

LITTON



BLAST

Vol. LXXIV No. 1

Isaac Litton High School

April, 2005

LAST CALL FOR ALL-ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, April 16, 2005
Nashville Marriott Hotel
Gathering at 5:00 P.M.

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

\$40.00 Per Person

Call or E-Mail

Shirley Coon Ward

615-859-5193

Gsw367@cs.com

For Reservations

Before April 13th

Annual All-Alumni Banquet Is Scheduled For April 16

Fast approaching is the date – April 16, 2005 – for the annual Litton All-Alumni banquet. It's a Saturday night and will be held as usual at the Nashville Marriott Hotel off Elm Hill Pike in the airport area of Nashville.

Alumni and guests will start arriving at 5:00 p.m., with dinner getting underway at 6:30. This is a great opportunity for alumni in all classes – 1931 through 1971 – to swap stories and relive the greatest days of their youth. President George Coon ('46) will gavel the session following a great meal planned by Shirley Coon Ward ('50) and Bobbye Ann Harlan Tomlinson ('51). Perennial master of ceremonies Johnny DuVal ('52) will be out of the country but his spot will be ably filled by Charles Kimbrough ('57).

As usual, we will be honoring the class celebrating its 50th anniversary, this year the Class of 1955. There will be special seating for these honored alumni.

We will certainly be missing two distinguished guests this year – former teachers Mrs. Lillian Long and Miss Frances Rice, who passed away in 2004. But we will look forward to a new rhyme from Mrs. Harvey Gee, who will celebrate her 100th birthday this summer.

There's still time to register. See the box on the front page of The BLAST for registration information.

A SAD COINCIDENCE; TWO LONG-TIME LITTON TEACHERS PASSED AWAY ON SAME DAY

At the All-Alumni Dinner on May 1, 2004, two of the former teachers who attended were Mrs. Lillian Long and Miss Frances Rice. Mrs. Long, who had been faculty sponsor for the Class of '44, was honored with a dozen roses, a special proclamation from the Metro School Board and a giant birthday card in anticipation of her 100th birthday to be celebrated on June 2.

Miss Rice, who had been faculty sponsor for the Class of '52, was living in the Burton Hills area and would have been 99 years young on October 2.

Sadly, both ladies passed away on September 1, 2004. They will be missed as the classes reconvene for the 2005 reunion banquet on April 16.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George Coon ('46) – President

Graham Baker ('63) – President Elect

Nancy Bennett ('63) – Secretary

Shirley Coon Ward ('50) – Treasurer

Jack Benz ('51) – Immediate Past President

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mary Louise Perry Grissom ('42)

Jimmy Howell ('47)

Paul Rawls ('51)

Walton L. Brown ('54)

John Pennington ('60)

Linda Winters Hutcherson ('64)

Justine Perry Duke ('42)

Bobbye Ann Harlan Tomlinson ('51)

Johnny DuVal ('52)

Jim Caldwell ('55)

Tom Pennington ('63)

Joe Carter ('63)

1970 GRADUATES GETTING TOGETHER FOR 35TH REUNION

It will be like old times the night of June 4 when the Litton Class of 1970 comes together for their 35th reunion in the Litton gym. Activities get underway at 7:00 p.m. with music from the Howard Fine band. Food will be provided by McConnell's Catering (a member of this class), with the cost for everything at \$40.00 per person.

The organizers are still looking for

some of their classmates. You can make e-mail contact with Marilyn Williams Switzer at melswitz@aol.com or with Nancy Murphy Abbott at 615-889-6201.

Other members organizing the bash include Melinda Hoffman, Cathey Polston Balfanz, Helen Owen, Trisha Nichols Harris, Harvey Fischer, Becky Murphy Nickins and John McHenry.

GYM RENOVATION STILL PROCEEDING; AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL BOARD REACHED

Though the steps taken have been necessarily baby steps, the movement to initiate some form of renovation of the old Litton gym on Gallatin Road continues. Jimmy Howell ('47), a member of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association Board of Directors, has been successful in reaching an agreement with Metro Nashville Board of Education that will allow us to proceed on the project.

