



Litton Blast

Isaac Litton High School Nashville, Tennessee

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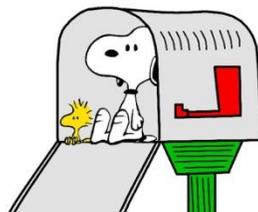


You can't miss this year's Annual All-Alumni Banquet being held on

Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Last year was a huge success and by all comments, a wonderful day for all. Again, we will be at the Bluegrass Yacht & Country Club in Hendersonville, Tennessee. This year, we expect to have ***even more fun than last!***

Watch your email and/or mailbox.



Isaac Litton Alumni's Annual Picnic

by Carol Draper Bourque

The annual picnic was held at Drew and Judy Maddux's home in Gallatin on October 8, 2016. The Maddux's have provided this beautiful setting for over 30 years. While the turnout was not what we had hoped for, we still had about 75-strong to share the afternoon. Everyone brought food and had fellowship with each other. We were glad to see folks we had not seen in a while. We had merchandise available for sale and did make a few sales on sweatshirts, since it was a cool, windy afternoon.



Picturesque view at the Maddux' Farm

The highlight, in addition to seeing old friends, was that Mrs. Mary Barrett Boyd from the Class of 1933 was on hand to join in our fun. For me, this was the second time I have had the privilege of talking with Mrs. Boyd. She was unable to attend the 2016 Annual All-Alumni Banquet this year, but she and I did have the opportunity to visit together the year before. Her daughter, Sandra Travis, brought her all the way from South Carolina, where she lives now. She is presently 101 years of age and resides in a Senior Living facility there. Before relocating to be close to her daughter, she lived many years of her adult life in Gallatin, TN. Now, don't let her age fool you. Trust me - she is sharp as they come! She quickly remembers much of the school, life, and activities at the time.



Mrs. Mary Sue Barrett Boyd and Carol Bourque

I was excited about talking with her because she graduated from Litton the same year as my dad, so talking with her was personally very exciting for me. As we waited for others to arrive, I had the opportunity to sit down with her and walk down memory lane about some of the early years of Litton and her life. She moved to town when she was eight years old and started in the 4th grade at Jere Baxter, where she completed the 8th grade before attending high school at Litton. Jere Baxter was then located behind where the present school is today. Interestingly, the first classes for Litton did not take place in the building we all know as the high school. Litton's first classes were held in 4 rooms in the basement of Jere Baxter, as well as extra rooms across the street at the Inglewood United Methodist Church. As soon as Litton was built, the classes moved to the new building in 1931. Richard Hanson Boyd, her husband, was in the first graduating class of 1932.

I asked Mrs. Boyd if she remembered anything about the name Litton Lions, hoping to find the origin of the Lion as the mascot for the school. She didn't recall anything other than the annual being named The Littonian. What she did recall was that they had a football team (the beginnings of a powerhouse), basketball teams (both girls and boys) and also cheerleaders! At graduation time, they also had a valedictorian and salutatorian. For organizations, there was the Glee Club, where Paul Startup was President her senior year. She didn't recall there being any music program in those early years. She said they had the Litton Blast the year she was there, so someone started this newsletter in 1932, I suspect. What was cool for me was to reflect on the fact that my Dad, Houston Draper, was the business manager of the Blast his senior year in 1933. As crazy as it sounds, here I am working on this publication some 83 years later! Wow, I guess it's true what they say: "The nut doesn't fall far from the tree." Being in the band, as I was, didn't leave a lot of extra time to do things like this in high school. Mrs. Boyd got a kick out of me working on the Blast all these years later.



Ms. Boyd and Coach Charlie Fentress

Some of the classes she recalls were Civics, Latin, Spanish, History, Chemistry, and Biology. Chemistry was her favorite class in which she made the best grades. Mrs. Boyd said several teachers from Litton played a substantial role in her life. We all had teachers that made an impact on our lives, and it was no different for the Class of 1933. She well remembers Mrs. Mary Virginia King (who later became Mrs. Gee). Mrs. Gee taught English at Litton and was the Senior Sponsor for the 1933 class. She was an outstanding teacher and loved by so many over the years. I knew a lot about Mrs. Gee in her later years since she and my parents were good friends. Funny how a teacher you had then wasn't much older than the students she was teaching. Mrs. Clark (History) was a teacher she remembered well and one who made a strong impression

on her life. Mr. Prater, a math teacher and one whom she thought was quite a character, would be writing on the board and boys would get up and just leave the classroom. The crazy thing was that Mr. Prater was so intense in his teaching that he never noticed or missed them! She said this happened all the time. Other than stuff like this, there weren't any real discipline issues like what she hears about today. They were taught to obey the rules and mind their teachers. She didn't recall prayer at the high school, just in elementary school. She does remember saying the Pledge of Allegiance in high school.

