



# Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School, Nashville, Tennessee

Volume MMXV, Issue 03

October 2015

## The Story of "Old Glory"

Captain William Driver, who gave our American flag the name of "Old Glory" is the maternal great, great grandfather of our 1951 alumni Jack Benz. Jack says he has a stack of letters in William's own hand writing that he wrote to his children and other family members in his later years. Jack said most of them I can't interpret as they were written with a feather pen and the way they worded things was very different from today. Captain William Driver was a shipmaster in Salem, Massachusetts. His mother and her circle of sewing ladies presented him with a beautiful 24-star flag in 1824.

As the banner opened to the ocean breeze for the first time, he exclaimed "Old Glory!" Twice the flag went around the world. On one of his voyages, aboard the brig, Charles Doggett, Captain Driver rescued the survivors of the mutiny on the *Bounty*.

He retired to Nashville in 1837, taking his treasured flag from his sea days with him. In 1860, the Captain's wife and daughter took the flag apart, cut off the raveled and frayed seams, replaced the old stars and added new ones to make 34 total (the correct number for the date) and an anchor embroidered in the lower right corner of the canton. The last was to commemorate Captain Driver's sea service.

By the time the Civil War erupted, most everyone in and around Nashville recognized Captain Driver's "Old Glory." When Tennessee seceded from the Union, Rebels were determined to destroy his flag, but repeated searches revealed no trace of the hated banner.

Then on February 25th, 1862, Union forces captured Nashville. The Captain was on hand to greet an Ohio Regiment when they became the first to enter the city. They followed the Captain home, where he began ripping at the seams of his bed cover. As the stitches holding the quilt-top to the batting unraveled, the onlookers peered inside and saw "Old Glory"!



Tombstone at the grave of Captain Driver

Captain Driver gently gathered up the flag and returned with the soldiers to the capitol. Though he was 60 years old, the Captain climbed up to the tower to hoist his beloved flag. The Sixth Ohio Regiment cheered and saluted - and later adopted the nickname "Old Glory" as their own, telling and re-telling the story of Captain Driver's devotion to the flag we honor yet today.

In 1873, the Captain gave the flag to his daughter, Mary Jane Roland, who in turn gave it to President Warren G. Harding in 1922. The President deposited it with the Smithsonian Institution, where it remains to this day.

Captain Driver's grave (he died in 1886) is located at the old Nashville City Cemetery, and is one of the few places authorized by act of Congress where the Flag of the United States may be flown 24 hours a day.

A caption above a faded black and white picture in the book, *The Stars and the Stripes*, states 'Old Glory' may no longer be opened to be photographed, and no color photograph is available. Captain Driver's personal note says 'Old Glory' is the most illustrious of a number of flags reputed to have been similarly hidden, then later revealed as times changed.

# Memories of Football Friday Nights

by Larry Collier ('69)

I've been wondering if many of you think back to those football Friday nights of yesteryear as much as I do. If so, please share your memories by sending them to [larry.collier@mnps.org](mailto:larry.collier@mnps.org). I would love to share them with others in the Blast. Until then, here are some of the special memories I have beginning in 1958.

- As a young boy enrolled at Dan Mills School, I can distinctly remember hearing the Marching 100+ practicing during the school day from the Dan Mills playground. It was so exciting because it seemed as if the band was announcing to everyone in Inglewood that we better get ready because it's almost time for the Big Blue to take the field.
- I remember the huge crowds at Hume Marshall Field, especially in the late 50's through the early 60's. One particular night, against Madison I think, I was taking it all in and noticed the standing room only crowd about 6 or 8 deep in front our large scoreboard.
- Remember how the goal posts were decorated in red and blue crepe paper?
- The rhythmic beat of the distinctive drum cadences as the band entered the field to take their seats brought everyone to life. That meant the excitement was about to begin.
- The anticipatory moment arrived when the Big Blue finally emerged from the Duke Building and ran through the 2 lines formed by the Marching 100+. If you close your eyes, you can hear it now as the band played the fight song and the assembled thousands rose to their feet.
- I always thought the way the band ended the Star Spangled Banner with 3 beats followed immediately by the drum cadences was uniquely Isaac Litton and part of our great tradition.
- Do you remember all the parked cars seemingly all over Inglewood? The field where the Inglewood Library now stands was covered in cars, as was the field in front of the junior high building. Cars were also parked on both sides of Gallatin Road. Side streets clogged with parked cars made driving on those streets quite tricky.
- The crisp, autumn air was filled with the smell of popcorn and hot dogs, as well as the occasional sprinkling of confetti. For a little kid like me, it was as if I could touch and feel the excitement suspended in the Inglewood atmosphere.
- At halftime, the band would put on its usual flawless performance. The huge sound, beautiful majorettes, exquisite marching sequences, and the distinctive Spanish music were like the icing on the cake for a night that cost \$1.00.
- I can still see Billy Tomlinson's number 26 speeding down the sideline for a touchdown. He was my favorite player. Thanks for the memories Billy. Rest in peace my friend.
- Much more often than not, the Big Blue prevailed and the Lion partisans celebrated via post-game parties, dances, and in later years, the obligatory drive to Shoney's.