An application for a 501(c)3 non-profit status has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service, but as yet has not been approved. Such approval is necessary for us to solicit foundation funds and grants as they will hopefully be the source of major funding for the project. Presently all monies donated by alumni for the gym project are set aside in a separate fund from other operating expenses.

In the way of background for anyone not up to speed, your Alumni Association became a partner with the Police Athletic League in Metro to renovate the facilities and provide activities for some 2,500 "at risk" children then enrolled in the PAL program. Subsequently, the police chief retired and due to lack of funds and personnel, the PAL program was dissolved.

Our goal remains the same - to preserve the last major vestige of our high school... the gymnasium. At the same time, we are desirous of creating an alumni room in the renovation to permanently house Litton memorabilia that is currently scattered.

As Howell, who has devoted much time and effort to the program, states: "If we can accomplish our goal, the alumni and the youth of Nashville will benefit for years to come."

THE LITTON BLAST

Published spasmodically by the
Isaac Litton Alumni Association

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Johnny DuVal ('52)

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Bobbie Ann Harlan Tomlinson ('51), Paul Rawls ('51),
Ann McClure Jordan ('55), Wayne Jackson ('60),
Tom Pennington ('63), Linda Winters Hutcherson ('64),
Marilyn Williams Switzer ('70).

FACULTY ADVISER, EMERITUS

Mrs. Harvey Gee



GOLDEN REUNION

PLANNED FOR LITTON CLASS OF '55

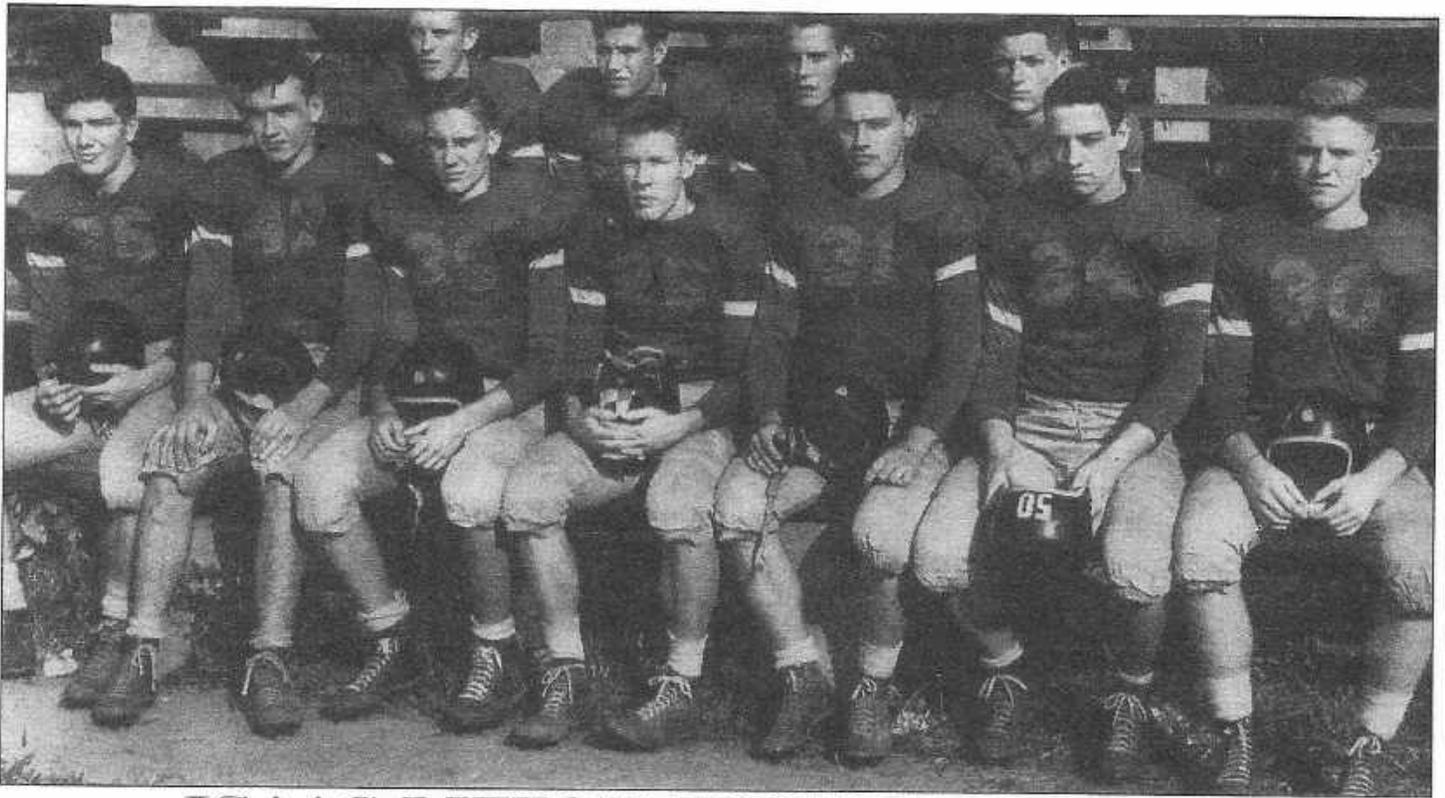
It'll be a two-day bash when the Class of 1955 gets together for their 50th class reunion this summer. Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25 are the dates. These grads will also be honored at the All-Alumni Banquet set for April 16 at the Nashville Marriott.