By the time Mrs. Boyd graduated, she said they had between 300 and 400 students and the school had grown a great deal. Upon graduation, she went on to Vanderbilt for one year of college. To get to and from Vandy, she rode the street car which cost 7 cents for a ride! Mrs. Boyd said she wasn't that good of a student (which I find hard to believe), so she decided to leave Vandy. Here is a twist I had not heard before. Mrs. Boyd was able to come back to Litton to take additional courses after graduation in the year 1934 and 1935. This was a new program that offered business or secretarial classes for students so they could take shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping. To get to classes there, she walked a mile from her home 3823 Gallatin Road (a stone house that is no longer there), which was located three doors up from Inglewood Baptist Church. We have all laughed about our parents telling us they walked two miles to and from school. I know if I ever complained to my parents about walking and needing a ride, this was the story I got. Well, Mrs. Boyd did it, and I have a recording to prove it!

Mrs. Boyd remarked that she never came to the picnic in years past, but enjoyed this one very much! She also said in the early years, the picnic was down on the lawn in front of the school, so that does go way back before the lovely setting at the Maddux's Farm.

We had one other special surprise guest that came up while Mrs. Boyd and I were chatting and that was Charlie Fentress, who was the assistant coach for three sports in 1954, 1955 and 1956. The Class of 1958 thought so much of him that they made him an honorary member of their class. Coach Fentress had a great time talking to Mrs. Boyd and the two of them shared some great Litton memories.



Covered picnic area

We all spoke of the Inglewood community always being very active and strong supporters of the school, along with the amazing characteristics of the people who were very much a part of the humble beginnings. Mrs. Boyd also talked about how sad it was for the school to close, as we all will agree. It sounded to me as if the group of early settler's mindset is responsible for the school's strong support that still endures today!

Litton High Forever,
Carol Draper Bourque

Photo Gallery

(Courtesy of Cookie Kimbrough)



Great conversations with old friends



ILAA President Phil Watts with a warm welcome



A moment of prayer and thankfulness



Cookie and Charles Kimbrough among the group



Back row, left to right: Steve Howell, Ray Watts, Jimmy Howell, Carol Bourque, Phil Watts, Cookie Kimbrough, Judy Maddux, Charles Kimbrough. Front row, left to right: Skip Dean, Pat Matthews Neely, and Christie Duke Gorrell.

THE BEST THERE EVER WAS

Story suggested by Ed Beakley (Class of 1964)

Submitted by Ed Beakley (Class of 1964): *Seldom can any school claim someone undisputedly, as their very own, as "the very best there ever was."*

But Isaac Litton High School student in the Class of 1939, Bob Hoover was the best pilot who ever touched the controls of an aircraft. To see him perform in a P-51 or Shrike Commander was to view perfection, to view a man doing the supposed undoable. Had the Air Force and earlier version of NASA not demanded a military pilot, Hoover would have been the test pilot to break the sound barrier. As it was, he was Chuck Yeager's back-up and safety chase pilot.

I was fortunate to meet Bob in the mid 80's at the Point Mugu Air Show as a command participant doing an A-7 fly-by demonstration. He was most gracious and delighted to meet a fellow Litton Lion in the "bidness."

Bob passed away October 25, 2016, at the age of 94.



Bob Hoover, center of three, enjoying a day at the Oshkosh airshow with two other legends, Chuck Yeager, left, and Clarence "Bud" Anderson.

MORE ABOUT BOB HOOVER

Robert Anderson "Bob" Hoover (January 24, 1922 – October 25, 2016) was an air show pilot, United States Air Force test pilot, and USAF fighter pilot. Known as the "pilot's pilot." Hoover revolutionized modern aerobatic flying and has been referred to in many aviation circles as one of the greatest pilots ever to have lived.

Hoover learned to fly at Nashville's Berry Field while working at a local grocery store to pay for the flight training. He enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard and was sent for pilot training with the Army.

During World War II, Hoover was sent to Casablanca, where his first major assignment was flight testing the assembled aircraft ready for service. He was later assigned to the Spitfire-equipped 52d Fighter Group in Sicily. On February 9, 1944, on his 59th mission, his malfunctioning Mark V Spitfire was shot down off the coast of Southern France, and he was taken prisoner. He spent 16 months at the German prison camp Stalag Luft 1 in Barth, Germany.

After a staged fight covered his escape from the prison camp, Hoover managed to steal a FW 190 from a recovery unit's unguarded field (the one flyable plane being kept there for spare parts) and flew to safety in the Netherlands. He was assigned to flight-test duty at Wright Field after the war. There he impressed and befriended Chuck Yeager. When Yeager was later asked whom he wanted for flight crew, he named Hoover. Hoover became Yeager's backup pilot.

Hoover left the Air Force for civilian jobs in 1948. During the 1950s, Hoover visited many active-duty, reserve, and Air National Guard units to demonstrate planes' capabilities to their pilots.

