

## ***THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE 2018-3 OF MARCH 1, 2018***

Hello Hornets! Here are some items that might be of interest:

**1. FOUNDATION ELECTS EXCITING SLATE OF OFFICERS-ELECT AND TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS!** We are delighted to report that, at its recent meeting, the Board of the Foundation elected the following Officers-Elect to take over the reins of the Foundation in 2019. (These outstanding new leaders will work closely with the current Officers of the Foundation throughout 2018 to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.)

Elsa Tlapechco (15), President

Tayana Harrison (07), Treasurer

Ta'Mya Harrison (07), Secretary

Jontice Small (07), Communications Liaison/e-Notice Editor

Kevin Stith (15), Social Media Director

At that same meeting, the Board elected these same individuals, and the following two outstanding alumnae, to join the Board beginning in 2018:

Rontanetta Gibson (11), New Board Member

Susan Roley Malone (65), New Board Member

Many of the Foundation's current Officers and Board members have served continuously during the 18-year existence of the Foundation, and we are so happy to have this outstanding cadre of "next generation" leaders step forward to take the Foundation into its "2.0 era!"

[Ed. note: Eagle-eyed readers may recognize some of these names from the following:

<http://surrattsville.org/scholarships/2015.shtml>

<http://surrattsville.org/scholarships/2007.shtml>

<http://surrattsville.org/scholarships/2011.shtml>

<http://surrattsville.org/achievement/2012.shtml>]

**2. SEEKING CONTACT INFO FOR FORMER TEACHER JANE BASKIN.** Mike Boyle (69) is attempting to find contact information for former faculty member Jane Baskin. Please email Mike at [mikeboyle1@gmail.com](mailto:mikeboyle1@gmail.com) if you have any leads.

**3. DON'T FORGET THE FACEBOOK GROUPS OF THE FOUNDATION AND OF EACH CLASS YEAR.** More and more of the communications about the Foundation, Surrattsville generally, and individual Class year activities, have moved to the applicable Groups on Facebook. The Foundation's general Surrattsville Group, called "Surrattsville Alumni," now

has 2050 members (and grows almost every day), and the various Class Groups – such as “Surrattsville 1969,” “Surrattsville 1973,” etc. – are growing vigorously. To stay in touch, and to see a regular parade of interesting photos and info about dear ol’ Surratts, please consider joining the Surrattsville Alumni Group and your own Class Group.

**4. MORE SURRATTSVILLE MEMORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY.** The following is the latest installment of Wayne Tatum (74)’s always evocative memoir of his time at Surrattsville Junior High in the 1960s. We’re running Wayne’s reminiscences as a serial, and we’re sure Wayne’s stories will stimulate lots of memories of times likely long gone-by among our readers.

“Spring-Loaded in the Rockies; or You Still Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet: Intro 1: The most obvious intro for this, but ... you kind folk are going to sing it. Bring in the dogs for backup and moral support! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzt3abx9xL4>

Intro 2: Leslie West and Jack Bruce – “Theme for an Imaginary Western”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PTUpzsDkuA>

Intro 3: Sons of the Pioneers – “Springtime in the Rockies”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq7XPazTxqU>

Remember if you will mid-December 1969 when my eighth grade English class was bus driven to Marlow Heights in order to view ‘Oliver!’ the musical, and we the innocent were unaware of any dues owed other than the cost of tickets? And so we slept peacefully through the change of year and early winter nights. Ah, but in the late winter of 1970, the same class of the shrewd language ‘marm’ were indentured to perform a play entitled, “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky.” We were happy to attend her lessons, but now a play? Some almost fainted, others wanted more tests, somebody may have thrown up, but like a dope I smiled. Meanwhile, most of the brave individuals of the class jumped at the chance to be script holders, rope pullers, prop mistresses and masters, teaser and tormentor gazers, or groupie enablers while the rest were forced to be stage managers, lighting people of some sort or another, and those who couldn’t luck into mundane silent jobs were cursed to minor character roles.

