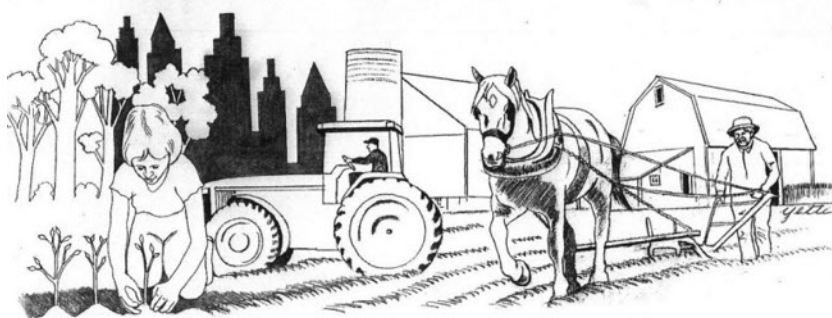


Aggie News



Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2010

From the Editor:

Thanks go out to all those who supported the alumni association last year with paid memberships and general fund & scholarship fund donations. We were able to meet all our financial obligations without worry and were able to expand the scholarship program. We hope that you won't forget us this year and continue to provide support. We would like to expand our support for the school's current students through the general fund and expand the scholarship program from the scholarship fund.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year and may this year be the best ever for all our readers and their families.

Charlie Main '56

Election Year for Alumni Officers & Directors

This is an election year for all positions on the alumni board of directors. Voting took place last December for the 2010-2011 term of office. There were a few alumnus who had expressed interest in being placed on the ballot but they were not paid members and therefore could not be placed on the ballot. The elected officers and directors are shown below. We still have some unfilled positions on the board. Between elections, unfilled board positions can be appointed by a majority vote of the current board members so if anyone is interested in serving they can contact the secretary at cmain@gwi.net and he will put their nomination up for a vote. You must be a paid member of the alumni association to be eligible to serve on the board.

Alumni Board (2010-2011)

President - Thomas Blair '81 Danvers, MA
Vice President - Michael Gaudette '74 Freedom, NH
Secretary - Charles Main '56 Phippsburg, ME
Treasurer - Robert Gaudet '56 Newburyport, MA
Director 1930s
Director 1940s Joseph Roche '43 Calverton, NY
Director 1950s George Jones III '58 Sumner, ME
Director 1960s Henry Zawadzki '68 Methuen, MA
Director 1970s Kenneth Elwell '75 Newton, NH
Director 1980s Alexander Vannett '81 Methuen, MA
Director 1990s
Director 2000s
Director College Div.
Director School Staff
Dir At-Large Lee Sanford '64 Kirkland, Que
Dir At-Large Dennis O'Neill '60 Bremerton, WA
Current Student

Newsletter graphic by Yetti Frenkel '78 <http://yetti.com/>

News From the Classes

Linda (Morrow) Stuart '60

Dear Friends and Classmates,

I was a three year transfer student at the Aggie and enjoyed all of my time there. I spent a year at the Stockbridge School at UMass. While there I met Bob Stuart who was an animal husbandry student in the class ahead of me.

We were married November 25, 1961. He was a partner along with his uncle and father on the family dairy farm which originally was in Littleton, Mass. Rt 495 went right through their farm. There was a lot of searching that transpired and the final decision was to purchase the former Andrew Christie farm in Stratham, New Hampshire. This move happened late summer and the early fall before we were married.

We were married four years when we adopted Alan who was six days old, and in 1967 we had Dale, in 1969 we had Kenneth. Bob decided in 1969 that he wanted to be an aircraft mechanic. We left the farm and he went to school at East Coast Aero Tech. He was top in his class.

We lived on Cape Cod for three years and became very involved in 4H. There was little or no chance to have large animals on the Cape so we took a transfer to West Canaan, New Hampshire. We again became very involved in 4H. Our boys showed Jersey cattle and Southdown sheep. I was involved with crafts, cooking and leadership.

In 1979 we had a girl, Julie, which certainly changed our lives. In the early 70's the company Bob worked for, Air New England, went out of business and these were tough times but 4H was always a connection as we moved trying to survive.