Hoover set records for transcontinental and time-to-climb, speed, and personally knew such great aviators as Orville Wright, Eddie Rickenbacker, Charles Lindbergh, Jimmy Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, Jacqueline Cochran, Neil Armstrong, and Yuri Gagarin.

Hoover was best known for his civil air show career, which started when he was hired to demonstrate the capabilities of Aero Commander's Shrike Commander, a twin piston-engined business aircraft that had developed a rather staid reputation due to its bulky shape. Hoover showed the strength of the plane as he put the aircraft through rolls, loops, and other maneuvers, which most people would not associate with executive aircraft. As a grand finale, he shut down both engines and executed a loop and an eight-point hesitation slow roll as he headed back to the runway. He touched down on one tire, then the other, before landing. After pulling off the runway, he would start engines to taxi back to the parking area. On airfields with large enough parking ramps, Hoover would sometimes land directly on the ramp and coast all the way back to his parking spot in front of the grandstand without restarting the engines.

Hoover was considered one of the founding fathers of modern aerobatics and was described by Jimmy Doolittle as "the greatest stick-and-rudder man who ever lived".

During his career, Hoover was awarded the following military medals: the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Soldier's Medal for non-combat valor, the Air Medal with several oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre. He was also made an honorary member of the Blue Angels, the Thunderbirds, the RCAF Snowbirds, the American Fighter Aces Association, and the original Eagle Squadron, and received an Award of Merit from the American Fighter Pilots Association. He was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1988 and to the Aerospace Walk of Honor in 1992.

Hoover received the Living Legends of Aviation Freedom of Flight Award in 2006, which was renamed the Bob Hoover Freedom of Flight Award the following year. In 2007, he received the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Trophy.

FLYING THE FEATHERED EDGE: THE BOB HOOVER PROJECT



Hoover's decades of fantastic flying formed the framework for the 2014 documentary film, *Flying the Feathered Edge: The Bob Hoover Project*, in which Hoover's likeable personality was the star. Harrison Ford and aerobatic legend Sean D. Tucker frame the documentary about the beloved aviation pioneer. The film tells Hoover's story from his first flying lessons before World War II to his combat and postwar careers as a test pilot and air show legend.

Let's Hop!

By John Richards (Class of 1961)

I'm sure many will remember the "sock hops" provided by Chief Cannon of the Inglewood-Madison Fire Department. These took place in the basement of the firehouse, and were a great place to enjoy the latest rage: rock 'n' roll. Here's a picture of one of Litton's first rock bands, the Monarchs, set up to play at a dance at the Naval Reserve station near Shelby Park.



From left to right are Donny Green ('59), Johnny Sturdivant ('60), John Richards ('61), and Ernie Winfrey ('60). The shirts were red, and the ties were white. Yowzah!!!

We played at the fire station every week for a while. Johnny went on to open the first Nashville office of the music trade magazine Record World. He would later become the editor of the Music City News. Ernie became a well-known recording engineer, recording many famous artists, including Paul McCartney.

We all went on crazy about rock, and the fond memories of Litton's night life.

TWENTY YEARS IN MUSIC CITY

By Ernie Winfrey (Class of 1960)

Editor's Note: The following story was contributed by Isaac Litton Alumni Ernie Winfrey. It represents only a small part of his story. In future issues of THE BLAST, we will try to include other anecdotes from a stellar and exciting career only a few will ever experience. This story has been edited for space, but remains in Ernie's own words as closely as possible in limited space.

The Ernie Winfrey Timeline

- Born March 27, 1942
- Attended Litton from 1956 – 1960
- Played drums with dance combo "The Monarchs"
- 1966 – Invited to learn how to run a sound studio by old band-mate in Birmingham
- Heard the Woodland Sound in East Nashville was looking for assistant engineer; met with manager Glenn Snoddy; played demos of bands I had recorded in Birmingham; (I told him my goal was to be the best d***ed engineer I could be; was hired on the spot)
- Backed up head engineer Lee Hazen for a few months; gradually started to engineer demo sessions
- Attracted attention of Buddy Killen (part owner of Tree Publishing Company)
- I was used on overdubs and remixes until Killen was comfortable enough to make me his full time engineer
- Met Bobby Goldsboro and his producer, Bob Montgomery; began engineering their sessions
- This led to meeting others by word of mouth and reputation

One of the first artists that I engineered for Buddy was the late actor Jack Palance, the famous film villain. And, he was the nicest, good natured guy you would ever want to meet. It was his first time in a recording studio and he was very nervous. When I was adjusting his microphone for him to sing into, he whispered "Make me sound as good as you can, Ernie". As it turned out, Jack had nothing to worry about, as he had a very nice baritone voice.