I could go on and on but space is limited. Perhaps I will include more memories, along with yours, in future issues of the Blast. For now, let's just remember the growing anticipation leading to kick-off, the game itself which usually ended in victory, and the postgame activities we each enjoyed in our own way. It was a beautiful and special time of fun, friends, and family. My goodness, we were truly blessed!

Litton High Forever!

# Medical Mission Trip to Brazil by Jerry Parrish ('59)

*Since retirement, Shirley and Jerry Parrish have tried to take a trip every year. Last year they went to Greece and Israel with our church group, the year before that Amsterdam and Paris, Route 66 with Jack and Gail Stroud before that (what a trip). This year they decided instead of spending money just seeing what all tourists see, they would spend it in a foreign country getting to know the people, their culture and sharing the gospel. Here is their story.*

We had an opportunity to go on a medical mission trip to Brazil with a group from our church. There were 20 of us. We each had 2 large suitcases - 1 filled with medicines and the other with our clothes (we wore scrubs most of the time). We took over 700 pair of reading glasses.

On Saturday before we were to leave on Wednesday, Shirley was driving in Goodlettsville and stopped at the fire hall to get her blood pressure checked since she wasn't feeling well. Her blood pressure was 220/117. I took her to Skyline where she stayed 2 nights. After all tests, etc. she was released on Monday. We left on Wednesday, June 10. Spent 6 hours in Houston due to plane malfunction (we were sitting on the plane most of the time as it was being repaired). While waiting for plane repair, Shirley twisted her knee. The doctor who was with our group jerked it back into place (OUCH). We arrived in Rio de Janeiro on June 11. We stayed at a very nice hotel one block off the beach but couldn't walk on the beach due to safety issues. The first 2 days were spent taking care of the needs of the hotel staff and families.

Shirley and I, being the only ones in the group with no medical training, were designated eye experts. We helped people who couldn't see to read, decide what strength reading glasses they needed. I never thought about distributing glasses on a mission trip. But it only makes sense, if you give a person a Bible and they can't see to read, there's not much benefit.



*Shirley and Jerry Parrish and Carol Winn*

The third day we were up at 5:00am (that would be 3:00am CST), ate breakfast, had devotional, and got on the bus by 7:00am for a 1-1/2 hour trip to Vila Kennedy. The church we worked in had a concrete block wall approximately 20 ft. high around it and an Iron gate we passed through that closed behind us. When we arrived, people were lined up outside the gate waiting to see the doctor, nurses, and the glasses people. We were not allowed outside the wall without a guard. There are no doctors, no schools, no police force at Vila Kennedy.

We couldn't eat anything that had been washed since the water is contaminated. During the 4 days we were at Villa Kennedy, we distributed 457 pairs of glasses, the pharmacy issued 1080 prescriptions, the pediatric nurse practitioner saw 130, doctors saw 259, and most important of all - professions of faith 214.

We each had an interpreter and when the person could see well enough to read (some could not read, but it wasn't because they couldn't see), we had 3 very simple questions to ask each person. Do you know Jesus, if not, would you like to know Him and is there any one or anything you would like me to pray for? Most wanted us to pray for family members or themselves. We were both blessed to have someone who accepted Christ into their lives.

On Friday, June 19, we had a day to see parts of Rio. It rained most of the day but we enjoyed what we could see. We took the tram to the top of the mountain to see the statue of Christ the Redeemer. It was overwhelming. We returned home June 20 and it took 2 weeks to recuperate. I believe it was meant for us to take this trip, not as much to help the needy but to help us understand how very fortunate we are to live in a free country, with food to eat, a bed to sleep in and a roof over our heads.



# Paul Elliott's Play Opens in Redlands, CA by Jerry Newman ('58)

Keats Elliott, daughter of Class of 1959 alumni Paul Elliott, shared these photos on Facebook. Paul has had a very successful career as an actor, writer, and director. Another famous Isaac Litton Alumni who deserves recognition from all of us.



Paul's daughter, Keats

Keats writes: I am so proud of my dad! I just found out one of his new plays "Exit Laughing" was being performed about an hour from our house in California in August. The cast was thrilled to have him there and invited him on stage at the end of the show. He is going on a trip this summer to see it go up in Florida & Texas.

