



Litton Blast

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN

Volume MMXXI Issue 2 April 2021

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

*We have, once again, had to postpone our
Annual All-Alumni Banquet, but*

SAVE THE DATE! November 13, 2021!

**More details in Don's letter below and in the July 2021 Blast.
Also, try to attend the special Memorial Day Event on May 31.**

IN THE MEANTIME: Please continue to show your support financially through donations and by paying your annual dues (\$15), due 6-20-21. Thank you for your generosity and **STAY SAFE!**

**MAIL CASH OR YOUR CHECK (payable to ILAA) to:
ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 752

MADISON, TN 37116

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

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ALUMNI: As we move forward in 2021, there are many exciting times ahead this year. I am sure that many, if not most, have received the COVID vaccination. This has been an interesting and challenging year for both the Litton Middle School and Backfield in Motion (BIM) whom we support with your alumni dues and donations. Your Board has provided 15 Desk Shields to the teachers at Litton along with 20 clear face shields for teachers and 300 facemasks to be used by the students that have returned to school. We have also provided 100 facemasks to assist BIM and the work they are doing in Lions Hall this year with a Virtual Classroom set up for the students that they are working with. This cannot be done without your donations to the Alumni Association, so please consider paying your dues this year and help out with any donation that you feel comfortable giving.



Desk Shields at Litton Middle School

Memorial Day this May at Litton

Monday, May 31st, 2021 we will meet at the Memorial Wall to pay tribute to the lives that are named on the Blue Bricks of the Memorial Wall. These bricks represent our Alumni who gave their lives in service to our country during World War II, the Korean and Viet Nam Wars and later. We will begin at 10 AM with reading the names of those who died serving our country, followed by a Wreath Presentation at the Wall and the playing of Taps. After we finish, we plan to open the Lion's Hall and the Lion's Den (where the memorabilia are located) for all who would like to see the changes that have been made. I hope you will consider giving your time to attend this ceremony.

Lastly, **Save the November 13th date**, as we will come together for our annual All-Alumni Banquet. More information will be given in the July issue of the Blast. We felt that things will be more open and everyone will have had a chance to receive the COVID vaccination.

More to come!

Remember, as we celebrate Easter, the sacrifice that was made for all of us!
God Bless you and your family and God Bless the United States of America!!

Lion Strong!!

Don Clark (Class of 1970)

Isaac Litton Alumni Association Board Of Directors 2020-2021



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ANNOUNCEMENTS and “Oopsies!”

The January 1, 2021 issue of the Blast included some inaccurate **reunion** information. Here is the correct information:

The Class of '61 has scheduled their 60th reunion for July 10, 2021.

The Class of '70 has scheduled their 51st reunion for July 17, 2021.

The Class of '71 has scheduled their 50th reunion for August 21, 2021.

Until the Pandemic struck, a **monthly lunch** for all graduates, from all years was held at Ryan's Steakhouse near Rivergate on the first Thursday of each month. Those luncheons have remained on hold since February of 2020 and Ryan's is now permanently closed. Once the world returns somewhat to normal, we'd like to begin to meet again. If you have a suggestion for a new meeting place, let Kaaren Andrews, kaaren81@comcast.net, our Class Representative Committee Chair, know of your idea. Typically our attendance was anywhere from twenty to 30 depending on weather, so an establishment that could accommodate that many would be great. And when we start meeting again, join us. We have a great time!

We're sorry that this issue of the Blast is a few days later than usual. Traditionally, each issue comes out on the first day of each quarter. But the March meeting of the ILAA Board of Directors had to be delayed due to a forecast of dangerous weather and that delayed our making some of the decisions listed on page one. On the “plus side,” delaying release of the Blast removed the temptation to include some silly APRIL FOOL joke in its articles!

If you haven't visited our ILAA webpage lately, IsaacLitton.com, you should go see the class rosters. Or creative webmaster, Jerry Newman, had a lovely idea to include photographs families chose to accompany loved ones' obituaries, where available. Seeing our classmates' senior photos alongside the later pictures is really touching. He is in the process of adding those photos now and should have most classes done soon.

EASTER “BACK IN THE DAY”

Submitted by Alice Stewart Shehane, Class of '65, with contributor, Kaaren Frazier Andrews, Class of '59

Who can forget those wonderful days of our childhood when the family would gather in the kitchen to dye Easter eggs?