I wish I could say the same about Burt Reynolds. Bless his heart, he couldn't carry a tune in a paper bag. But he was such a nice easy-going guy that he was worth tolerating. He liked to make fun of himself. A good example of his thoughtfulness – he and Buddy had left to go to dinner and he came back and invited me to go with them. The neatest thing was that every night when we had finished recording, he would call Dinah Shore in Hollywood and play her the rough tracks.



Dinah Shore and Burt Reynolds

Some of the other folks I worked with were: Tex Ritter (on the last album he recorded before he died), Charlie Daniels on his very first album for Capital Records, six or seven albums for Bobby Goldsboro, and (Crazy) Doug Kershaw.



Tex Ritter



Charlie Daniels



Bobby Goldsboro



Doug Kershaw

In July of 1974, my life took an unexpected turn that has had and will continue to have a profound influence on me as an engineer and a person. I will never forget the day that Paul and Linda McCartney walked in the door of Sound Shop, waved hello and sat down on the couch in front of the console. When it ended, they got up and introduced themselves to me. They were so easy going that I immediately felt comfortable around them. Paul loves recording studios! Well, they blocked out all the evening sessions so they could work as long as they wanted to.

Paul's assistant Alan Crowder came to me one day, pulled me aside and very seriously asked "Can you cut rock and roll in Nashville" I couldn't believe that he had even said that. I patted him on the shoulder and assured him that we were able to record stuff other than country music here. And, to this day, Paul still includes "Junior's Farm" in every greatest hits album he has released since then.



Paul and Linda McCartney



Ernie and Paul



I still get requests for interviews about those sessions. From the late 70s to the mid-80s was the prime time for my number one singles and gold albums. Between Lee Greenwood, TG Sheppard, Razy Bailey, Tanya Tucker and Millie Jackson, almost everything that was released went gold or was a number one single. And then . . .

My career spiraled out of control due to my alcoholism. I was in total denial because I was still able to mix hit records but I had not realized how my life had become erratic and unpredictable. I started slowly losing clients that never said anything but just never called back. I was resentful at first but finally realized that they were not the problem – I was. With the help of my parents I was able to attend Cumberland Heights Treatment Center and did just what they told me to do in order to stay sober. I can proudly say that I'm now 29 years sober last May. Ironically enough, I ran into a lot of my old drinking buddies in treatment – musicians and engineers that I had no idea they were drunks like me. Many of them are no longer with us.

I'm proud to still be able to get around and talk about my career because I was able to do something that not many people are able to do . . . go to work every day with a smile on my face.

WONDER IF THIS WAS EVER AN ISSUE FOR ERNIE?



BACKFIELD IN MOTION CHRISTMAS 2016 EVENT

by Phil Watts, ILAA President (Class of 1968)

On the night of December 15th, 2016, Lions' Hall played host to Backfield in Motion's annual Christmas for Kids Dinner. Prior to dinner, seventy-nine young men were treated to a shopping spree where they all received new school uniforms, including belts and shoes, and an additional, special Christmas gift.



It is worthy to note that a total of \$15,000 was raised to fund the event of which \$8,500 was donated by our alumni. Upon their return to Lions' Hall, dinner was served to all in attendance by wonderful Litton ladies who do so much for BIM on a regular basis.



Those alumni not on the serving line were able to mingle and interact with the amazing group of young men we wish to help. These are very special young men because they are seeking to make a difference in their own lives as they progress through the BIM program. It was truly a special evening and the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is grateful for the relationship we share with our friends at Backfield in Motion.

Blast From The Past

From the Blast November 9, 1942: Litton Defeats Hillsboro 18-7

Isaac Litton defeated Hillsboro in the final game of the season by the score of 18-7. The Lions thus closed the season in a blaze of glory. For the season, Litton registered five victories against three defeats and a single deadlock.

Johnny Hite was the hero of the game for the winners, scoring all of the touchdowns. Doug Clifton, Captain Ned Joyner and Spoke Emery were the other outstanding players for Litton.

Litton Scored early in the first period, again in the last part of the same quarter and in the final stanza. Hillsboro, sparked by Blackburn, Ritter, Allen, Johnson and Covington scored in the second quarter. Both teams used passes to advantage despite the muddy field. Dry balls were furnished the officials all during the game.

Warren passed 5 yards to Hite for the first Litton touchdown. Hite scored the second on a 37 yard jaunt and made it three in a row running 41 yards after catching an 8 yard pass from Emery. Blackburn scored for Hillsboro on a 26 yard run after receiving a 12 yard pass from Johnson.

From September 24, 1943: Any Bonds Today?

“Any bonds today, Bonds for freedom, we’ll all invest for the USA.” We’ve been singing these words since the war began but have we been doing them? If not, you now have a golden opportunity. **The Third War Bond Drive is now on.** It will not be a success unless each of us does more than our share.

Let’s do without something we want and buy war bonds. There will be more joy in buying the bonds if we have sacrificed something in order to buy them.