Fools like me became the lead actors. And I was the bad guy, one “Scratchy” Wilson. Hot dawg! And talk about a shoe fit natural; with an Oklahoman mother and a Tennessee father, I thought I’d be able to handle the role of a drunken redneck cowboy with low self-esteem without a stretch into method acting or any of that stuff. Just needed a little direction. The show barely had any direction as it was. Now, a real friend would’ve sat me down and urged me to learn my lines, as plays have actual dialogue, mostly monologue or soliloquy in my case. Real acting takes time, concentration, and knowing the story behind the script, and over time I did those things in other places in a normal given time frame, with the one exception in college of force-cramming a Tennessee Williams one act play in four hours and performing it the very next day in experimental theater style, meaning that the audience and the error catching note-blurting head of the drama department is onstage with you about five feet away on low bleacher seats. But beyond that, real friends also let me know that I can’t act, and that one glaring fact has been replayed to me more times than I could count.

Act I: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBszwBjbaXw>

We rehearsed the turkey about two times, and what seemed like one week later, off we went in front of the entire school one and all for their theatrical entertainment. This straightforward little two act play allowed me to show real versatility, well-rehearsed for Act I, as I had busted my tail for that scene. Black hat, six shooters that weren't in the book version and leaning up against a bar while tossing out my lines, like a Western Theme Night at the Clinton Inn, the same place we old Clintonites referred to as "The Beer Joint." (Author's Historical Point of Reference: - My mother actually called my father out of the bar 'old west style' one night from the sidewalk phone booth, told the bartender to find Mr. Tatum and give him a one minute warning before all heck broke loose. I understood that her weapon of choice was not a Colt .45 six shooter, but a 59 Chevrolet 6 cylinder, and her target was not his heart, but the heart of the Beer Joint wall nearest to the parking lot. Amazing how fast a dad can run when absolutely necessary. Maureen O' Hara and John Wayne couldn't have staged a better scene. Meanwhile, as we shake our heads and remember where we left off on the essence of all things Old West.)

The collective response to Act I? The audience loved it. Handshakes from all around when the curtain closed after the well-received bar scene of our little play. "Back off boys, you ain't seen nothin' yet!" I gloated. Thought I was in the zone. And soon I would be, but not the good one ...

Act II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZVqFmVNobA>

Sometimes where there is a glorious ray of brilliant sunlight, a dark cloud is moving in to surround and swallow it back up. When a mental 'whiteout' happens, no locker room speech can fix it, nor any green room rehearsal between scenes. Singers, actors, political hopefuls, athletes and even generals meet this mind clearing breakdown event because of the lack of preparation in most cases. (See 'Fighting Joe Hooker' for the extreme military version, the final concert days of famous singers, or even young singers who know the choreography but not the words.)

It was my zen experimental line rehearsal method for this scene that shut the show down early, as I had to improvise while taking cues from a classmate off-stage left. Did I say "improvise"? I didn't know how to improvise onstage back then. I didn't know the rest of the show! Forgot everything. Sweating bullets from my forehead instead of pretending to shoot them from my prop pistol, turning deathly pale while wishing for the darn thing to end. Milliseconds of brutal silence. It finally did close to no applause because some humane person ordered the curtain rung down, while a scowling Miss Daugherty stood off stage left near the person feeding me my lines, who had done more than his best to save what shouldn't have been started in the first place. A complete disaster for Act II. I just caved in. As if Act I never happened. But don't feel bad, there were more disasters awaiting the stage left of life.

Aftermath of a Bad Performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yaKqTCOJ08>

A week or two later when Miss Daugherty gave out grades in class publicly. She asked me what I thought I deserved. "B," I answered. "And why do you deserve that?" she asked. "Because I gutted it out and stayed on stage," I replied, not adding, "even though we never rehearsed Act II either," and wisely so. She paused, shrugged, muttered something and walked away to question the next victim. But bold reality worked. I got my B. Why I kept on acting only God knows. Maybe perpetual humiliation, even to the theatrically challenged, is a need for those whose lives pursue a pointless direction. I love movies, but there is no longer a desire to be in them. As for

my heroes of the screen and stage universe, Ron Moody's 'Fagin' is still as entertaining as the first time I viewed "Oliver!" So it is written. Now let my stage disaster die a terrible dramatic death. Hey, bury the black hat too. No I don't want the six shooters. Probably get arrested for even reading that play in school nowadays. But anyhow, let's all just gather around the script fire and sing along:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doUNMfLEI70&list=PL34290E28CBAE9E1E>

[... to be continued.]