Egg decorating is an ancient practice which symbolizes new life.



Once the eggs were decorated, we would have “Easter Egg Hunts,” hiding them, then gathering the found ones into our baskets.



Another Easter tradition is the Easter Bunny, often portrayed in the form of a chocolate delight.

And then, there comes the age-old debate. Where does one take the first bite?



Peeps and jelly beans were other confections often enjoyed this time of the year.



But we can never forget the excitement associated with finding a loaded basket of goodies on that special spring morning.

Let us not omit one of the great joys in the spring.
We all got new outfits. And Mama got a corsage from Bates Florist!



Isaac, The Lion

By Mickey Collier Class of '65

This is the story of a lonely lion. His birthplace and origin are unknown at this time. It is known that he spent many years on property in Portland, Tennessee, owned by a man named James Scott. The lion spent his days beside a pond on the property. Mr. Scott (AKA Scotty) also possessed an elephant which held a martini glass. The elephant had formerly resided in front of a well-known antique shop.

Evidently, Scotty was quite the character. He lived in a trailer with no running water. He was well known in the area because he drove an El Camino with a fiberglass chicken attached to the roof. It is reported that he worked somewhere near the Kentucky border.

Vicki Carter Alessio, class of 1964, and husband David, inquired about the lion years ago when they moved down the road from the Scott property. At that time, Scotty responded that they could have the lion upon his death. Unfortunately, Scotty passed away. As promised, though, the lion was given to the Alessios.

In January, 2020, before Covid, we met at the Alumni Center to be introduced to the King of Beasts. The need for restoration was apparent. Luckily, my close friend and fellow classic car guy, Roark Summerford, agreed to help with the rehabilitation of the lion. The lion was then transported to Roark's 30' x 100' shop. Shortly thereafter, Covid and other projects delayed the rehab.

Roark is a retired boat builder. His career included his own companies, Laser and STV boats as well as stints with Hydrasport and Stratos. He retired as Vice President of R&D for Triton Boats. Obviously, repairing something made of fiberglass would be no problem.

The rehab began in earnest in December of 2020. Holes were filled with expanding foam, and Bondo and resin were applied. Plywood cubes were made for platforms to raise the lion 12 inches off the floor.



Damaged lion



Dental work



Spray foam to fill void



Formed plywood tail



Mickey with repaired lion

At this point, the lion was transported to the craft room of my wife, Pat Collier. She began the process of mixing paints and experimenting with colors.

When the repairs and restoration were completed, the lion was transported from Hendersonville to the Alumni Center, traveling down Gallatin Pike. Imagine the stares and double-takes when passers-by saw this full size, 7½ foot lion in the back of a pickup truck.

On February 7th, 2021, the lion was revealed to the ILAA Executive Committee and the Alessios in the Lions Den section of the Alumni Center. At that time he was christened “**Isaac.**” It is reported that **Isaac**, although still ferocious, is happy to be out of the weather.



Vicki (class of '64) and David Alessio with their restored donation of "ISAAC THE LION"



Pat and Mickey (class of '65) Collier, restoration experts

We are thankful to David and Vicki for this addition to our Litton museum. Hopefully, we will all be able to gather at this facility in 2021.



And the Ultimate Modern Easter Dress:
PEEPS!!





The Mammoth Cave Trip

Submitted by Mickey Collier, Class of '65

Over the years, we Litton graduates have reminisced about various school trips. Out of town football games and band activities were always fun for us. This story involves a school trip that took place before many of us were born.

On October 25, 1947, Litton students traveled to Mammoth Cave Kentucky for a tour of this National Park. Extensive instructions were provided to students that required the signature of parents. The following is presented, as written over 70 years ago. This information was provided by Mary Ann Demerich Schott, class of 1951.

Clothing: Wear warm school clothing. Take a sweater or coat.
Temperature in cave 54 degree F.

Money: Minimum \$1.65 (This must take care of your evening meal in Bowling Green and etc.)

Partner: Every student must have a partner, each being responsible for the other.

Leave 6:30 AM Return 9:30 Pm

Place we will visit: (1) Mammoth Cave Trip #4 All day.