Story synopsis of the play: For 30 years, their lives revolved around their weekly bridge night. But when one of them can't accept that a death in the group should change that, she borrows the urn for one last game and begins the most unforgettable night of their lives! This heart-warming group of friends will remind you of *The Golden Girls*.



Paul (upper right) backstage with the cast



Paul with the marquee heralding his play.

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# FACULTY FAVORITES

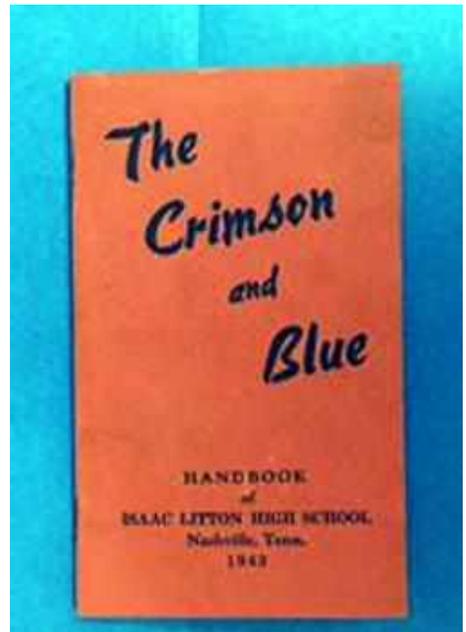
## Coach Lee Carlton (Carl) Yates IN MEMORIAM

Lt. Carl Yates, former Litton football coach during the years of 1940 through 1942, received his BS degree at State Teachers College in Murfreesboro, TN. He entered the Navy, June 23, 1942 and was Commander of the first wave of amphibious landings on Saipan. He volunteered in September 1944 for underwater demolition and was in the landings on Palau, Layte, and Luzon. His wife, the former Miss Nancy Burge (Litton, 1942), was notified of his death on March 13, 1945.



## Did You Know? By Larry Collier ('69)

In the early days of Isaac Litton, there was a handbook called "The Crimson and Blue." Included in this 3½ by 6 inch little book were things like the school history, student code, rules and penalties, constitution and bylaws of the student body, and descriptions of clubs, forensic activities, and songs/cheers. The 1943 handbook is pictured below.



Interesting facts uncovered in this handbook:

- After completing the 2 year high school at Jere Baxter, Inglewood students who desired to graduate from high school were required to travel to Central High School before Litton HS was built. As a result, many students did not/could not graduate.
- The gymnasium was built and opened in 1939.
- The football field was completed in 1941 and named Hume Marshall Field. It was named for a Davidson County Magistrate who financially supported the construction of the field, though he did not have any children of his own.
- The north wing was constructed and completed in the spring of 1942 to meet the demand of growing enrollment.
- Only 17 credits were required for graduation, with a normal load for each student being 4 subjects. Report cards were issued every month.
- Students moving from class to class were required to use the south stairwell only for going up, and the north stairwell only for going down. The penalty for violating this rule was 1 hour detention after school.
- Aside from the Alma Mater and Litton High Forever, there were 4 other school songs. They were Stepping High, The Crimson and Blue, Litton Lions Loyal, and Isaac Litton Swing. Each song's lyrics were included in the Crimson and Blue Handbook.

## MADISON HIGH GIRLS WERE NOT HAPPY IN '62 AND '63

by Mary Kay Rayner Cunningham ('64)

Each year, all the local merchants in Madison would dress up in costumes like hillbillies, cowboys or pioneers, growing beards and the whole nine yards. The streets would be lined with food vendors, souvenirs, and games. Each of the major merchants, about twenty of them, would sponsor a local teenage girl to be their candidate for the title Miss Hillbilly. The title-holder was expected to make appearances in other area parades throughout the state, to make public appearances with local celebrities, etc.

In 1962, obviously K-Furniture wanted to sponsor yours truly. The winner of the title was determined by several criteria. She must creatively raise the largest amount of money for local charities, represent Madison in a positive light, and promote attendance for the annual event – thereby bringing revenue into the area.



The girls would take part in some activities as a group. We went to the State Fair together in Hillbilly costume made public nuisances by soliciting donations from fair attendees and we each had a portrait-style photograph taken which would be auctioned off, with the proceeds going towards our total charitable contributions. Dad always made it a point and “photo op” to meet with either the Governor or Mayor, or both, to have the day declared as official Hillbilly Day or to have Nashville “annexed” into Madison for the day.

On the final day of the celebration week, there was a huge parade with all the local school bands, the Shriners, clowns, old cars – everything you can imagine in a parade. And, of course, the contestants for the title Miss Hillbilly 1962, would each mount the back of a convertible and ride slowly down Gallatin Road displaying our best regal wave to onlookers.

