

## ***THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE 2015-2 OF FEBRUARY 1, 2015***

Hello Hornets:

Here are some items that might be of interest:

### **1. ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME/CHEERLEADER REUNION SET FOR FEBRUARY 6.**

We received this news from Kenya Gray (95) about a fun event this week at the School: “We are excited to announce and invite every alumni to the February 6 basketball game against Forestville High School at 7 pm! The concession stand will be stocked and all proceeds benefit the upcoming Class of 95 reunion. There will be shout-outs for past players and the alumni cheerleaders will be breaking out the Ben-Gay to lift our pom poms for a few sets with the current cheerleaders! If there are cheerleaders from years past who are interested in joining the class of 95 alumni cheer squad, please email us at [shsreunion2015@gmail.com](mailto:shsreunion2015@gmail.com) or me directly at [Kenya.Gray@gmail.com](mailto:Kenya.Gray@gmail.com). We hope to see everyone there! Kenya”

**2. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT.** This is the time of year when we ask our readers to submit nominations for the Foundation's Annual Achievement Awards. These annual awards recognize members of the Surrattsville community for their outstanding achievements in community service, the arts, their careers, and the like. Please submit nominations by email to [hsmith@smithdowney.com](mailto:hsmith@smithdowney.com). (Photos and bios of the truly extraordinary previous Achievement Award recipients can be found at [surrattsville.org](http://surrattsville.org).)

**3. HORNET'S NOVEL ENJOYED BY BOOK CLUB.** We received this great review from Joan Penn Revis (61) that might be of interest to our literary-minded readers: “A while back in an e-Notice, there was mention that Lori Johnson Benton ('62) had her second historical novel published, *The Pursuit of Tamsen Littlejohn*. Not knowing that she had become an author, and being fascinated that someone can get an idea, and follow that idea all the way to a published book, I ordered the book. Lori is a wonderful, gifted author. Our Book Club read her first award-winning novel *Burning Sky* (everyone loved it), and I have pre-ordered her next book, *The Wood's Edge*, due to be released in April. It has been exciting to read her great books. (Taking place in America in the 1700s, her characters and descriptions are so vivid, and she weaves bits of authentic history into her books without overpowering her story.) It has been fascinating to be in touch with her and to learn more about the extensive writing process. (By the way, this is an unsolicited recommendation--just wanted to share that people would most likely enjoy reading her engaging stories.) They can be found at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Google, and through her interesting blog <http://loribenton.blogspot.com/>. You can connect to her Facebook Author Page <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorLoriBenton>. Lori's mom also graduated from Surratts-- Jeanette (Puryear) Johnson (62). Joan”

**4. CLASS OF 65 PLANS 50<sup>TH</sup>!** We received this exciting notice from Judy Gordon (65): “The great Class of 65 will celebrate their 50th Reunion on October 9-10, 2015 at the Crowne

Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria. Contact Judy Gordon ([judygordonshs65@gmail.com](mailto:judygordonshs65@gmail.com)) to add your name to the email list and receive regular updates.”

**5. MEMORIES OF “HARMLESS FUN”.** We received this interesting request from Melissa Rehl (68): “Please ask anyone if they remember the fictitious “Sue Walton” who the Class of 68 invented. Sue would be called to the principal’s office on the PA and also to pick up her class picture, etc. She was entirely made up, and we laughed a lot! Maybe someone else would remember her too? Also, does anyone remember someone putting pigs in the Senior Court drain – a large grate in the ground where the water was trapped. I believe a pig got loose from one person who was trying to catch it and ran down the hall. We were a great bunch in the Class of 68! Melissa”

[Ed. notes: I clearly recall that John Elvar – who we at least believed was a fictitious individual – was blamed for all manner of misdeeds by the Class of 71. And I wonder how the authorities of today’s public education systems would view the myriad of hijinks that were regular features of schooling back in the day? Younger readers: Don’t try this at home, or at Surrattsville!]

**6. MEMORIES OF EARLY ERA T.V. IN D.C..** And we received this very interesting link of footage from a 1965 Ranger Hal show from Surrattstock performer Mike Mello (Bishop McNamara 71):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/149487501799474/permalink/743989259015959/>

The clip includes an on-air testimonial by Ranger Hal extolling the virtues of “luscious” Hostess Twinkees, the “good-for-you dessert that gives you energy to go on and protein to grow on!”