Friday, June 24, will get things started with a "Welcome Aboard Party" at the Ameri-Suites Hotel in Hendersonville. This function will be hosted by Joe and Elaine Haley and will run from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

On Saturday, the banquet will be held at Blue Grass Country Club in Hendersonville, TN. The gathering commences at 6:00 p.m., with the banquet at 7:00 and running until 11:00. Wilburn Clouse will emcee the event. Many grads will be recognized, including the one coming from the furthest distance, the one with the most children, who's been married the longest and many others. The evening will also be filled with many of the alum's favorite experiences at good ole Litton High.

Co-chairs for the reunion are Ann McClure Jordan and Charlene Norman Ward, with Lucy Fox Moore handling the treasurer's duties. Other members of the reunion committee include Billy Akin, Doug Ballard, Norma Clark Rychen, Wilburn Clouse, Dianne Coursey Frakes, Janice Dickerson Williams, Nan Garrett Batey, Joe and Elaine Haley, Mary Hightower Chance, Joe Ivie, Betty Matheny Shoemaker, Bill Ward and Charles Williams.

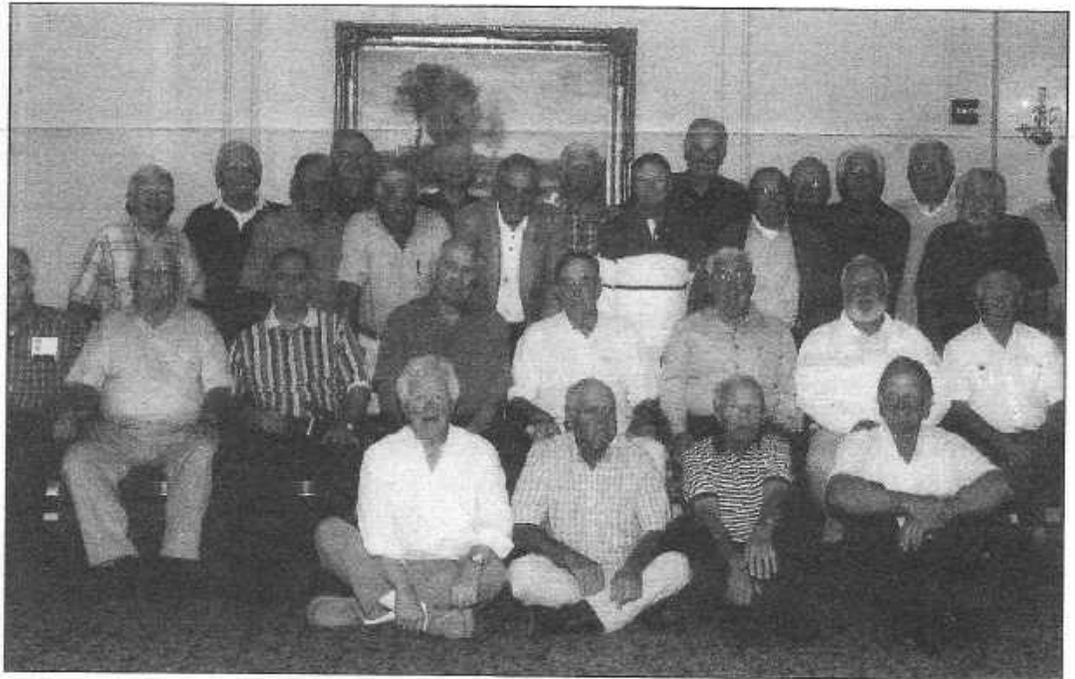
If needed you can contact Ann at annjord2@bellsouth.net.