We are not asked to give our money, but only to lend it. It will be returned to us with interest at any time.

If we would only realize that the money we spend for each bond and stamp helps, in some way, those in the fighting forces. It may be our father, brother, or sister, so let’s support the Third War Bond Drive by buying until it hurts.

- By Betty Brush

From November 24, 1943: Miss Rice Saluted on “An Orchid to You” Program

On Sunday, November 14, Miss Francis Rice, a member of the Litton faculty was saluted by Emma’s Flower Shop on the program, “An Orchid to You.”

Each Sunday, a Nashvillian who is prominent in social and civic activities receives this honor and is presented a beautiful orchid from Emma’s Flower Shop.

Miss Rice is the head of the Home Economics Department at Litton. She received both her B.S. and M.A. degrees from Peabody College. She has been connected with the Davidson County School system for the past few years.

THE NIGHT LIONS' PRIDE WENT TOO FAR

By Larry Collier (Class of 1969)

On October 14, 1949, the Big Blue battled the Springfield Yellow Jackets to a 7-7 draw. The Litton-Springfield series had become a huge rivalry by that time. Litton had never beaten or even scored on the Yellow Jackets until a 13-0 win 2 years earlier, which was Coach Bob Cummings' first year as head coach. However, the 1949 game was one that was destined to be remembered forever...for all the wrong reasons.

It was a hard fought game before a packed house. According to reports by the Tennessean, the crowd seemed "a little worse than common all throughout the game." W.M. Overcash, Springfield's principal was quoted in the Tennessean as saying, "The game was marred by the greatest amount of booing that he had ever heard at a football game." It appeared to many in attendance that trouble was brewing as the booing increased during the 4th quarter of the game.

Added to the unfortunate scene was the fact that no police officers were working the game. Apparently, 2 officers from the Davidson County sheriff's patrol were to have worked the game, but they failed to show up. Chief Raymond Cannon of the Inglewood-Madison Police Department said a shortage of personnel in his group prevented his officers from working the game.

So what happened? The Tennessean reported that as the game ended, the 4 officials who refereed the game left the field through the north gate of Hume Marshall Field. A crowd of 500-600 fans surrounded the officials. One of the officials was confronted by a former Litton student, Jimmy Burroughs. Burroughs tapped an official on his shoulder and said, "I don't think you called a good game." Burroughs either shoved the official or was pushed into him. Then, the official turned around and swung his fist, though it is not clear if a punch landed.

Another former Litton student, George Rooker, slashed a tire of another official's car. Still others in the crowd, apparently none of them current students at Litton, acted in a manner which almost caused the official's car to turn over. One of the officials said the car was lifted 2 feet off the ground, though others said the tires never left the pavement.

The police were called and 2 highway patrol officers responded. One of the officers testified that it was Coach Cummings who came racing out of the dressing room some 20 minutes after the game to calm the crowd. The officer quoted Cummings as saying, "Go on, you hoodlums. You are going to get me, the school and our boys in trouble. If this is the kind of thing that is going to go on here, I'll resign Monday."

In a hearing held at Hume Fogg High School the following week, the TSSAA listened as witnesses were called to testify. More than 400 people attended the hearing which did not conclude until after 1:00 a.m. the next morning. Coach Cummings testified that he was satisfied with the officiating but that he heard a considerable amount of booing. He said it never occurred to him that there might be an attack against an

official. The officials praised Coach Cummings and his team for their sportsmanship throughout the game. There were no incidents between the 2 teams before, during or after the game.

Litton principal Joe Brown testified he offered protection to one of the officials, but the official replied, "I have my own protection."

Rooker apologized to the TSSAA and wanted to "take whatever punishment is coming. I want to pay for the tire. I was mad at the way the game turned out and lost my temper. I don't know why I did it."

It had been rumored that gamblers had bet on the game, and they were upset at the outcome of the 7-7 tie. However, Rooker said he had no money bet on the game. The gambling rumor was never substantiated.

Burroughs also attended the hearing. The Tennessean described him as a "young red-headed 1948 graduate" who was named by one of the officials as one of those who started the fracas. At one point, Burroughs stood up without being called and said, "I'm the red-headed one who has been discussed so much." When asked by members of the TSSAA board of control if he thought that such an attack was good for the school, Burroughs replied, "No."