## **5. ... AND SPEAKING OF MEMORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY.**

And Wayne also sent along these links that likely will be absolutely fascinating to our readers from a certain age group!

Glen Echo Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LatpnwBBxEs>

Marshall Hall Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fc9IQvvFkx0>

Chesapeake Beach Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVKpJtB7R-c>

WPGC Tribute Site: <https://youtu.be/3wHxbk6fIFY>

Thanks, Wayne!

## **6. CLASS OF 88 ANNOUNCES UPCOMING REUNION.** We received this exciting announcement from the Class of 88:

"Surrattsville's Class of 1988 will hold its 30-year reunion on Saturday, August 11, 2018 at the Colony South Hotel in Clinton. Festivities will officially begin at 8:00 p.m. and go until midnight. There will be a buffet style dinner, a DJ, and a ca\$h bar. A block of rooms has been set aside under code 08102018surr for alumni traveling from out-of-town. Contact the Colony South Hotel directly at 301-856-4500 or online at [www.colonysouth.com](http://www.colonysouth.com) for room reservations. Reunion tickets are \$85 per person, buffet and DJ included, and can be paid via PayPal at <https://paypal.me/pools/c/82dLsylK4H>. Please share with all your SHS Class of 88 friends! We are looking forward to a great turnout and a great time! (Find the SHS Class of '88 on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/265026763512671/>.)"

## **7. MORE HISTORICAL TREASURES FROM 1964-1967 SURVEYORS!** Here are more treasures from The Surveyor from the 1964-1967 period. Thanks to Nancy Miller (67) and the Class of 67 for donating these "journalistic time capsules" to the Foundation Archives!

The following are some fascinating excerpts from the November 1964 issue:

"Publication Staffs: The election of the staffs for Surrattsville's publications was announced September 21 by the adviser, Mr. Salvio. Officers of the yearbook include Susan Roley, Editor,

David Crawley, Assistant Editor, Judy Gaines, Art Editor, and Chris Meuser, Business Manager. The newspaper officers consist of Karen Bittermann, Editor, Carol Pennington, Assistant (News) Editor, and Scott Ingram, Business Manager. It has also been announced that the size of the yearbook has increased to “9 x 12” and that there is a possibility of changing the newspaper format by way of a new printing process. Each staff consists of thirty people who are aided by a third journalism class which serves both the newspaper and the yearbook.

Spotlight: The energetic halfback shown in the photo below is one of Surrattsville’s promising athletes. His name is Alvin Thomas and he came from Eugene Burroughs Junior High where he previously played quarterback with honors. Entering Surrattsville for the first time, this 6 foot, 170 pound sophomore was immediately added to the varsity squad where he plays first string defense and second string offense. When asked about Surrattsville’s school spirit, he added, “It could be better.” A natural athlete, Alvin plays basketball, his favorite sport, and baseball, receiving honors in both. Although hunting is his favorite hobby, he finds time for dancing, cards, chess, and checkers.

Alvin states that as a student he is “average.” He takes world history, biology, geometry, physical education, English II and shop. Having always done well in science, his ambition is to go to college and study to become a doctor in the field of pediatrics. However, being the “average” student, his favorite period is lunch. He has one brother, Kenneth, who is a junior at Surrattsville, and one sister, a senior at Fairmont Heights. Except for some traveling done in New York, Canada, Michigan, and a few other states, Alvin has lived here all his life. He stated that the only exciting thing that ever happened to him was an incident in which he and his brother were locked in an ice house for two hours.”

[Ed. note: How about Alvin’s refreshing honesty!]

**8. ... AND MORE HISTORICAL TREASURES FROM “GREEN LIGHT.”** As we previously noted, in 2015 Duke Coleman (53) donated to the Foundation’s Archives a number of copies of an early SHS student newspaper, the “Green Light.” Those editions provide a fascinating glimpse into student life at Surrattsville during the 52-53 academic year, 66 years ago! Here are some excerpts from the May 7, 1953 issue:

“Music Notes-Band and Majorettes in Parade: On Saturday May 9, bands and majorettes from numerous metropolitan and suburban schools, including our own, will parade in the Safety Patrol Parade on Constitution Avenue. This is the first time that our band and majorettes have participated in a parade. They have been practicing frequently for weeks. Mr. Mathena is the director and advisor of both groups. The majorettes have obtained complete uniforms for the parade.