ISAAC LITTON FOOTBALL - 1947



Coach Bob Cummings



Many former Litton athletes (above) gather periodically to have lunch with Coach Bob Cummings (left), the former Lion coach who developed one of the top high school football traditions in the south. Tommy Patton ('49) has organized the get-together about every other month. All ex-Lions are invited. It's usually held at Famous Dave's Barbeque in Franklin. For more info, call Tommy Patton at 615-896-7253.

ALL LITTON ALUMNI INVITED TO MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Another date that all Litton Alumni should mark on their calendars . . . the first Thursday of each month. Why?? That's when everyone gets together for lunch at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Madison. The time is 11:30 and if you are a Litton alum, you are invited to be a part of it.

This all started in 2003 when a group of 1949 alumni began meeting the second Tuesday of each month for lunch. Then, in the spring of 2004, the group decided to invite all Litton alumni to join in the gather-

ing. They later realized that other Litton groups also hold luncheons on certain Tuesdays, so the all-alumni luncheon was switched to the first Thursday.

Alumni from all decades - '30s through the '70s - have attended, although not every graduating class has been represented. The event is posted on the Litton website (www.isaacclittonhigh.com). Just come on by. No reservations are required.

'51 ALUM CLAUDE SHARP HONORED IN CALIFORNIA

It appears that there are no boundaries to hold the influence exerted by Isaac Litton graduates. Claude Sharp, in the class of 1951, was President of his senior class, lettered four years in football (was captain his senior year) and lettered in baseball three years.

On March 14, 2004, the following letter was sent to "Friends of Claude Sharp" at Harbor High School in Santa Cruz, California:

"March 6, 2004, was a very special day for our Harbor High School community. Coach Claude Sharp was honored for his many contributions to the school by having the baseball field named in his honor. Although the Coach was unable to attend, his daughter Nancy and son Bill and his five grandchildren were there to represent him. The new sign "Claude Sharp Field"

was unveiled and the ceremony was followed by a reception in the new multipurpose room for friends, family, alumni and faculty gathered to swap stories about the Coach.

"March 6 also represented the 35th anniversary of Harbor baseball. The first Harbor game was played on March 6, 1969 against Holy Cross High School.

"As of March 15, more than \$2,000 in contributions have been received. As you know, the cost of high school sports rises every year. Coach Sharp's wish is that the money be used for players who cannot afford required equipment or any safety equipment needed by the baseball program. We at Harbor will see to it that his wish is honored."

Sadly, Claude Sharp, a true example of the Litton spirit, died July 11, 2004.

CLASS OF '42 TO MEET ANNUALLY IN OCTOBER

One of the most active Litton classes to actively continue to hold reunions is the Class of 1942. They met for the 62nd time on September 13, 2004, at the Sheraton Music City in Nashville. There were 44 persons in attendance. And 12 of those had come in from out of state. A lasting tribute to the tradition that exemplified Isaac Litton High School.