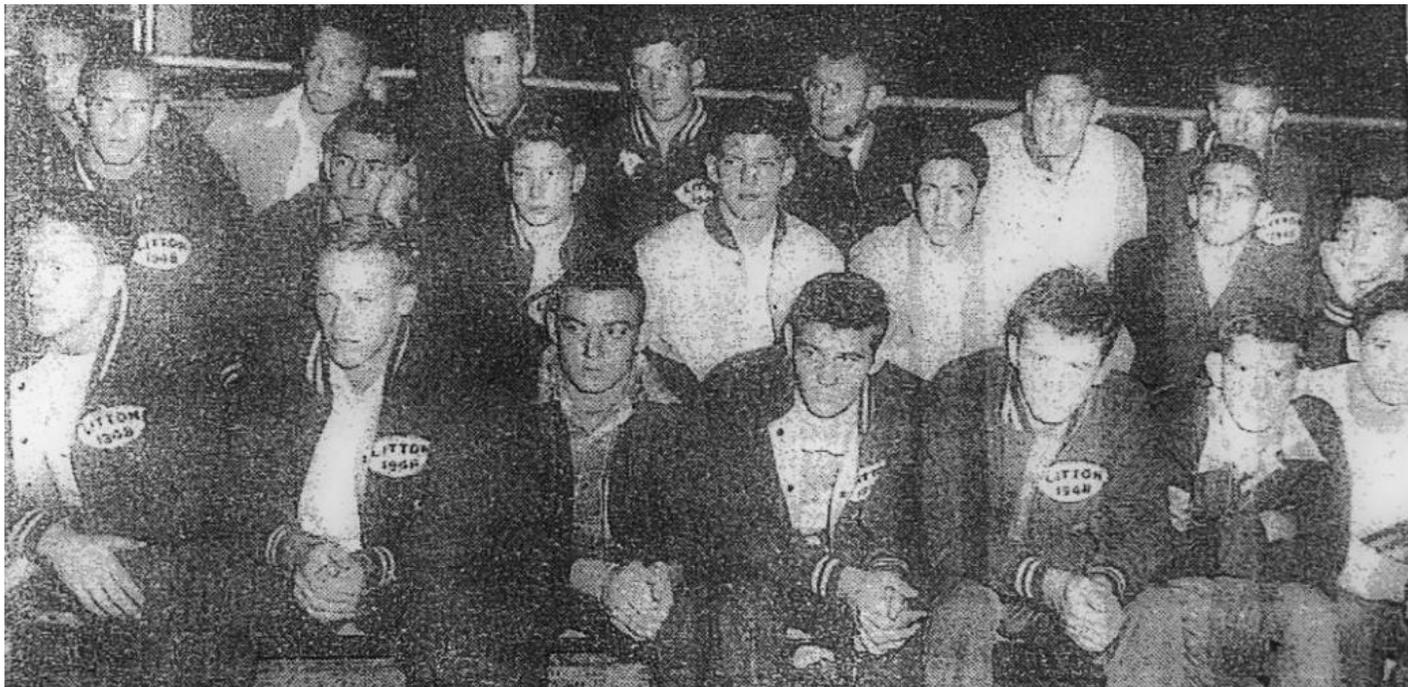
The Tennessean reported that the hearing on the fight fanned a "tremendous interest in Nashville" while the hearing was in progress. Hundreds of persons telephoned the Tennessean throughout the evening of the hearing to inquire about the outcome. The calls continued well past midnight. Apparently, this was a huge story in the city.

In the end, the TSSAA voted to suspend Litton's football team for the remainder of the season. That resulted in the cancellation of the 5 remaining games. TSSAA executive secretary A. F. Bridges issued the following statement: "We feel that this action, though harsh as it is, is in the best interest of the sports program for the whole state. It is not done with the idea of inflicting punishment upon anyone. This coach can control his team, the principal his students and the community its adults if it wishes to do so and takes steps to do so. It is imperative that a community understand that the officials cannot be mobbed. When things like this happen, it is time to cease play for a while. It must be definitely understood that officials are not to be mobbed."

In later action, Chancellor Thomas A. Shriver issued a court injunction that temporarily prevented the suspension from taking place. This was the first time since the TSSAA was formed in 1925 that the courts had stepped in to issue a ruling against the organization. Also, Litton appealed the decision to the full board of control of the TSSAA. In the end, though, the suspension was upheld and the season was over for the Big Blue.

Coach Cummings was distressed and inconsolable, according to the Tennessean. He was quoted as saying, "We've come this far in trying to make the boys good sports and play good clean ball. Then look what happens. It just doesn't make sense."

Several schools appealed to the TSSAA to allow Litton to finish the season since the school and players really had nothing to do with the fracas. The TSSAA wouldn't budge. MBA's coach Howard Allen then invited Litton's team to their home game against Ryan. It was a tough situation for an outstanding Litton team, and the disappointment on their faces is revealed in the picture below.



Members of the suspended 1949 Litton football game attend the MBA-Ryan game at MBA. MBA coach Howard Allen invited the team to the game and even set up special bleachers on the sidelines so the team could sit together.

It is important to note that news reports specified repeatedly that neither the team, the coach, nor the school were complicit in the unfortunate incident. The issue involved members of the community who perhaps loved their school's team a little too much. While school spirit and passion for one's team are positive attributes for a fan base to possess, in this instance the Litton passion bucket overflowed. It's a pity that the boys on the team were the ones who were penalized, but violence toward sporting event officials cannot be tolerated. It was a tough lesson to learn, but no such incidents were ever repeated by followers of the Big Blue.