Many of the local celebrities had stopped at the furniture store throughout the week to wish dad (and me) well for the contest upcoming. One of these was Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis’ manager. (Tom lived in Madison; his house is still there, where he frequently recorded Elvis in the studio out back.)

Since all the girls were trying to outdo each other with newspaper ads or television spots, Tom thought he would offer dad the opportunity of a life time for me. He asked dad if I would go on a “date” with Elvis when he came into town following week. Dad was SO excited. Tom cleared it with Elvis and set the time. (I was unaware of the plan.) When dad “sprung” it on me, I nearly went hysterical. No, I would not go – I already had plans, absolutely not! I had wanted this “hottie” at Litton to ask me out since last year and we finally had our first date planned for the same night. I stood my ground and refused to go on any date with Elvis. Within the year, he married Priscilla. (I didn't marry that “hottie”!)



I think the photo on the right was taken in the little brick house on Gallatin Road, where Elvis recorded many of his early songs with Tom.



Johnny Cash and my Dad had a long history of friendship when Johnny was living in Madison. He would frequently come into the furniture store and “hang out”, often in various stages of intoxication, which explained why he usually walked the streets of Madison, rather than drive during these years. Many times, Dad would drive Johnny home after closing the store.

So, in the final minutes before the parade, with it being my plan to perch proudly on the back of mom's 1959 Chevrolet Impala, Johnny meandered into the furniture store to wish me luck. He asked dad what car would I be riding in and when dad told him, Johnny said "No, she needs a Cadillac." At that time, he was still married to Vivian for whom he had just bought a brand new red Cadillac convertible. He called Vivian and told her to bring the car up to the furniture store immediately, which she did. In the picture of dad and me in the parade, that's Johnny's red Cadillac going down Gallatin Road with me "riding high".



I was proud to have set the record for raising the most money total for charity (thanks to dad's friends and supporters) in the history of the celebration. *That night I was crowned Miss Hillbilly 1962, and the only face I can still see in my mind from that night is my dad, beaming from ear to ear with pride.*

The following year, another Litton "Kitten", the beautiful Suanna Pack, won the title. These two years (in a row, yet) were a HUGE sore spot on the record of Madison High School girls, who had always thought of it as their territory. Just goes to show, never underestimate us Litton gals!



*Miss Madison Hillbilly of 1963, Suanna Pack, is crowned by last year's queen, Mary Kay Rayner. Both girls are students at Isaac Litton High School.*

# Communication Corner

*What Your Fellow Alumni Would Like to Share*



**The Class of 1955** is attempting to obtain information about 22 of their classmates. They recently had their 60th reunion but had no information on these individuals. If anyone does have information about these individual(s) on the following list, please contact Jerry Robinson at: [pollyandghee@comcast.net](mailto:pollyandghee@comcast.net).

**LOST CLASSMATES (1955):** Garrett C. Davis; Howard Gibson; Harold William Jones; Jeannette Knight Sparkman; James Wallace Linder; Ellen C. Logan; Estes Minchey; Gale Mitchell Diminick; Kay Muse; Rose Ellen Parker; Marcia Parrish Runion; Joseph W. Phillips; Kay Province; Dorothy A. Reese O'Brien; Nell Reynolds; Patricia Ryan Helton; Joann Savage Johnson; Don Sutherland; Linda Gayle Thompson Watkins; Mary Ruth Towns; Shirley Ann Vick Keathley; James Carl Young.

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The Blast Staff along with Janie Luna Smotherman, class of 1970, is trying to develop a list of all Litton teachers who are still living. We need contact information: mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, and date of birth. Please send any information to:

Jerry Newman [jerrynewman58@gmail.com](mailto:jerrynewman58@gmail.com)  
Janie Luna Smotherman [jmo@tds.net](mailto:jmo@tds.net)

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Don't forget the **Litton Band Alumni Spaghetti Luncheon** to be held at Lions Hall, lower level of the gym. The date is October 17, 2015 and the start time for the social is 11:00am. And the meal will be served at 12 noon. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

Contact Larry Collier [larry.collier@mnps.org](mailto:larry.collier@mnps.org) for information.

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## To Report Alumni Deaths

Our website posts a memorial for each alumni who passes if we are made aware of the death. Shirley Coon Ward (1950) is the central point for reporting these deaths. Her e-mail address is

[swgw367@aol.com](mailto:swgw367@aol.com)

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It has now been over two years since the Isaac Litton website went live. We have begun research to try to gather as much missing alumni data as possible. The earlier years will be an almost impossible task since a majority of the alumni are deceased. So we are asking your for help. If any of your family or friends graduated from Litton, no matter what year, please go on line and see if we have recorded data for them. If not, tell us what you know. Even a slight clue sometimes is all we need. Where they lived, who they married, etc. Thank you.