(2) Mammoth Cave Hotel; (a) curio shop (b) coffee shop

1. Each teacher must have a complete roll.
2. Roll must be checked each time bus is reloaded.
3. Each teacher may have a student to assist in calling the roll.
4. Partners must sit together.
5. Must have 33 people on each bus.
6. Any one not going must personally dispose of his own ticket to someone who meets the approval of the teacher.
7. Every student represents Litton and must act accordingly so that we would be permitted to return.
8. Turn in complete roll call with telephone no. to Homeroom mother.

9. Any communication that needs to be made by teachers in charge of students must be made to:

Miss Weakely's Homeroom Mother-Mrs. N.Q. Wright,
phone 2-2242

Mr. Carver's Homeroom Mother- Mrs. John D. Caruthers,
phone 2-3246

Mrs. Francis's Homeroom, Mrs. W. H. Ragan, phone 2-
4945

10. Did you bring your permit excuse from your parents?

11. Take care of the buses.

I give _____ permission to go on the Mammoth Cave Trip,
Oct. 25th, 1947. Leaving East Point, 518 Gallatin Road,
Nashville, 6:30 A.M. Returning Oct. 25, 1947, 9:30 PM.

Signed by Parent _____

This trip is not required by the Science Department of Isaac
Litton High School.

It appears that the trip was very successful.

RESISTING THE URGE TO TRY AND PLAY AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE ON YOU ALL, I PRESENT: SOME OTHER FUNNIES!

Things I'm Super Good At

1. Forgetting someone's name 30 seconds after they tell me.
2. Running. Late, that is.
3. Making plans...then regretting making plans.
4. Thinking of a great comeback – an hour later.
5. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
6. Adding items to online carts. Then deleting.
7. Googling my ailments. Then panicking.
8. Leaving laundry to wrinkle in the dryer.
9. Forgetting why I walked into the room.
10. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".

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© | Might Be Funny

Reflections of 2nd Avenue

Submitted by Marilyn Williams Switzer, Class of 1970

November 29, 1970, marked the last time the Isaac Litton Marching 100+ would participate in the annual Nashville Christmas Parade. The seniors marching that day would be the last to receive a diploma from Isaac Litton High School. Litton was open from 1930-1971, and while the parade on that November day in 1970 ended at the foot of Broadway, band members in earlier years would have marched up historic 2nd Avenue before the parade ended. Perhaps they played Christmas songs that day, but had the opening strains of Malaguena begun, all Litton alumni in the crowd would have stood a bit taller. That was our band.



It would have been fitting and proper for a Litton band to march up historic 2nd Avenue for both the school and the street have long and storied histories in the life of Nashville. 2nd Avenue was originally named Market Street, and served as the market for most

of the Southeast. Items were unloaded on Front Street (now known as 1st Avenue) from packet boats and stored in the warehouses waiting for merchants to come through the front doors on Market Street to purchase goods. Most likely, in earlier buildings on Market Street, Mr. Joseph Litton would have purchased goods for his store located on College Street, now known at 3rd Avenue. He was a successful businessman, a prominent Methodist with a "sweet voice" that he used to teach hymns to the congregation. He was a driving force in the building of McKendree Methodist Church in downtown Nashville and it was said by some that he "saw every brick be laid."

What brought the Littons to Nashville from Ireland? Bad harvests, famine, economic depression, and unemployment in 1815-1816, caused Joseph Litton and his wife Catherine to flee their home town of Dublin for America. They and their nine children settled in Nashville after spending a short time in Pittsburgh.



Joseph Litton circa 1840



Isaac Litton

The seventh of those nine children was named Isaac, most often called Ike. He was five years old when the family left Ireland in 1817. By all accounts, the Littons led a prosperous and happy life, active in their church, devoted to their family and to each other, and were well-respected in the Nashville community. Catherine Litton died in 1845, followed not many months later by Joseph in 1846. They are buried in the Nashville City Cemetery.

Years after Mr. Litton's death, a descendant of his discovered a check written to him by Andrew Jackson. It was dated June 6, 1845 in the amount of \$110, which is equivalent to \$3,427.29 in today's money. Written on the back of the check were the words, "Presented by Andrew Jackson to his friend Joseph Litton." The

check, written just two days before Jackson's death is his last known signature according to the Library of Congress.