[Ed. note: And all this time I’ve been feeling guilty about eating Twinkees!]

**7. MORE HORNETS HOOPS MEMORIES.** Our recent articles about Hornet sports teams of the past prompted these great memories from Ray Blosser (65): “I have read with fond memories the recent recollections of SHS alumni about the basketball team successes in the early and mid-sixties. This coming March will be the 50 year anniversary of perhaps the greatest wins of the SHS basketball saga during the Maryland State AA Tournament. I had the great fortune of playing on both the very good SHS ’64 and ’65 teams. A big part of the story to be told about these two teams was the twist of fate that brought some of the players, myself included, to SHS in the first place. This twist of fate was the bussing of a large contingent of kids from “northern” PG County (Hillcrest/Marlow Heights) to Clinton, to attend SHS. This was done to alleviate the potential overcrowding of Suitland High for the ’62-’63 school year. So this sweep of the pen by the School Board brought together two different communities of kids at SHS in September, 1962. Mixed feelings existed initially all around by most all concerned. And so began the change in SHS classification up to the AA level for its sports teams – this influx of bussed students pushed SHS to having 605 males enrolled, which exceeded the AA requirement of

enrolled boys by 5. So SHS would now be competing in the PG County AA leagues with the largest schools in the County (and State).

So the fact that the SHS basketball teams of '64 and '65 won the PG County championship and got to the State Tournament in back to back years was an accomplishment considering the level of competition these teams faced. While I always believed the '64 team was the better overall team, fate seemed to smile on the '65 team. The '65 team was a tough group of mostly senior "grinders" that surrounded the "Jolly Green Giant" Norm Carmichael. This team was a true reflection of its coach, the oft referenced Bob Vaughn. We were disciplined hustlers with Norm at the center as our primary "go to guy" much of the time. But there were those times when the "grinders" had to step it up. And that time was best exemplified by the State Tournament semi-final game in '65. We played an Allegany HS team that came to the tournament as heavy favorites with a regular season record of 19-1. They were very tall and very talented. And to make the story even more dramatic was the fact that our go to guy, Norm, spent much of the semi-final game in foul trouble and in fact fouled out with the game tied and just over 3 minutes to play. So it was "grinder" time, or else. And so the Lee Smith, Bill East, Larry Schilling and sophomore Al Thomas "grinders" delivered the unthinkable upset of Allegany 68-62. Coach Vaughn was later quoted "that the victory over Allegany probably was my biggest thrill as a coach".

The '65 team had to then turn around and play the Tournament Finals game the next night against another favored team, Parkville HS, from Baltimore. This time the script played out with Norm having a career game as he scored 34 points and we held on for a close 64-61 win and the State AA Championship.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention one other very good team that I had the good fortune to be a part of, and that was the '65 baseball team. This was a group who toiled in relative anonymity without the benefit of a great coach like Bob Vaughn. Our coach in '65 was the JV football coach, Sam Smith. Apparently no one else would take the job, so to Sam's credit he took the reins of what turned out to be a very competitive ball club. In fact, we came within one game of adding another County Championship to the annals of the Class of '65. Playing on the old Millers field next to the school, the likes of Mike Fahey, Rich Wechsler, Tom Fort, Dave McClain, Jim Bostwick, Reggie Masano and Jay James, did SHS proud.

Needless to say, that long bus ride I took along with a lot of other kids from my neighborhood turned out to be the best bus ride I would ever take. Ray"

**8. THE TUESDAY BOOTS -- SURRATTSVILLE'S ROCK HERITAGE GETS RENEWED EXPOSURE.** Mark Opanick, the author of the encyclopedia of the history of rock music in the DC area, "Capitol Rock," is preparing an updated edition that will have

increased coverage for a number of Surrattsville bands, including The Tuesday Boots, Butler's Orchard and DC Star. We've received preliminary summary histories of those storied Surrattsville musicians that we'll share in these e-Notices, and considerable and fascinating additional detail will be included in Mark's upcoming volume.