# News From Litton Middle School



## **Welcome To Litton, Ms Rand** by Larry Collier ('69)

The Isaac Litton Alumni Association welcomes Ms. Chara Rand to Litton Middle School as the new principal. Ms. Rand is entering her 14<sup>th</sup> year as an educator with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Previously, she was Litton's assistant principal and a teacher at Two Rivers Middle School. She graduated from Fisk in 2002 with a degree in Political Science and Spanish. She received her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from TSU and is currently working on her doctorate through Union University in Hendersonville.

Ms. Rand's father and mother are both retired administrators from Memphis City Schools, so education is in her blood. Her husband Terrence is in his last year of law school.

Those of us who have met Ms. Rand have no doubt she will succeed in leading Litton to greater heights. She is most energetic and always seems to have a positive outlook on life. She has already met with ILAA leadership and looks forward to working with the alumni association as we seek to support the school anyway we can. The Isaac Litton Alumni Association looks forward to working with her and welcomes her as Litton's new leader.

## **REMAINING FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES FOR ISAAC LITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

October 1	Litton @ Madison
October 15	Neely's Bend @ Litton
October 22	Litton @ DuPont Tyler
October 29	Donelson @ Litton

### **Girls Soccer Schedule**

October 14	Margaret Allen @ Dell Fields
October 16	DuPont Tyler @ Litton

### **Volleyball Schedule**

October 1	Donelson & Madison @ Donelson
October 14-15	Division Tournament @ Two Rivers
October 21-22	City Tournament @ Two Rivers

**Litton Middle School Football Homecoming will be  
October 29, 2015**

**All Alumni are invited to attend to show our support.**

## RECEPTION HELD for LITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Litton Middle School and the ILAA hosted an orientation and reception for the new 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents on July 28<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time that the alumni participated in this program. We were pleased that four alumni, Phil Watts, Harvey Fischer, Larry Collier, and Carol Bourque, had the opportunity to speak briefly to the parents and students about “what it meant to be an alumni of Isaac Litton”. While the students and parents visited their new classrooms and teachers, the alumni prepared refreshments in the cafeteria and served well over 150 people. We received many compliments and praise for our participation. We look forward to sharing our proud heritage for many years to come with these children and parents.



Larry Collier, Carol Bourque, Phil Watts, Kaaren Frazier, LMS Principal Chara Rand, Joyce Fogarty, Emily Burrow, Jim Clift (Back ) Harvey Fischer, Melinda Hoffman



# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

In each issue of the BLAST, we will “spotlight” one of the many committees operating under the auspice of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association. Each committee has its specific purpose and operations procedure, with the goal being that they all work together in a cohesive and progressive unit to hold high the values and heritage of the Alumni Association and its members.

The Board of Directors of the ILAA eagerly welcomes new members to the Board or as a **volunteer** on any of these committees. If you want to become involved either on the Board or as a committee member, please contact any current Board member or the Chairperson for that committee

Being “spotlighted” in this issue of the BLAST is the: **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (CC):**

Purpose: The purpose of the CC is to ensure that all communications from the ILAA are clear, concise, and professional, being distributed accordingly in a timely manner.

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Email: [kayc1107@comcast.net](mailto:kayc1107@comcast.net)



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Larry Collier (“Blast” team member)  
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Shirley Ward (Notification of deaths of Alumni)  
Phone:615-859-5193  
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# DO YOU REMEMBER "THE CASUALS"

Nashville's First Rock 'n' Roll Band



Richard Gordon Williams graduated from East High School and was a self-taught pianist and talented vocalist. In 1956, he (along with "**Buzz**" Cason, **Litton -1957**) formed Nashville's first rock'n roll band, "The Casuals", touring all 50 states & Canada with rock stars of the day and ultimately becoming Brenda Lee's first full-time back up band during the time of her mega hits & several years thereafter. Richard spent the last half of his career in Ft. Lauderdale, playing some of the most popular clubs & establishments, and creating a loyal fan base. He became one of the most sought after local entertainers.

Richard was by nature the ultimate entertainer, both in his music & his unforgettable, bigger-than-life personality. He is loved beyond measure, and has forever left a "song" in our hearts.

Richard passed away on September 8, 2015 at the age of 75 in Ft Lauderdale, Florida.