Party Line:

-Congratulations to Patsy White. She has quite a sparkler from Wayne Heinbuch.

- It seems as though some of the seniors hold a controlling interest in the “Moon Club.”
- Hey, what’s up between Helen and Brec?
- Is it true that Betty P. was seen with Bobby French over the weekend?
- Who has Kay fallen for? She fell so hard she sprained her ankle.
- Are you glad or sad you moved Flo?
- Hey JW: have you made up your mind who is going to be the lucky girl? GW or PR?
- Why was JH crying Saturday morning?
- Could it be cause DC left the base?
- Hey Evelyn, we’ll run over you next time.
- Why was Joan mad Monday morning?
- Why is pointer the most popular boy in Clinton these days?
- What two girls were riding around looking for a certain party Sunday, and found him finally?
- Say Janet; where did you say your shoes are?
- What Senior has a bad habit of barking like a dog?
- Carter; who are you taking to May Ball?
- Hey Silly Beans; Happy Birthday!
- What happened to Shirley Saturday night?
- Janice, are you and Abe just friends?

Who Am I? I am 5’6” tall and have brown hair, blue eyes. I am a Sophomore. My pet peeve is French homework. I have a friendly personality. (Last week’s personality: Leonard Williamson.) “

**9. PAINLESS – AND VERY EFFECTIVE! -- WAYS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FOUNDATION.**

Thanks to the many of you who make your Amazon purchases not through “regular” Amazon, but through smile.amazon.com, with the Surrattsville High School Foundation designated as their charitable beneficiary. The smile.amazon.com prices, products and Amazon website are identical to “regular” Amazon, but Amazon makes a charitable contribution to the designated charity for every purchase made on smile.amazon.com.

And thanks to those of you making your internet searches using the goodsearch search engine. It uses the yahoo search engine (which we’re told rivals google and apparently has never failed any Foundation user) and, like smile.amazon.com, makes a contribution to your designated charity for every internet search. Here’s the link: <https://www.goodsearch.com/causes/surrattsville-high-school-foundation>.

**10. FOUNDATION ARCHIVES SEEKING PERMANENT PHYSICAL HOME.**

And speaking of the Foundation’s Archives, we’re seeking a permanent home for these precious objects. Anywhere in the Clinton/Southern MD area would be fine, and a room or building that starts at 8 x 10 and goes to infinity would be very nice. If you have a lead on a space that might be available to preserve this very important history, please send me an email at hsmith@smithdowney.com.

**11. FALLEN HEROES PLAQUE AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS.** Here's an update from Bob Jeter (64) on the Foundation's Fallen Heroes Plaque that hangs in the Foundation's Legacy Hall at the School alongside the American and Maryland flags that flew over the U.S. and Maryland Capitols in its honor. "The Fallen Heroes Plaque is available for display at class reunions or any other worthy functions. Feel free to contact me, Bob Jeter, [904jeter@gmail.com](mailto:904jeter@gmail.com) or 410-315-9403, preferably well in advance of the date so transfer arrangements can be made. Bob"

**12. DON'T FORGET TO CHECK-OUT THE FOUNDATION'S VARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEO PROGRAMS.** Thanks to the tireless efforts and creative talents of the Foundation's youtube master, Foundation Board member Sandra Smith Simmons (70), the Foundation's youtube channel now features many programs of interest, such as programs featuring the Foundation's Fallen Heroes Plaque that was conceived and executed by Bob Jeter (64), the 2015 Achievement Award recipients, and the 2015 Scholarship recipients. The programs can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SurrattsvilleFDN>.

Here's hoping you're seeing some early signs of Spring!