Here's the summary history of perhaps the grandparent of all things rock at Surrattsville, The Tuesday Boots:

"The Tuesday Boots originally formed in Clinton, MD as The Cavaliers in late 1964-65 with the original band members (and Surrattsville High School classmates) being the three Barkley brothers (Ron, Russ, and Jerry) and Ron Lilly. An early photo of the band can be found at the Surrattsville High School Foundation website. Ron Barkley played lead guitar and sang lead on most vocals, with Ron Lilly playing rhythm guitar and contributing vocals, Jerry Barkley on drums and vocals, and Russ Barkley on bass. The band started out playing at local parties and then at occasional dances at schools in the Clinton and Camp Springs area. Within months the name of the band was changed to the Tuesday Boots, apparently modified from a song titled Thirsty Boots.

As the Tuesday Boots band perfected its craft and became more widely known, the band expanded its performances from parties and school dances to numerous dance clubs in the DC area (such as Georgetown clubs the Crazy Horse, the Silver Dollar, Fallen Angel, and the Cellar Door), Maryland (military base clubs, a variety of bars and dance clubs, etc.), and Virginia area and even appeared on local TV dance shows. The band also made a rare appearance in southeastern Pennsylvania but mostly played in the greater DC area.

The band eventually linked up with Fordy Thompson, a talent booking agent (who also managed the popular band Little Joe and the Imperials), around 1966-67 which thereby helped to further increase its playing opportunities at clubs and military bases in the greater DC area. During that time, the band added a fifth member, Bruce MacPherson, as keyboard player. In the Fall of 1967, Russ Barkley was the first member to leave the band (for college). He was replaced on bass by Jan Zukowski. Dennis Boone eventually replaced Ron Lilly on guitar.

The band continued to play often and widely in the greater DC area until 1970 before dissolving with Ron Barkley moving on to play music with another band, Leaves of Grass, before eventually heading to Los Angeles. Jan Zukowski left the Tuesday Boots to eventually play with the Cherry People, another highly popular band in the greater DC area. Jerry Barkley continued playing drums for a while with Dennis and Daryl Boone in the band, Boones Farm. Ron Barkley later returned to the Baltimore, Maryland area before eventually moving to Florida to play with various bands, including more recently, The Gulf Coasters.

Jerry Barkley also eventually moved to Florida and periodically rejoined his brother, Ron, to play in various bands. Ron Barkley died in 2006 and Ron Lilly in 2005. While the Tuesday Boots never recorded any commercial records, it was a highly popular group in the DC area during the 1964-1970 period. (Note: More recently this band name was adopted by a progressive

folk music group from Cork County, Ireland, that now has a presence on YouTube but has no relation to the original band or its members)."

[Ed. notes: We'd love to have our readers' recollections of their experiences listening to The Tuesday Boots, the band that almost certainly inspired literally hundreds of future Hornet musicians! And some of our readers will recall that Russ Barkley received the Foundation's Achievement Award in 2008, for his extraordinary career after Surrattsville and The Tuesday Boots! <http://surrattsville.org/achievement/2008.shtml>]

**9. SEEKING LOST HORNET.** Les Illinski (82), [leslyillinski@aol.com](mailto:leslyillinski@aol.com), is trying to locate Clifford Algie Simmons (56). Please email Les if you have any information on Clifford.

**10. IF YOU USE AMAZON, PLEASE USE AMAZON SMILE.** Many of our readers have checked-in to report that they are now using the Amazon Smile program ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) for their Amazon purchases, designating the Foundation to receive a portion of the sales price of every qualifying purchase made at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

It turns out that it is very, very easy to register – you only have to do so and designate the Foundation once -- and you pay no more for purchases made through Amazon Smile than through regular Amazon. (I've done it, and it is a totally painless way to cause Amazon to donate to the Foundation every time you make a purchase.)

If you shop on Amazon, please consider registering at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2224546> and making your Amazon purchases through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) with the Surrattsville High School Foundation as your preferred charity.

Thanks for considering taking these easy steps to convert your Amazon shopping to AmazonSmile shopping!