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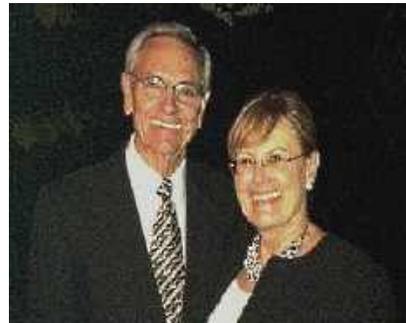
## Three Deserving Alumni Named "Alumni of the Year"

At the annual All Alumni Banquet held on June 13, 2015 at the Old Hickory Country Club, Gene Ward ('51), Jerry Parrish ('59) and Shirley Johnston Parrish ('59) received recognition from their peers for outstanding dedication to Isaac Litton High School and the community.

Congratulations to you three for a job well done. Linda Parrish Campbell (Jerry's sister) accepted his award and Shirley's award in their absence. Shirley and Jerry were attending a church sponsored trip to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.



Jane Steinhauer presents a plaque to Gene Ward



Jerry and Shirley Johnston Parrish were also awarded plaques



## Board Officers and Members

### Isaac Litton Alumni Association

Member	Class Year	Title	
Carol Bourque	1968	President	The Isaac Litton Alumni Association (ILAA) was formed in 2001 and officially incorporated in April, 2005 as a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.
Phil Watts	1968	President Elect	
Jimmy Clift	1964	Past President	The purposes of <b>ILAA</b> as stated in the bylaws are: To perpetuate the heritage and traditions of Isaac Litton High School.
Donna Summers Smith	1970	Secretary	
Melinda Hoffman	1970	Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To select and support those projects that would accomplish the purposes as outlined in the bylaws, as determined by the Board of Directors.</li> <li>•To conduct such events or programs as may in the discretion of the Board of Directors from time to time be designed to generate revenues for said projects.</li> <li>•To conduct such other business as is legal within the State of Tennessee.</li> </ul>
Kaaren Andrews	1959		
Jack Benz	1951		
Ricky Wayne Binkley	1970		
David Brawner	1968		
Emily Burrow	1961		
Jim Caldwell	1956		
Kay Cunningham	1964		
Howard (Skip) Dean	1968		
Harvey Fischer	1970		
Joyce Fogarty	1949		
Charles Kimbrough	1957		
Shirley Parrish	1959		
Mary Ridings	1959		
Donna Smith	1970		
Thomas Trebing	1959		



This is where you will find a huge pride of lions in June 2016. It looks a bit different now, many years later.

Do you recognize it?



BACKFIELD IN MOTION (BIM) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that combines academics and athletics to inspire inner-city boys to reach their maximum potential in order to become significant contributors to society. BIM was founded in 2000 to provide activities for boys residing in inner-city neighborhoods in Davidson County. Funds are used to support a tutorial program offering academic remediation and homework assistance for Nashville's most vulnerable youth. Our tutorial program is free and transportation is provided for disadvantaged students. The focus for the project is filling the graduation rate gap in services for African American, Hispanic, and low socio-economically disadvantaged urban youth.

Through partnerships with Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) and the Isaac Litton Alumni Association, BIM is now able to offer a GED program. OIC has partnered with BIM to provide the instructor and materials for the GED classes. BIM's partnership with [the Litton Alumni Association provides a permanent facility to offer the classes at the Litton Center in South Inglewood \(our Lions Hall\).](#)

#### **UPCOMING EVENT FOR BACKFIELD IN MOTION**

**Backfield in Motion Christmas for the Kids Campaign:** Last year, (2014), \$8,000 in donations was raised to take the boys on a Christmas shopping spree. The boys were given their portion of the donations received and told the first gift they must purchase is for their care-givers (mother, father, both, or whomever they look to for guidance). After that, they were encouraged to buy something for someone they know who is less fortunate than they, and the remainder of the money is for them to spend on something they want or need for themselves. The goal is to teach gratitude, generosity, benevolence and pride.

## **CHRISTMAS 2015 IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**

What a great time of year for sharing with those who are less fortunate. Each year the Alumni Association takes as many Backfield In Motion children as funds will allow to give them a Christmas that otherwise would just be a dream for them. Please look inward and think how fortunate many of us are to have what we have. Family, friends, and the comfort of financial stability are among the blessings we enjoy.

We encourage any alumni who would like to participate to please send a donation (no matter how small) to help give these children a Christmas that they will remember.

Your donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to:

**Backfield in Motion, Inc.**

920 Woodland Street,  
Nashville, TN 37206



### **Christmas for BIM Boys**

ALL Alumni are invited to come on the 18th of December to the gym - Lions Hall. The time is 4:30-7:30pm to serve dinner for the BIM boy's Christmas. Shoney's is catering, but we will be serving.

# CLASS OF 1970 CELEBRATES THEIR 45TH REUNION

## 45 Years Later

by Marilyn (Williams) Switzer

I am not sure what it is about those high school years. Three years, actually, in the case of our school. Three years of the 63 years we have lived so far. Three very important years.