He worked on farm machinery at two different places, then after another hiatus he had the opportunity to work for Piedmont Airlines and then US Airways. He started in Utica, New York, moving to Charlotte, NC after sixteen months. We lived in Unionville and had four acres. I again was involved in 4H. Julie loved to dance so the type of 4H except for a sheep was entirely different. I again was a 4H leader, as the oldest leader

in Union County I helped keep the office running while we were between agents for nine months. My leadership ended after 22 years. We lived in Unionville for 18 years so it was most grounded we had been.

Bob retired in July 2005 and loved the mountains so we moved to Bedford, Virginia, fifteen miles from the Blue Ridge Mountains. We have 18 acres and have a garage, small barn and a house which is ready to be dry-walled.

We had been here two months when I was diagnosed with bi-lateral breast cancer; I had chemo and radiation and have been cancer-free for two years. Bob was then diagnosed with colon cancer, already his liver was involved. A year ago in early March I had endocarditis which ate my aortic heart valve. Bob was having chemo regularly one week at a time, though he was given two months off because the chemo had done quite a job on him. My heart was getting worse weekly. Late in October, with Bob back on chemo, having reactions to everything he was given. It was decided that I needed open heart surgery so on December 9th I had my aortic valve replaced with great success and am doing a whole lot better.

Bob's cancer continued to be untreatable and on August 2nd, his 68th birthday, he died. We were married almost 48 years. He was my best friend, always behind whatever I wanted, loving, helping and caring. How lucky I've been and our four children have all stepped in as well as our families and friends. I'll miss him terribly but feel lucky to have had him.

I have never regretted going to the Aggie. It was a wonderful experience. You all were my friends and my wish is that each and every one of you are well and happy.

I will be moving back to the Charlotte area now as I have two children and many friends here.

Many thanks to Dave Keating '60 for keeping me in the loop.

Get a colonoscopy, save your life!

Linda Stuart '60

Reunion News:

Alumni BBQ

The 2009 Essex Aggie Alumni BBQ was held on Sunday, August 30 at Berry Hall on the Aggie campus. We managed to miss Hurricane Bill by one day and we were blessed with a fine day.

Unfortunately, a colony of bees decided to schedule a reunion of their own on the same day so we had to contend with that but other than that it was a great opportunity to enjoy some good food and meet & greet old friends and classmates on the school campus.

We enjoyed a campus tour and for many it was the first time they had visited the school for many years.



Lots more photos and a slide show video are available on the alumni web site.

Reunion News:

Alumni BBQ

The class of 1960 had a mini reunion at the BBQ with 12 members and their guests attending.



We had a large contingent from the class of '89 who were celebrating their 20th year reunion.



Bob Gaudet '56 conducted a 50/50 raffle and we managed to take in an additional \$237.00 for the alumni scholarship fund. Winner was Dave Rodenhiser '56



Deceased Classmates:



HAVERHILL — John J. McCarthy, 69, of Haverhill, died Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009 at the Lawrence General Hospital.

A native and lifelong resident of Haverhill, he was the son of the late John J. McCarthy and Arlene F. (Curtin)

(McCarthy) (Pelosi) Sullivan. He attended Haverhill schools and graduated from Essex Agricultural & Technical Institute with the class of 1957.

Mr. McCarthy served with the Medical Corps in the United States Army during the Vietnam era and worked as a truck driver for Appleyard Motor Transportation for 25 years. In 1988, he established McCarthy Transportation and was president until his retirement.

A member of All Saints Parish, Haverhill, he enjoyed boating, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren. His favorite hobby was auto racing and served as a Pit Steward for 20 years at Star Speedway, Epping, N.H., and also helped to support his son's racing team. A supporter of local charities, Mr. McCarthy was a great benefactor of the Ozzie's Kids program in Haverhill. He also was the sponsor of Race Night at Star Speedway in Epping to benefit inner city children.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Yvette A. (Boucher) McCarthy; two sons and daughters-in-law, John J., Jr. and Denise McCarthy of Haverhill, and William E. and Wanda McCarthy of Haverhill; two sisters, Barbara A. Dube and Linda J. Hamel, both of Haverhill; four grandchildren, William J. McCarthy, Melinda J. McCarthy, John J. McCarthy, III and Ryan P. McCarthy; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, one uncle and one cousin. He was predeceased by his brother, Robert McCarthy.