Isaac Litton married Lucinda Calloway and they had six children, one of whom was named Kate. Kate married John Pryor Hickman and they had one child, Edwin Litton Hickman. Don't you just love a good family name? Litton Hickman lived in a house located on Gallatin Road very near where the present East YMCA stands. His maternal grandfather, Isaac, formerly owned the land. Hickman received a law degree from Vanderbilt University where he was a member of the Glee Club, apparently having inherited a "sweet voice" from his maternal great grandfather. Upon graduation, Mr. Hickman opened a law office on Church Street. He was a member of the Tennessee General Assembly and later was elected judge of Davidson County. We would refer to this office today as Mayor. Mr. Hickman served in that capacity for four consecutive terms and retired in 1950. While Mr. Hickman was serving as County Judge, a new school was built, located on Gallatin Road just a few miles North of Mr. Hickman's home. At his request, it was decided that the new school would be named for his beloved maternal grandfather, Isaac Litton.

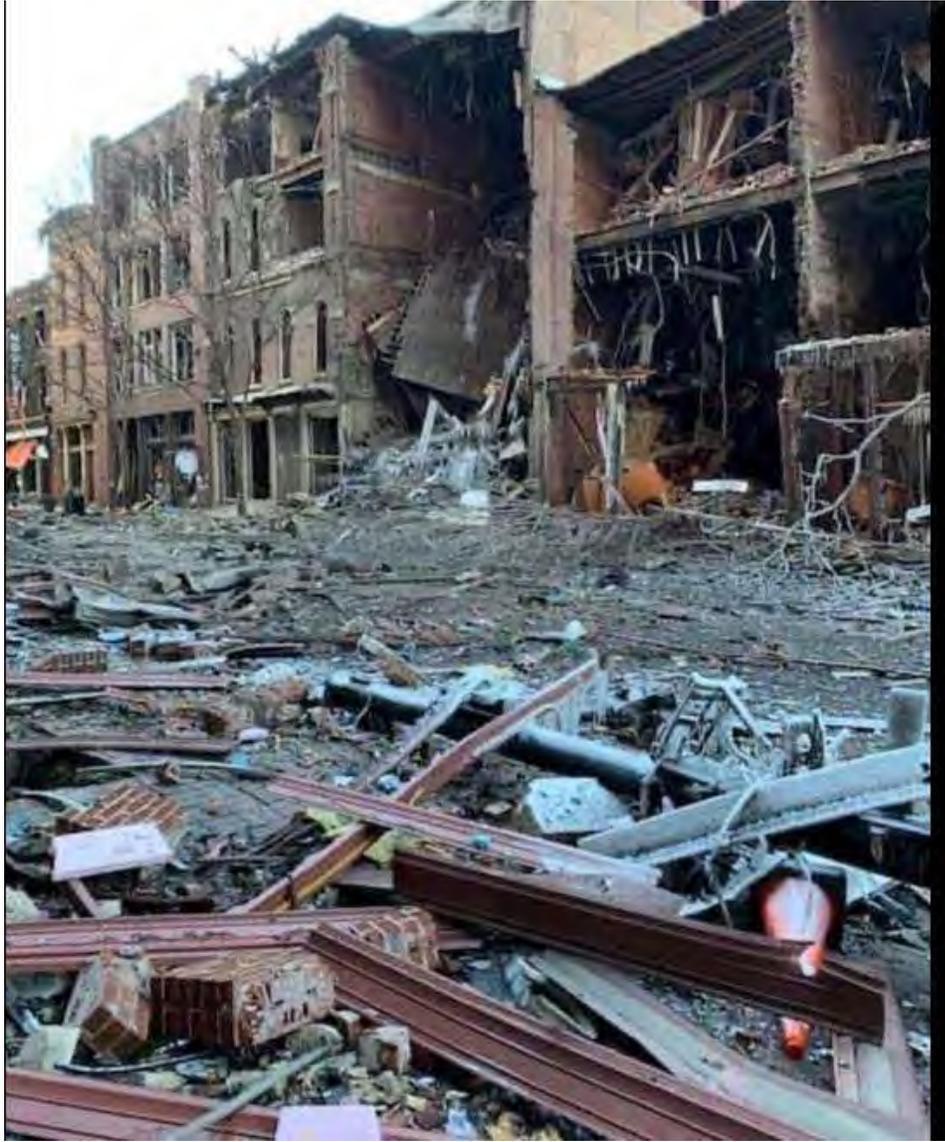
Isaac Litton High School was built on land bought for \$10,000 from Mr. A.E. Spotswood, and another \$75,000 was spent on construction of the building. The official opening was October 15, 1930. The gym that still stands on the property was built in 1939 and was a WPA project. Mr. Hickman wanted the school named for his grandfather because Isaac loved young people and wanted all his descendants to have good liberal educations. He would have been mighty proud of the school that was named for him. Many readers will remember the Judge Hickman ferry, that fun and scary transport from East Nashville to Donelson. It served for many years as another reminder of the influence the Litton family had on the city of Nashville.