At this gathering, it was decided that, starting in 2005, the class will gather for lunch the FIRST MONDAY in October of each year at the Nashville Marriott Hotel off Elm Hill Pike in Nashville. This will encourage attendance of grads who do not drive after dark.

Stay alert for more info to come.

ANNUAL ALUMNI PICNIC TO KICK OFF AUGUST 27

Mark your calendars!! Saturday, August 27, 2005, is your day to join in the fun and fellowship of the 18th annual All-Alumni picnic. As has been the case since the beginning, the Gallatin, Tennessee, farm of Judy Joyner Maddux ('53) and Drew Maddux ('52) will be the scene of the festivities. We'll begin gathering about 5:00 p.m. and open the food line at 6:30.

All you need to bring is yourself, spouse or significant other, a covered dish, folding chair and every lie you ever remember telling while you were at Litton. The organizing committee will take care of the rest. If you haven't attended one of these outings, you don't know what you've missed. Strictly informal and lots of fun.

A map to the Maddux's Wingham Farm is shown on the right. Spread the word and see you there.

For more info, contact Jack Benz ('51) at 615-859-4720 or e-mail him at jandnbz@comcast.net.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE LITTON WEBSITE

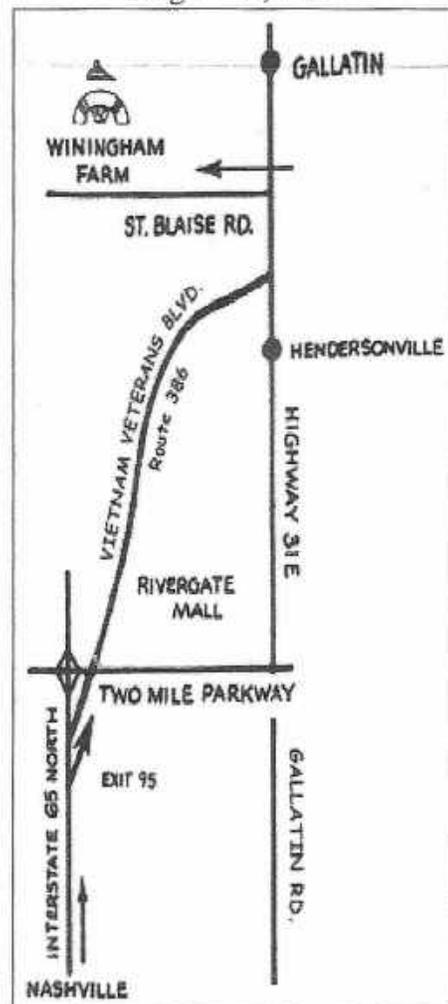
www.isaacclittonhigh.com

The brainchild of Fred Clanton ('61),
send your news and notes for the website to:

Tom Pennington ('63) – tompngn@worldnet.att.net

Paul Rawls ('51) – prawls33@bellsouth.net

Map to Alumni Picnic
August 27, 2005



ILAA DUES AND MEMORABILIA

In 2002, the Isaac Litton Alumni Association Board of Directors established a \$5 annual dues amount – on a voluntary basis – to help defray costs of publications, mailings and other non-

profit expenses. If you haven't sent your dues in lately, now is a good time. Also, items relating to Litton are available for purchase. The proceeds over and above actual cost go into the fund for

the gymnasium / alumni room development. Here's an opportunity to pay your dues and order items for your own collection or for gifts for Christmas or other special occasions.