We encourage our readers to let us know of any deceased classmates notices so that we can keep our alumni records up to date..

News From The School Veteran Teachers Retire

The Aggie staff continues to evolve with last year's retirement of Mr. Richard Collins, Plant Science Department after over 30 years at the Aggie and Ms Suzanne Swartz, Math Department after 25 years of service.

Mr.B

Car Flips Over at Essex Aggie

Boy, somebody sure made a mess on the lawn at Essex Aggie!



A 66 year old North Reading woman struck two telephone poles more than a mile apart on Route 62. She lost control of the car and wound up careening over a rock wall and landing on its roof on the lawn at Essex Agricultural High School, 100 feet from Berry Hall. The woman was taken out the back door of the car and then taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Beverly vote puts megavoke over the top

The Beverly City Council voted 8-0 to join the new vocational school district, becoming the ninth community to sign on to the project and moving the proposal past the threshold required by state law.

The new school is scheduled to open in 2013 in Danvers and will open up spots for the nearly 100 North Shore students who are turned away from North Shore Technical High School and Essex Agricultural and Technical High School every year due to lack of space.

The First 25 Years: A New Venture In Education

The inception of the School had its start in the mind of Ralph S. Bauer of Lynn, who, as President of the Associated Boards of Trade, felt that the great industries of Essex County should be backed by a permanent and increasingly important agriculture. He surrounded himself with a group of men from every calling in life and started on the campaign to secure legislative enactment and approval of the plan. Paragraphs might be written telling of the rebuffs and the rekindled enthusiasm with which he went at his plan each succeeding year.

In 1912 the Legislature passed the Bill under which the School was established, and the Bill was approved and signed by Governor Draper, who appointed the first Board of Trustees, consisting of the Board of County Commissioners, Moody Kimball, James C. Poor, John M. Grosvenor and Justin E. Varney, Fred A. Smith, Henry W. Pelton and George W. Creesy. This Board organized in January, 1913, with the selection of Mr. Poor, an outstandingly successful farmer, as President, and Henry W. Pelton as Secretary and Treasurer. In April of this year Mr. Smith was appointed Director of the School, and George C. Thurlow was appointed as his successor. The months of May and June were devoted to visiting, studying, and sifting a site from thirty-nine offered sites.

Maplewood Farm

The final choice fell on the present site, Maplewood Farm, which offered the advantages of accessibility together with a farm of great fertility and of a size sufficiently large to carry on the plans of the School. The next endeavor was to remodel and rearrange the buildings then existing on the farm in order to get them into condition for receiving a class at the first possible date. Building and equipment had so far advanced that in August the Trustees were able to announce plans for the opening of School on October 1. On this date the School opened with an excellent group of young men and women selected from all parts of the county. Alterations and improvements advanced rapidly, so that by January 1 the School was provided with ample classroom and equipment facilities for doing full regular work.

Homemaking Department Established

During the first year it became very apparent to President Poor and his associates that a second department offering instruction in homemaking studies was highly desirable. The Legislature granted permission and authorized a sum of money designed to establish this department at the earliest possible date. In September, 1914, the old Mansion House was converted into a Homemaking Department with an entering class of nineteen.

The School continued to grow rapidly until the World War. Enlistments from the student enrollment were heavy, and the School had ninety-four members enlisted and in service in the War. After peace was declared the School again increased its enrollment very rapidly and has continued to increase until the present time. In the 1930s the student body grew to well over four hundred students. The staff has continued to increase, and it has grown from the original six up to a present staff, including the Extension Service, of thirty-five members by 1938, the twenty fifth year of the school's existence.

The new Homemaking Building stood close to the original "Massey Mansion" which served as a school house for the first Homemaking students. Fire destroyed the upper part of this building in 1924 and the Homemaking Department carried on part of its work in the Agricultural Building until September, 1926, when the new building, now known as "Maude Hall" was completed.