Litton's Impact On Others

By Larry Collier (Class of 1969)

Recently, Sue and I decided it was time to downsize and we chose to move to a smaller house. Sifting through over 40 years of items that helped to define our lives, I came across a newspaper article that I felt was Blast worthy. From the Tennessean on May 1, 1998, I uncovered the sports section. I have been one to save lots of newspapers over the years because of my love and appreciation of historical and memorable moments and events.

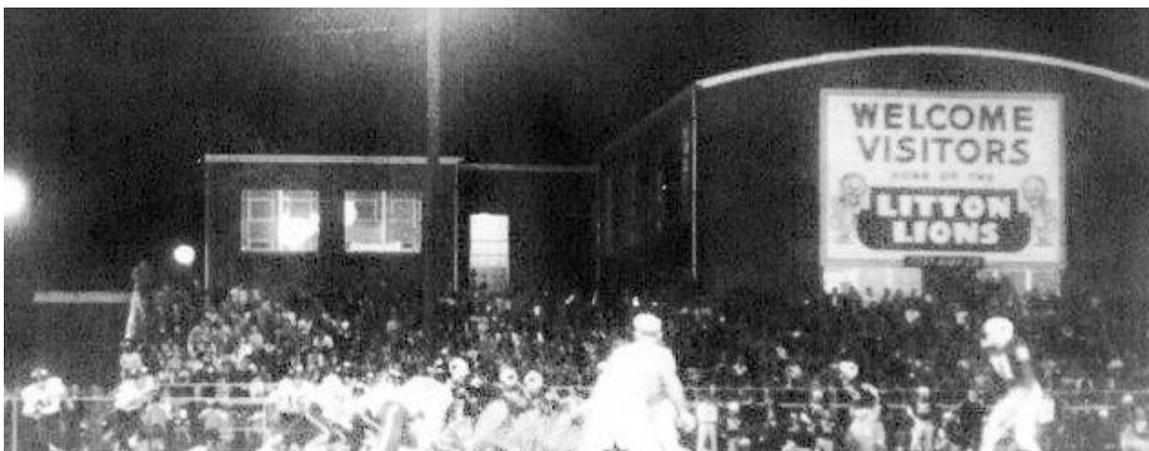
As I unfolded this sports section, I didn't see anything at first that stood out. So I'm thinking, "Why did I save this?" Then, I discovered exactly why. It was in this particular issue of the Tennessean that long time sports columnist Jimmy Davy wrote his last article before retiring. In this article, he wrote of the classic moments and settings he was privileged to have witnessed during his 45 year career. His words tell the story of why I felt it was necessary to save this particular issue of the Tennessean. He wrote: "I have been privileged to cover the final NCAA title game for UCLA's John Wooden, a Final Four that included Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Mark Aguirre, a Rose Bowl in which there was an Illinois linebacker named Dick Butkus and a Master's Tournament in which a young lion named Tiger etched his name in sports history with a set of golf clubs."

Then I read the surprise statement that filled my soul with pride. "I'll remember the rattle of the snare drums at old Isaac Litton High in the 1950s as huge crowds gathered for high school football games..." Stop and think about that for just a moment. Here is a man that witnessed some of the most momentous sporting events of the second half of the 20th century. How impressed must he have been by the sight of those gridiron greats clad in blue, the huge crowds filled with pride for their school, and the awesome and magical performances of the Marching 100+? To have remained impressed for 45 years of the sights and sounds on Gallatin Road tells us that we were a privileged few and oh so lucky.

By the way, the Rose Bowl game Mr. Davy mentioned above took place on January 1, 1964. It just so happens that the Marching 100+ strutted their stuff earlier that day in the Tournament of Roses Parade. I had the good fortune to attend that game with my parents. What an incredible setting it was!

As we begin another year in the 21st century, be proud and thankful from whence you came.

Litton High Forever



LITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

The always outstanding Litton Middle Prep band had their winter concert on December 12 at their gymnasium. It was a standing room only crowd, many of whom were amazed that such young musicians could perform at such a level of excellence.

Band teacher, Allison Biederman has done wonders for these fifth through eighth graders. Additionally, the support that the band program is receiving from parents, grandparents and others reminds one of the support Litton High School once experienced.

The program included selections from the 5th grade band, 6th grade band, and the 7th-8th grade combined bands. The kids were simply fabulous.

Also during the program, Litton's PTSO presented Larry Collier ('69) with the Band Alumni Award. Collier was deeply appreciative and humbled at receiving such an honor. He encouraged the students to continue to learn as much music as possible, and even learn to play different instruments if given the opportunity. Recipients for the Band Alumni Award are past members of the Isaac Litton Band and are selected based on continued support of music education, either as professional musicians, educators or advocates.