"The Spirit Lives"

Color Prints
by
Ralph McDonald
('53)
are in two sizes:
10" x 15": **\$50.00 each**

18" x 25" on canvas: **\$265.00 each**



Alumni Lapel Pins are 1" in diameter:
\$5.00 each



Khaki, Red & Blue Unstructured Cap
\$12.00 each
(\$10.00 + \$2.00 S/H)



"Isaac Litton High School"
Color Print by Phil Ponder
28" x 10": **\$30.00 each** (\$25.00 + \$5.00 S/H)

Red & Blue Structured Cap
\$12.00 each (\$10.00 + \$2.00 S/H)



Name _____ Class of 19 _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

RALPH McDONALD PRINTS: 10" x 15" @ \$50 _____ \$ _____

18" x 25" @ \$265 _____ \$ _____

PHIL PONDER PRINTS: @ \$30 _____

LITTON CAPS: Red and Blue @ \$12 _____

Khaki, Red Blue @ \$12 _____

"L" LAPEL PINS: @ \$5 _____

DUES: \$ _____

CONTRIBUTION TO GYM PROJECT: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Litton Alumni Association, Inc. and mail to
P.O. Box 752
Madison, TN 37116-0752

'44 GRADS GATHER FOR 60-YEAR REUNION

Forty-seven alumni and spouses gathered for the 60th reunion of the Litton Class of 1944 on September 25 last year. The gathering took place at the Richland Place Apartments in Nashville.

Class President Ed McNabb, along with his wife Dee, and Alice and Ken Ross were on hand to greet the attendees. As usual when Litton grads get together, the evening was filled with good food, good fun and good friends. All reminisced about years gone by, as well as a forecast as to where everyone would be next year.

A surprise attendee was R. B. Parker – the word was that Wilson Horde urged him to attend. In addition, Bill Patterson came in from Florida and Dr. Anne Utley Barnes flew in from Philadelphia for the festivities. It was good to see these classmates who came from a distance, as well as all those local friends in attendance.

A highlight of the evening was the presence of Mrs. Harvey Gee . . . 99 years young and still going. And in her usual form she presented another of her famous rhymes. Anyone desiring a copy of this particular edition can get one by writing Justine Perry Duke, 3545 Long Hollow Pike, Goodlettsville, TN 37072.

With all the joys comes sadness. The beloved sponsor of the '44 class – Mrs. Lillian Long – had passed away on September 1. (See a special tribute to Mrs. Long elsewhere in this BLAST). Ed, who had presented Mrs. Long a dozen red roses at the All-Alumni dinner last May 1, gave her a special tribute. Others who have celebrated the last commencement include Margaret Lawson Gamble (who died Christmas week, 2004); Dean Sloan, husband of Louise Hunter Sloan; Mary Anderson, wife of Robert Anderson; and Harold Duke, husband of Justine Perry Duke. All of these individuals died within a four-month period. They will be greatly missed.

If you have information about any of the Class of 1944, contact Justine or Ed McNabb.



September 25, 2004 – 60th Class Reunion

- ① Attendees at the '44 Class reunion included Edward Boehms (left) and Robert and Mary Stone DePriest.
- ② Enjoying the festivities for the '44 Class gala are (from left) Harold Bumbalough, Johnny Ramsey and Bill Patterson.
- ③ Alice Ross Kirby reminisces with '44 Class President Ed McNabb. Harold Bradley is right background.
- ④ Louise Hunter Sloan with the inimitable Mrs. Harvey Gee at the Class of 1944 60th reunion.
- ⑤ Enjoying a good laugh over days gone by at the '44 reunion are (from left) Enoch Thweatt, Mary Ann Greek Sudekum and Willie Sudekum.

'GIRLS' OF THE CLASS OF '50 ENJOY MONTHLY GATHERINGS

The "girls" of the Litton Class of 1950 meet once a month to rehash old times and get caught up on the latest happenings. They meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch the first Tuesday of each month at the Hermitage House Smorgasbord on Lebanon Road. It has been assured there is no shortage of photos of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

If you were a member of this class (gals only, please) and have not attended, you are welcome to come by and renew Litton friendships. A private dining room is provided as things occasionally get a little loud, with all the laughing, talking and visiting.

The photo at right was taken at their Christmas gathering. Pictured are (front row, from left) Sue Smartt Papuchis, Jackie Mir Richardson, Fayla Woods Briley, Dee Tidwell Byrn, Janette Hardaway Smith and Betty Evans Cooke. Second row (l to r) Rita Bledsoe Hollingsworth, Juanita Paschall Burroughs, Elizabeth White Cooper, Dot Akin Sexton, Yvonne Waddell Fesmire, Shirley Coon Ward, Joyce Rust McKelvey and Anne Claire Wingett Almand. Regulars not present at this gathering were Betty Copeland Falbe and Genevieve Dorris Lish.