Henry Smith (71)

**MANY THANKS TO THESE VERY EARLY DONORS TO THE 2018 CAMPAIGN!**

Bob Marr (71)

Debbie Cox Marr (72)

Sandra Smith Simmons (70), In Memory of Paul Smith

Pat Becker Oles (71)

Steve Profilet (71)

Theresa Profilet (69)

Cindy Profilet (72)

Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith (70), For the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Scholarship Fund

Henry Smith (71), For the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Scholarship Fund

Richard Andresen (61)

Darleen Marbry-Burgess Andresen (61)

Vicky Young Simontacchi (57), In Memory of Ellsworth Robert Scott Jr. (57) and Earl Rupert Roberts (57)

Lee Hessberg (68)

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Craig Bergeman (76)

State Farm Insurance Company, Matching the Donation of Craig Bergeman (76)

Laura Donze Burleson (72)

Donald Lee Cummings (63)

AND MANY THANKS TO THESE VERY GENEROUS DONORS TO THE RECORD-SETTING  
2017 CAMPAIGN!

Bob Marr (71)  
Debbie Cox Marr (72)  
Steve Profilet (71)  
Sandra Smith Simmons (70)  
Mike Gifford (84)  
Ron Kaplan (50)  
Ellen Talbert Miller (61 and former faculty/administration), In Memory of Bill Talbert (65))  
Richard Grace (81)  
Nancy Miller (67), to Recognize the Reunion Assistance of Judy Gordon (65)  
Vicky Simontacchi Young (57), In Memory of Eleanora Frances Parker Beswick (57) and Robert  
Lewis McCammon (57)  
Lee Hessberg (68)  
Lois Barrett Hessberg (70)  
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Duke Coleman (53), In Memory of Donald England (53)  
Larry Romjue (57), In Memory of Lois Marie Osgood (57), “Can’t Help Fallin’ In Love With  
You,” “Elvis”  
Mike Blair (71)  
David Kraus (65)  
Anonymous, In Memory of Susan Krause (80)  
Carolyn Gilchrist (74), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
Henry Smith (71), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith (70), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
Donald Cummings (65), In Honor of All the Judy’s “Class of 65”  
Nora Nugent (69), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69), Senior Class Secretary  
Paul Monaghan (59)  
Nancy Miller (67), For Monique Countiss Scholarship  
David Weber (65)  
Jeanine Carroll Maclary (73), In Memory of James R. Carroll, Jr. (74)  
Nancy Miller (67), In Memory of Judy Miller (70)  
Steve Profilet (71), In Memory of Stephen B. Profilet Sr. (father of Steve, Theresa (69), and  
Cindy (72))  
Dave DeCenzo (73)  
Henry Smith (71), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69) and Judy Miller (70)  
Donna Rae Smith (70), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69) and Judy Miller (70)

Carrie Jessee Loftus (69), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69)  
Chris and Merry Chovan Romine (65), In Memory of Brad Amos (65)  
Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (60), In Memory of Judy Miller (70)  
Dan Bayne (71), for the Charles Waddell Memorial Scholarship Fund  
The Class of 67, for the Esther Clifton Miller Memorial Scholarship, in Honor of Nancy Miller (67)  
Jim Turner (71), In Memory of Ben Collins  
Vicki Forsht Williams (65 and former faculty), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund, in Memory of Brad Amos and Ben Collins  
Reynaud Smith (72), In Memory of Kevin Bush  
Lynn Powers Yates (65)  
Carol Julian Kross (65). In Memory of Ellis Ray McElroy (64)  
Betty O'Clair (73)  
J. Paul Rickett (69)  
Gloria Blandford Rickett (71)  
Allen Taylor (64), In Memory of Robert E. Knable (63)  
Candy Spears (67), In Memory of Lost Friends and Those Gone from View  
Mike Gifford (84)  
Joe Capone (79)  
Laura Donze Burleson (72)  
Tom Shultz (71)  
David Coffield, In Honor of All The Surrattsville Alumni We Lost This Past Year  
Anonymous, In Memory of Ben Collins and Marie Grouby, for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
Nancy Oursler Maynard (65), In Memory of Dorothy Oursler (31), and the Class of 65 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Brenda Karnes (Former Faculty), In Memory of Ben Collins and in Honor of Henry Smith (71) and Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith (70) who have dedicated over two decades to establishing and managing the Foundation and activities that support Surrattsville High School  
Sam Wynkoop (60)