**11. ... AND CONTINUING THE FUND RAISING THEME.** And the Foundation still gets regular checks from [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com). This is the internet search engine (that does what google does, but that allows you to designate the Foundation as your preferred charity to receive a donation for every search you make). Please consider registering on [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) to do your web searching there with the Foundation as your designated charity.

**12. DON'T FORGET THE FOUNDATION'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL.** The Foundation's great youtube channel contains a number of interesting programs, including a program on this year's extraordinary Achievement Award recipients. <http://youtu.be/GTywsh4I4Jw>

Many thanks to Foundation Board member Sandra Smith Simmons (70) who creates the Foundation's youtube content!

**13. CLASS OF 39 FEATURED IN POST ARTICLE, con't.** Here is a continuation of an item in the last e-Notice about a June 25, 1984 Washington Post article by Eugene Meyer sent in by Paul Monaghan (59):

“Class of '39 Surrattsville High Recalled ... If the class left no visible monument, one still exists, the 40-year reunion book said, “in the lives, the homes, the families and the communities of the class members. It is a piece of America. Life has been easier for some than for others. But can anyone say for sure which one is better off than another? Love, happiness, fame, wealth, power have touched us all to some degree. So have sadness and despair. Who would you trade places with?”

Until recent years, former principal Klein, now 81, had attended the reunions. “The last time, I got lost,” he said from the nursing home outside Boonsboro. “They had changed the road, and I landed in Camp Springs.” Two of their teachers attended the reunion Saturday and their former students, now in their 60s, still referred to them as “Mr. Compton” and “Mr. Wyvill.” They all watched silent movies made during their school years by Fred Bickford, who has stayed close to the class although he finished at Western High in the District. Four classmates came from Florida, and one each from Texas, Colorado and California. But mostly they came from nearby.

Ernest Loveless' absence was the most conspicuous. Not only had he been the class president but he, along with Audrey Smith, had made the class reunions a pet project over the years. He had even been scheduled to preside over the weekend event, and just before his operation for a benign brain tumor, had spoken warmly of his high school years and classmates. They, in turn, spoke warmly of him. In leading the invocation, Frank Selby said, “We pray tonight for Ernie Loveless and any others that are not here.” Present was Loveless' son-in-law, John Holtz, who filmed on video tape the event as well as individual messages from his classmates for the convalescing judge.

Each classmate left with a message from Loveless, contained in the reunion book and read aloud by Ken Smith: “Our class motto was taken from Longfellow's ‘Psalm of Life’ and the footprints that we have made in the sands of time may not long be remembered, but certainly we have done the best we could to achieve this goal. We should add another stanza from the “Psalm of Life’ – not to our motto, but to our individual resolutions. Regardless of the problems from which we might encounter from time to time ... ‘Let us then be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait.’”

**14. CLASS OF 95 PLANS REUNION.** The Class of 95 will be celebrating its 20 reunion in June 2015 at the Colony South and is looking for our classmates. Please send an email to Kenya Samuels Gray at [Kenya.Gray@gmail.com](mailto:Kenya.Gray@gmail.com) if you have any information on 95 grads or members of their family. The Class also has a Surrattsville Class of 1995 group on Facebook. To kick-off

the "countdown to 20," on June 11, 2014 from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. the Class's planning committee is hosting a celebrity scoops night at Rita's in Clinton (the old Pizza Hut near the intersection of Woodyard Road and Brandywine Road).

**15. CLASS OF 75 PLANS REUNION.** The Class of 75 is considering plans for a reunion. (Note that the Class of 75 reunion was not part of the recent Class of 74 reunion as was previously mentioned.) Please contact Lorraine Frank Kerr at [lorrainefrank1@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainefrank1@gmail.com), or Cindy Shaffer Kluth on Facebook, if you are interested in the Class of 75 event.

**16. NEW CONTENT CONTINUES TO BE ADDED TO FOUNDATION'S FACEBOOK GROUP.** The Foundation's Facebook Group, "Surrattsville Alumni," continues to grow. The Group now has over 1850 members. Please consider joining this group, and your Class' group on Facebook – called "Surrattsville 1973" and the like – to stay in touch with all things Surrattsville.

Here's hoping you are enjoying a great start to your 2015!