Last night was the 45th reunion of our high school graduating class. Just in case there is confusion, we were the class of 1970, graduated from Isaac Litton High School, and proud of it! Litton High Forever!

I know why we are so proud of being from Litton as it is a school of generations, and yet, in the not-too-distant future, there will be no more living graduates of this great school. The class of 1970 was the next-to-last class to graduate with a Litton diploma. For this reason, we have a sense of urgency in preserving our history and maintaining our connections. Many of my classmates can claim parents or grandparents who were also graduated from Litton, a family legacy. The continuation of the legacy ended in 1971.

Last night we celebrated high school days; the days when freedom was gained with a driver's license, when first serious kisses were had, when lifelong friendships were forged, when lessons were learned at the feet of excellent teachers, when hearts swelled at the opening strains of Malaguena, when teams were cheered to victory and teammates were celebrated even in defeat, when awkward adolescents morphed into poised teens, when we crossed the threshold into adulthood.

So, I share some pictures from a most lovely night. Notice the joy on faces that have changed with time, yet somehow remain so dearly familiar.

# PHOTO MEMORIES FROM OUR SPECIAL NIGHT



The Queen of the Evening,  
Our fearless leader and planner  
Thank you Melinda





Coach Forehand ~ yes folks one of our teachers,  
one of our favorite teachers  
I'm not sure where he is hiding that  
fountain of youth  
from which he must be imbibing



That fellow in the middle officiated at  
these two's wedding  
He does good work, for they are one of  
the great couples.  
Proof that mixed marriages do work.  
Imagine a Stratford boy and a Litton girl  
living happily ever after.



*For today, I wish you lifelong friendships, great memories,  
bonded hearts, and I wish you blessings.*

# TEACHER TRIBUTE

Frank Samuel Carver

by Jim Cherry ('57)

It began early on the morning of September 8<sup>th</sup> 1953. This was the day the final 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class of Dan Mills Elementary school reported to the hallowed halls of Isaac Litton High School. Isaac Litton Junior High opened the following year and there would be no more 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Isaac Litton feeder elementary schools. Prior to that day I and my fellow, soon to be, Littonites thought we were something special. After all, we had survived the regime of Mrs. Eloise Fry at Dan Mills and were on our way to a smooth transition into high school. We were soon to learn there is a huge step between top dog eighth graders and lowly freshmen.

Following the expected expressions of awe and wonder at actually walking the halls of that stalwart of higher education we had previously only seen from the bleacher seats of the student section, where Mrs. Fry expected each and every one of us to be present on Friday nights to cheer on her beloved Litton Lions, it was time to go to class. My introduction into the wonderful world of high school science was about to take place. I don't remember now if it was second or third period but I was about to encounter what I would for several years consider to be the meanest man I had ever met. His official name was Mr. Frank Samuel Carver but one of my helpful neighbors who was a couple of years ahead of me at Litton, had told me that he just loved to be called "Molecule Sam". In the few moments between my arrival in the classroom and Mr. Carver's return from the little room at the end of the hall where he went between classes to enjoy a few puffs of his beloved stogie, I was displaying my knowledge of Litton by telling some of my fellow Dan Mills grads how much Mr. Carver loved to be known as "Molecule Sam". Of course, I didn't notice that everyone had suddenly become extremely quiet.



Just as I said the words "Molecule Sam", I heard that gruff, ahem, that I would learn to fear as the years went by. I turned and there he was in all his glory. He had arrived. I'm not sure what the confiscation of my water gun had to do with my committing the grave faux pas of referring to Mr. Carver as "Molecule Sam" but before the first class was over he had it. I was amazed that he knew I had my trusty water gun in class. Someone said it could be the fact that my right front pants pocket was wet but under the circumstances any number of things could have caused my pocket to be wet that day. In what I thought was an effort on "Molecule Sam's" part to be one of the guys, he assured me my water gun would be returned on the last day of school. That was a long time for a freshman to be un-armed in those days but I really wasn't in a position to argue the point.

From then on throughout the freshman year, it seemed I was being stalked by "Molecule Sam". Every day in class, he made a point of giving me the "icy stare" at least 3 or 4 times and I never passed him in the hall that he didn't have some comment about my behavior. However, as most freshmen do, I survived to the final day of the term. I walked into his classroom as cocky as I was on that first day and asked, rather foolishly, if this was the day I would get my water gun back. After a few moments of icy stare, "Molecule Sam" went into his supply room and returned with a small paper bag containing, he said, my water gun. At the end of class, as promised, he placed the bag on my desk. I suspected by this time any ammunition (water) that was in it when confiscated, would have evaporated but was hoping for a chance to get off at least one final shot before leaving that room for the last time. I opened the bag and to my surprise it contained a couple of small rubber washers, a small coil spring and a lump of yellow plastic powder. "Molecule Sam" had his revenge. He had ground my water gun to powder with his trusty mortar and pestle.

