, and voted Mr. Litton in 1969. His retired Litton football jersey currently hangs in the Lions Den. Additionally, Hendersonville celebrated Bonnie Sloan Day for his contributions to the hearing impaired community. Finally, the Nashville chapter of the National Football Foundation honored him with the Bonnie Sloan Courage Award, which is given each year to a deserving high school athlete.

Bonnie remains loved, respected, and admired by all who know him. He is truly a role model and is modest about his accomplishments and awards. He doesn't really understand what all the fuss is about, but we do. He is an inspiration to all. Thanks, Bonnie, for inspiring us and creating wonderful memories.



Litton High Forever

*Happy New Year from the Staff of the
Litton Blast!*

“May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful, and don't forget to make some art -- write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can. And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself.”

- Neil Gaiman



GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

CLASS	NAME	DATE OF DEATH
42	MARY LEE ALLEY DAVIS	October 19, 2020
43	JUANITA SADLER HOBSON	December 29, 202
45	BETTYE SULLIVAN WALLER	December 06, 2020
47	JANE MADDUX GARRETT	November 10, 2020
47	DOUGLAS GRANVILLE (DOUG) ODOM	October 01, 2020
49	MARY ANN FILSON OVERBY	December 25, 2020
51	PEGGY JANE BROWN GUY	November 07, 2020
52	SHIRLEY CAROL PLANT CLARK	December 12, 2020
53	EVELYN TERESA HUDSON	November 01, 2020
53	DANIEL NELSON MILLER	October 10, 2020
54	EARL RAY MELTON	December 10, 2020
55	JOAN FEE HENSHAW YOUNG	October 19, 2020
55	JOE CARROL TAYLOR	November 03, 2020
56	GORDON HOYTE MINCHEY	October 08, 2020
56	WILLIAM RICHARD SWINDLE SR	December 26, 2020
56	RAYMOND EUGENE WOODSON	November 03, 2020
58	CHARLES EDWARD GIBBS	November 05, 2020
58	MICHAL MAUNSELL BOYLE	November 09, 2020
59	LINDA HARRIS ANGELL	October 30, 2020
59	CURTIS KEATHLEY COVINGTON	December 14, 2020
59	SAUNDRA SEVIER RICHEY	October 24, 2020
59	GEORGE THOMAS STAMPS SR	October 07, 2020
60	WOODROW HARVILL HOOPER JR	October 12, 2020
60	MARTHA REESE O'BRIEN	September 29, 2020
61	RONALD RAY (RONNIE) HICKS	November 02, 2020
62	CHARLES MAYBURN KENNEDY	October 20, 2020
62	WILLIAM RUSSELL PARRISH	November 07, 2020

62	CHARLES OFERRALL THOMPSON JR	October 18, 2020
63	JAMES RONALD (RONNIE) PITTS	October 07, 2020
64	JOY DIANNE HIX JOHNSON	December 07, 2020
65	CHERYL ROBERTA McGINLEY COBB	December 23, 2020
67	RONALD FEHR FLOYD	October 23, 2020
69	JUDITH (JUDY) LEE EUBANK	September 28, 2020
70	MARILYN FAYE UPCHURCH RUTLEDGE	November 20, 2020
70	SANDRA JUNE VAUGHAN COX	October 28, 2020
71	ROBERT LYNN GOODWIN	December 05, 2020

NOTE: Due to the publication deadlines for each quarterly issue of the BLAST, the names of those departed alumni received after the last day of the quarter will be included in the next issue. Please send any additional notices to your class representative as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Don't forget to visit our wonderful website:
IsaacLitton.com**

LITTON HIGH FOREVER!!!