THE LADIES CLASS OF '51

A representative group of The Ladies Class of Fifty-One (right) gather at a recent monthly luncheon. They get together the second Tuesday of each month at Logan's Steakhouse in the Rivergate Mall area in Nashville. Time is 11:00 a.m. If you're a gal of the '51 class and haven't attended, you are welcome. Call Bobbye Ann Harlan Tomlinson at 615-865-9630 for details and to make sure the location hasn't changed. It's another example of Litton High Forever.



"THE NEWS OF MY DEATH HAS BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED"

We're not sure who originated that statement many years ago, but we certainly know who repeated it within the last year - one Kevin Temple, Class of '72 . . . the "Class That Never Was."

You see, it is customary to repeat the names of deceased Litton classmates at the All-Alumni banquet each year. Last May 1, Kevin's name was listed . . . quite erroneously. And an issue of The BLAST went out a couple months later, also listing Kevin among those who had died during the previous year.

Kevin accepted the error in stride, but unfortunately his many friends were in sorrow until they learned the happy truth. On September 16th, an e-mail message was received on the Litton website (www.isaaclittonhigh.com) from Linda Faye Marlin Jacobs ('66). Among other entertaining tidbits, Linda espoused:

" . . . good news. For the second time in history, return from death has been confirmed . . . we always knew we were something special going to Isaac Litton; but I feel blessed to confirm that one of our members has returned from the dead. Oh, what a joyous day!"

It just shows that even 34 years after the last class left its mark, the traditional saying still rings true . . . LITTON HIGH FOREVER.

45TH CONCLAVE SET FOR CLASS OF 1960

The Litton Class of 1960 will be holding their 45th class reunion on Saturday, May 28, 2005. The clambake is set for Country Hills Golf Club in Hendersonville, TN. The cost is \$25 per person and the festivities will kick off at 6:00 p.m.

Wayne Jackson is spearheading the event, along with other members of the reunion committee: Jackie Dickinson Jackson, Duane Howden, Wayne Hollis, Deanna Hollis Lynn, Louis Owen, Sally Campbell Cobb, Peggy Smith Phillips, Bonnie Ragan Cassetty, Mike McCullough, Eric Ericson and Bobby Carter.

If you are a member of this class and have not been contacted, you can get Wayne at 615-859-3618 or by e-mail at wjack01@comcast.net.

A TRIBUTE TO BELOVED TEACHER LILLIAN LONG – 1904-2004



Few teachers exhibited the love and dedication to her students and her school as did Mrs. Lillian Long. At the All-Alumni dinner May 1, 2004, she was honored by the Metro School Board and her students in anticipation of her 100th birthday on June 2. The Faculty sponsor of the Class of 1944, sadly she passed away September 1, 2004. Sue Dearman Gossage, from the Class of 1951, offers these words of tribute.

“It was my privilege and good fortune to have been a student of Mrs. Lillian Long’s English class my junior and senior years at Litton. She was by no measure an ‘easy’ teacher. I felt she was fair in grading and knowledgeable in both grammar and in literature. She imparted this wisdom with dignity and decorum. Even now, I smile when I remember how she taught me the real meaning of oxymoron . . . a cruel kindness. Her demand for excellence gave all her students an academic edge no matter what career they pursued. Her teaching career spanned 40 years, 34 of those years at her beloved Isaac Litton. She taught Sunday School, sang in the Sanctuary Choir and was librarian at Inglewood Baptist church. Years after her retirement from teaching, she was asked if she received Meals on Wheels. She quickly responded, ‘No, I deliver them.’ That sums up her life of caring, sharing and service to others. We shall miss her, but her legacy lives on in those whose lives she touched. Mine was one of them. And I give thanks for it.”

–Sue Dearman Gossage

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