Unfortunately, this was not to be my final encounter with "Molecule Sam". Nearly every day for the next 3 years, I was subjected to some sort of admonition from the one who by this time had become my main nemesis.

On the rare occasion when I may have inadvertently violated some inane school rule, it was always "Molecule Sam" who seemed to be there to set me straight, even though, I was no longer one of his subjects.

In spite of a few academic close calls that could have put me in the class of '58, I did manage to make it to graduation rehearsal with the class of '57. You guessed it, there he was, "Molecule Sam" walked up and asked if I thought I was really going to graduate. Discretion being the better part of valor, I decided to let it ride. My plan was to return to Litton in a year or two, walk into the science lab and announce to the students that Mr. Carver loved to be known as "Molecule Sam". However, life got in the way and it never happened.

In the fall of 1957, I found out why we had algebra and all of that stuff we thought we would never need in life. I had an opportunity to apply for a position with AT&T in Nashville. The employment test began with excerpts from Algebra I and went up from there. Due to a loophole that was immediately closed, I was actually allowed to take the test twice with about a week between sittings. I never studied so hard in all my life, not even in "Molecule Sam's" class. I passed the test the second time and was off and running on a career in communications that continues to this day.

Proverbs 16:18 says, "pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall". I had become quite proud of myself over the first nine years following graduation and yes, maybe even a little haughty. I had met and married a beautiful young woman, we established a home on Lemont Drive and produced two wonderful little boys, I made Specialist 5th Class (Sergeant) in the Tennessee Army National Guard and was about to become the youngest supervisor in the AT&T Nashville District. My first management assignment, effective in June of 1966, was to be the Office Supervisor in Pulaski, Tennessee. However, unknown to me at the time, I was headed for both destruction and a fall.

By mid-August, 1966, we had sold our home on Lemont, purchased a house in Pulaski and were packing to move when our three year old son asked if I would take them to the Litton Dairy Queen for one last Dilly Bar before we left town. There was no Dairy Queen in Pulaski in those days. The DQ ladies had grown to love our two boys and made over them every time we stopped in. As you may have guessed, this trip to the Dairy Queen was setting me up for the destruction and fall. As we walked in, the DQ ladies took charge of the boys and I had a chance to look around. There he sat, chewing on his stogie, my old nemesis "Molecule Sam". I left the boys with the DQ ladies and walked back to where he was sitting, fully prepared to do verbal battle. Before I could speak, he asked what I had been doing since I left Litton. I repeated all of the wonderful milestones in my life and his response was, "I knew if I stayed on you enough, you would amount to something". Whereupon I called my boys over and with a tight throat introduced them to "Mr. Samuel F. Carver, the best school teacher I ever had". Needless to say, I had been humbled that day by a gentleman who always had my best interest at heart.

# From Our President

**Carol Draper Bourque**  
Isaac Litton Alumni Association



Hello Fellow Alumni:

Wow, this is our 3rd Blast! We have had an amazing summer already and have a lot of great events planned for the Fall. We hope that each of you are enjoying the stories and events that we are able to share. Please pass the word to others you know to give us their email addresses, so that they can receive the Blast and other important activity updates as well. If you don't have an email address, please ask your children or grandchildren if we could have their email address. This way, they could print a copy for you to read. We wish we could do more "snail mailings", but with the cost of postage these days, it is just too expensive. So, email is our most cost effective way to reach our alumni. Additionally, you can always view all back issues as well as the current Blast on the website ([www.isaacittonhighschool.com](http://www.isaacittonhighschool.com)).

We had a wonderful turnout for the Isaac Litton Middle School Orientation for their new incoming 5th graders and parents. Many people said they had never seen so many alumni together before. They loved hearing about our history, and I am very grateful for the ones who came and spoke on behalf of our beloved school. This is how we pass along our rich heritage to the next generation.

The Sports Day was a hit as well, and we wish to thank Hal Gibbs and all the volunteers who worked to make that day special for so many who came to share their memories.

Check out all the coming events that we have planned: Band Luncheon and Christmas Event with Backfield in Motion. Don't forget to send us your stories or reunion pictures. This is what makes all of us realize how lucky we were to have grown up in the time we did. We look forward to seeing each of you!

*Carol Draper Bourque*

**President, Isaac Litton Alumni Association**

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If you enjoy reading the BLAST please contribute your information to one of the following BLAST staff

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Isaac Litton High School  
by Phil Ponder