Second Avenue "before the explosion."



After the explosion.



The worst of the bombing site.

Why do we fight to save old buildings? They are testimonies to the culture and complexity of a community. They are reminders of days past. They speak to us of busy days of commerce or rowdy pep rallies. They are important. So, wait, listen...can you hear it? Perhaps, it is that “sweet voice” of Joseph Litton singing “Litton High forever...”

We editors of the BLAST encourage you to consider sending us a Litton related story that we can share with the alumni. It can be a personal story or something that happened years ago when you were at Litton that you think might be of interest. This is your newsletter. Please help make it successful by contributing news articles and ideas to us. Shehane64@gmail.com
Communications Committee: Alice Shehane, chairperson, Kaaren Andrews, Larry Collier, Judy Cline, and Jerry Newman.

LITTON HIGH FOREVER !

*Alumni dues and generous donations from supporters like you are the key to our success and make it possible for us to continue our services to the community, the Isaac Litton Middle School and all of our Alumni. Our revitalized gymnasium building serves as a meeting place for our alumni holding class reunions, for the community and neighborhood associations to meet and find solutions to the many problems facing some inner-city areas today, and also houses the **"Lion's Den,"** a fully viewable area filled with memorabilia of the proud 40+ year history of ISAAC LITTON HIGH SCHOOL.*

For information on how you can support and donate to the ILAA, contact any Board Member or your Class Representative. You can also send donations to either of the addresses listed on page one of this newsletter. Let your generosity be part of your legacy to the memory of our beloved school.

GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021

CLASS	FULL NAME	DATE
42	MAURICE ELMO GRIGGS JR	29. January 2021
42	STANLEY EUGENE ZELLER SR	15. March 2021
44	ALENE JEAN VANDERCOOK TAYLOR	2. February 2021
47	WILLIAM BURTON (BILLY) BURRUS	5. January 2021
48	WILLIAM EUGENE GOBER	28-Mar-21
48	HENDERSON EVERETT (HANK) HILLIN JR	10. February 2021
49	VERA JEAN JACOB WINDSOR	2. January 2021
49	ELIZABETH ALLISON MEGGS BROWNING	18. January 2021
50	MORRIS FRAZIER ESTES	22. February 2021
51	BARBARA LILLIAN DOTSON DUNN	7. March 2021
51	JERRY ALBERT RITTENBERRY SR	9. March 2021
52	ANNA RUTH FITZPATRICK VANCE	24. February 2021
52	JANE CUNNINGHAM DUNN	28. March 2021
53	RAY GUILL WOODALL	8. March 2021
53	LARRY EUGENE WRAY	17. March 2021
54	LEE GORE CASSETTY	1. January 2021
55	JEWEL CLARK VANDEWERKER	1. February 2021
55	CHARLES DELWIN WILLIAMS	7. March 2021

60	ALTON DUANE HOWDEN	7. February 2021
60	BONNIE LEE RAGAN CASSETTY	12. January 2021
61	PATRICIA (PAT) HOLLAND BROOKS HAFF	14. February 2021
61	TREVA RAY MOORE MOUNT	22. January 2021
65	JOE BROWN FUQUA	11. January 2021
65	MARY CAROL KANE TAYLOR	7. January 2021
66	JOHN MICHAEL LOVE	17. January 2021
67	GLENN ALEXANDER STEED	3. January 2021
68	GLORIA FAY BANDY	12. January 2021
70	PAMELA FAYE PRYOR	17. January 2021
71	JEFFREY MARTIN HUDGINS	23. January 2021
72	CYNTHIA DENISE BESS HOLLINGSWORTH	16. January 2021

NOTE: Due to the publication deadlines for each quarterly issue of the BLAST, the names of those departed alumni received after the last day of the quarter will be included in the next issue.

Please send us any notices as soon as possible. Thank you.