This "First 25 Years" series is based on articles from the Essex County Agricultural School Twenty Fifth Anniversary booklet published by the alumni association in 1938. We were fortunate to receive a copy of the booklet from Pamela Santin who's father was in the class of '37. Now that the booklet is in the alumni archives we will be able to share its contents with our alumni newsletter readers. If anyone else out there have old Essex Aggie documents such as this hidden away in the attic we would love to have them for the alumni archives.

Alumni News & Notices

There is a possibility that we may be able to have an alumni booth at the 2011 Topsfield Fair. Volunteers will be needed to help man the booth. Anyone interested in helping should contact Bob Gaudet at robertcgaudet@comcast.net

For those interested in helping out putting together an Alumni Cook Book for an Alumni Fundraiser please contact Bob Gaudet at robertcgaudet@comcast.net

This year's bus trip to the FFA State Convention will be sponsored by the alumni association and Treasurer Bob Gaudet has volunteered to drive the bus!

The alumni association's office in Smith Hall has now become a reality. We will be sharing office space with Director of Community Relations Ron Vercellone.



2010 Alumni BBQ

A date, place, time and format for an alumni BBQ for 2010 has not been set. If anything is scheduled we will try to get the word out via the alumni web site, the June newsletter and e-mail. E-mail and mailing addresses must be current in our records for notifications and newsletter deliveries. Please check your status on the Class Roster pages of the alumni web site. If you move and/or change your address please let us know.

FFA State Convention

FFA State Convention is an opportunity for all of the FFA chapters in Massachusetts to come together for three days of workshops on leadership development, career development events, and social activities. Most notable are the CDE's (career development events). These events range from public speaking to agricultural sales to nursery / landscaping. Students compete and the top three individuals and top three teams are recognized with gold, silver, and bronze awards. Students and teams that place first, have the opportunity to compete at the national level in Indianapolis in November.

This year, the Essex Chapter had students place first in the state and competed nationally in: Horse Judging, Job Interview, Prepared Public Speaking, and Science Fair. The horse judging team won a silver, the highest ever for the Aggie. (photo below)

Last year at the State Convention, three Essex Aggie students were elected as Massachusetts State FFA Officers. They were: Edwin Santana, Amanda Gioachini, and Melissa Alicea. Two years ago, Essex Chapter members Leah Connor and Chris Grant were selected as State Officers. At National Convention this year, Chris Grant was the only Massachusetts FFA member to receive the FFA American Degree, the highest that can be conferred on a member. To qualify Chris had to earn the Greenhand and State Degrees, as well as complete a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) of over 2,250 hours, and community service.



Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2010

Membership dues for 2010 will be \$20.00

(Term of membership is Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Please fill out the form below

We need your support



Member Name and Address: (Please Print)

Class of _____ High School Division (____) College Division (____) School Staff (____)

First Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Please register my membership and/or donation for 2010

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2010 Membership: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the General Fund: \$ _____

In addition, I would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ _____

(Essex Aggie Alumni Association is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible)

Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

Mail this form to: Essex Agricultural & Technical High School

Attn: Essex Aggie Alumni Association

562 Maple Street, P.O. Box 362

Hathorne, MA 01937

Volunteer with Essex Aggie Alumni

Any organization, in order to be successful, must have volunteers to make things happen. With every non profit organization it is a well known truism, "There is always room for one more worker or supporter." An organization such as ours can use a large variety of skills. If you have any skills or interest that you think might be useful please let us know you are out there by checking off one of the categories. We would like to hear from you if you are interested in serving as a volunteer now or in the future.

- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ Membership Committee
- ☐ Newsletter Committee
- ☐ Website Committee
- ☐ Scholarship Committee
- ☐ Reunions Committee
- ☐ Photo Committee
- ☐ School History Committee
- ☐ Alumni Functions Committee
- ☐ Fundraising Committee
- ☐ Professional Committee
- ☐ Alumni Office Staff

The Aggie News

Essex Agricultural & Technical High School

Attn: Essex Aggie Alumni Association

562 Maple Street, P.O. Box 362

Hathorne, MA 01937

"Getting old friends and classmates together"

www.essexaggie.org