All the best, Henry Smith (71)

#### *In Memoriam*

JIMMIE GATES (54) passed away on Christmas Day 2014. His wife Joan Duke Gates (53), his five children and his thirteen grandchildren were with him. Jimmie and Joan would be celebrating 59 years of marriage in February. Jimmie came to Surrattsville in 1952 as a junior and began dating June then. He excelled in soccer, basketball, baseball at Surratts also in track at Washington High School in Princess Anne on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He spent 21 years. in the US Navy and will be buried at Arlington. Upon rejoining civilian life in 1975, he worked many years as an electronic technician.

#### *MANY THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS – AND EARLY! -- DONORS TO THE 2015 CAMPAIGN!*

Steve Profilet (71)

Vicki Forsht Williams (65, and former faculty)

Paul Monaghan (59)

Ray Blossie (65)

Richard Grace (81)

Vicky Simontacchi Young (57), In Memory of John Baxter McCall (57) and Dan Wyant (57)

*MANY THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS – AND NUMEROUS! -- DONORS TO THE  
RECORD-BREAKING 2014 CAMPAIGN!*

Steve Profilet (71)

Nancy Miller (67)

Pat Becker Oles (71)

Debbie Cox Marr (72)

Bob Marr (71)

Joe Capone (79)

Vicky Simontacchi Young (57), In Honor of the Classes of 57 and 84

Kurt Aktug (88)

Linda Dorsey Blum (66)

Coach Lew Jenkins (former faculty)

Melissa Gilcrest (69)

Vera Twigg

Nancy Oursler Maynard (65), In Memory of Bill Millios, husband of Diana McCormick Millios (65)

Rick Torrecarion (74), In Loving Memory of Patsy Torrecarion (76)

Lee Hessberg (68)

Lois Barrett Hessberg (70)

Tom and Sally Travis (72)

Larry Romjue (57), In Memory of Lois Marie Osgood (57) – “If I Could Be With You (One Hour Tonight),” Fontane Sisters

Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith (70)

Henry Smith (71)

Dave DeCenzo (73)

Duke Coleman (53), In Memory of Donald England (53)

Southern MD Blue Crabs, For the Charlie Waddell Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Class of 74

Twin Shields Golf Club, Dunkirk, MD

Mike Blair (71), In Honor of All Hornet Grapplers

Jackie Gwynn Ball (60), In Loving Memory of Wm. R. (Jack) Gwynn (34), Wilhelmina D. (Billie) Barr Winstead (37), and Wm. R. (Bill) Gwynn, Jr. (64)

J. Paul Rickett (69)

Gloria Blandford Rickett (71)

Rich Grace (81), In Memory of Rhonda Nairn (81)

Katherine Dorsey Larrabee (62)

Gerda Parr (68)  
Mario Cole (87)  
Chuck Teubner (64)  
Pam Donbrosky (73)  
Lynn Powers Yates (65)  
Byron Payn (65)  
Christina Elder Margason (65)  
Nancy Oursler Maynard (65), In Memory of Griffith Surch Oursler, III (61)  
Dan Bayne (71), For the Charles Waddell Memorial Fund  
John Arthur (83)  
Joyce Owens (74), In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Class of 74  
Candy Spears (67)  
Helen Bovbjerg Niedung (54), In Memory of Classmate John Dennison (54)  
Joan Penn Revis (61)  
Richard Furbish (65)  
Patricia Becker Oles (71)  
Dave Weber (65)  
Patrick McMEnamin (71)  
Joe Capone (79)  
Debra Villari (74)  
Mike Rumley (71)  
Susan Roley Malone (65)  
Reynaud Smith (72)  
Anne Noyes (former faculty), for the Principals/Faculty/Staff Memory Fund  
Duke Coleman (53)  
Joe Hurd (73), Crestview Elementary, SJHS and SHS, Go Hornets!  
Tom Hart (66)  
James Casswell (65)  
Betty Brewer Black (72), In Memory of my Sister, Barbara Gayle Brewer (69)  
Glenda Gillan Schornick (70)  
Tom Shultz (71)  
David Coffield (65), In Honor of the Class of 65  
Dave Kraus (65)