Previous winners of the Band Alumni Award are Jay Dawson, Ann Richards, and Bill Wiggins.

It was a grand night for all. Thanks to Ms. Biederman and Principal Chara Rand for their continued dedication to the children of Inglewood.



Larry Collier addresses the audience at Litton Middle Prep's winter concert. Collier was presented with the Litton Band Alumni Award during the program.



WHAT MY DUES ARE USED FOR?

- **Support for special projects for Isaac Litton Middle School**
- **Support for Backfield in Motion projects**
- **To encourage community support and involvement**
- **Provide space for preliminary disaster command for the American Red Cross**
- **Maintenance of the Lions Hall (lower level of the gym building) and Lion's Den**
- **Maintain continued contact with Alumni**
- **Host special events for Classes and Alumni**
- **And, More.**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES,
ONLY \$15.00.**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ILAA or
ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MAIL TO: MELINDA HOFFMAN, TREASURER at
859 Sugar Flat Road, Lebanon, TN 37087**

ILAA BOARD MEMBERS

12/30/2016

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We would love to hear

***Your Story*,**

**about memories from high school
or about your life since then. If
you have a story or photos to share
here in the BLAST, submit them to
the Communications Committee
(kayc1107@comcast.net).**

Message from the President



Dear Alumni,

First, please allow me to begin this message by expressing my gratitude for your support of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association. Whatever we are able to accomplish, is made possible by you and it is my hope that you realize how many lives you touch through your faithfulness. Second, I personally am blessed to be surrounded by an incredible Board of Directors. Each Board member brings a special talent to the Board and truly wishes to make a difference by serving at the highest level. Each one graciously gives of their time and talent to help those entities which are part of our mission to assist.

All will be happy to know that Lions' Hall has recovered from the three flooding incidents. It is great news to report that all of the damaged composites are in the final stages of restoration and we expect their return by the middle of January. We really should explore having an Open House so all could see Lions' Hall and Lions' Den at its finest.

Our relationship with Backfield in Motion continues to flourish. As you know, the program occupies Lions' Hall five days a week while school is in session and periodically during the summer months. On December 16th, we assisted in hosting the annual Christmas for Kids Dinner. A total of seventy-two young men were in attendance. Each received new school uniforms, including shoes and belts, and an additional Christmas gift. The total cost of this endeavor was \$14,400 and the success of the event would not have been possible without the strong support of the I.L.A.A..

As you know, Isaac Litton Middle Prep is another entity which we seek to support. Our association funded the construction of the concession stand for the football/soccer field. Construction has been completed and the concession stand will be delivered to the site prior to the start of the spring soccer season.

Now - Hear ye! Hear ye! Please make sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, June 3, 2017. The Annual Alumni Luncheon is returning to Bluegrass Country Club. Last year's event at Bluegrass was thought by many to be the best ever. Kay Cunningham, Chairperson and her merry band of committee members (Melinda Hoffman, Donna Summers Smith and Kitty Kincaid Woodson) are seeking to make this luncheon even better. Please listen to me. I know these ladies. They do not know anything but excellence. Please make plans to be there. By the way, Chara Rand, Executive Principal of Isaac Litton Middle Prep, and Coach Boots Donnelly, CEO of Backfield in Motion will be our guest speakers. If you have not heard these two previously, you are in for a treat.

Finally, I am honored to serve as your President. Isaac Litton occupies a special place in my heart. Let us never forget the special bond we share. Let us always be grateful for the times we shared. Let us always remember: We are not from Litton - We ARE Litton.

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Alumni who have passed October 1 - December 31, 2016

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>ALUMNI NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
45	Gay Mattye Murchison Hurt	October 5
47	Frances Williams Brown	October 4
50	Jean Ragan Youree	October 6
50	Robert (Bobby) Reasons	October 10
50	Kenneth Hughes	October 28
54	Martha Faye Clark Wright	December 9
59	Sidney Carney Francisco	October 3
61	Minnie Brown Hart	October 13
61	Andrew Walter Regg Jr	November 21
65	Stephen Gary Merrick	October 29
67	Dave Curtis Robinson	October 29
68	Charles Ray Mundy	October 6

If you know of the passing of any alumni not listed here, please contact Jerry Newman via email at jerrynewman58@gmail.com. Thank you.

BREAKING NEWS

As we go to press, we have just learned that our beloved gymnasium is featured in the video by the super-HOT recording group Pentatonix on their hit song “Cheerleader”. To see the video (starring them but primarily featuring our gym,) go to www.youtube.com and search “Pentatonix Cheerleader”. This video has had over **66 million** views world-wide and still more being added by the minute.

When the ILAA Board was approached with this request over a year ago, no one had any idea how popular this talented group would become.

Click on this link (Ctrl+Click) to see the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P95_pCbCPZw

