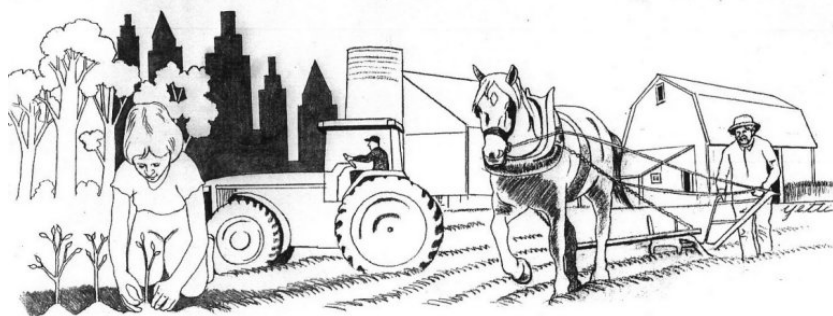


Aggie News



Volume 15 Issue 1

January 2012

New Lineup for Alumni Board

The new alumni Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 term of office is now in place. There were no contested offices on the election ballot so ballots were not sent out to the general membership.

The new board consists of: George Jones III '58 President, Peter Tierney '75 Vice President, Charles Main '56 Secretary/Treasurer, Henry Zawadzki '68 Director 1960s, Paul Brousseau '71 Director, 1970s. Raelene Lasher '81 Director, 1980s.

At the present time we have many unfilled positions on the Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 term of office. We will be needing Decade Directors for the 1940s, 1950s, 1990s, 2000s, a Director-At-Large and a College Division Director.

The alumni board of directors makes the day to day business decisions of the association. An officer or director is responsible for making balanced decisions for whichever segment of the alumni that they represent.

If you are interested in serving on the alumni board of directors please contact the alumni president or the secretary. For additional information contact Charles Main, Secretary/Treasurer 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562 cmain@comcast.net

The President's Corner

We have all seen them, messages claiming impending doom and gloom and we have wondered just how real those statements are. Well, let me tell you the facts about the situation in which your Alumni Association finds itself.

For some time we have had a number of openings on the Board. Since our last message to you, the majority of those who were then serving have chosen to move on. There has been no single reason for the resignations and decisions not to seek re-election. Some have had changes in their lives, others no longer have the time to invest and a few have offered no particular reason. Whatever the reason the result is the same, a serious gap in our management ability. The bottom line is that we have only three current members returning for re-election this year.

We very much need your help.

Now to be very clear, we are not just looking for warm bodies. We need committed and involved persons who can and will participate in at least four face-to-face or teleconference board meetings per year. Persons who will actively participate in one or more subcommittees responsible for planning and directing activities associated with the association.

(Continued on Page 4)

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

Can you ever go back?

As I was preparing for my trip back home for my 50th high school reunion I actually wondered, can you really go back? When we landed at Logan Airport and started the drive up towards the hotel I went by sights I had seen many times during my trek to school. My high school was over 20 miles from my house and I hitch hiked every day during my freshman year. After that I had a job on the school farm. I worked in the dairy barn for three years and lived in the dorm. As I drove by some of the areas that were familiar to me I wondered if I should drive down there to see where I used to live but seeing as I didn't have a great home life I decided to continue to where my life changed, the Essex County Agricultural High School.

When I was in High School I pretty much stayed by myself as I lacked self-confidence brought on by a terrible home life and not knowing it then I developed life experiences that would follow me throughout my life because of my classmates and the fantastic teachers whose job was to mold us kids into productive citizens that had ethics. The first night there we had a small get together that I went to with the expectations of meeting people that really didn't have much memory of me through my high school years. To my amazement I was remembered by all that were there and I was told stories about things I did that even I don't remember. What amazed me and my wife during our drive to the hotel and the areas we drove around is the trees that I had forgotten that were everywhere and the beauty of Massachusetts once you got away from the Boston area. I don't know how I could have forgotten that.

The next day I went up to the old HS and was brought back to the reality of what this world has come to because as I walked around the hallowed halls of the Aggie I was informed that because of security reasons we just couldn't walk around and we were asked to leave. Undaunted I drove across the street to the old barn and again I walked in areas that were familiar to me but yet unfamiliar. The old barn where I had many memories of shoveling manure, getting pushed into the manure pile, laying down with one of my friends B25 (one of the Holsteins that graced our herd) yet all I could see was rusty metal of what used to be stanchions and the flaking of paint from the ceiling. I had to close my

eyes to visualize what was seen in my youth and what helped mold me into the person I am today. I went outside and saw some students walking up the hill and I greeted them with a good morning and those that know me know I can't stop there. I told them to cherish these days because they will see change in their lives that they don't understand. I explained to them that I was back for my 50th HS reunion and I told them of what was and showed them the pictures of my farm animals I have now. It was the interest that these kids had that lifted my depressed spirit and the enthusiasm with which they listened and interacted that gave me hope that Essex Aggie has kids there that have the spirit that my classmates and I had when we attended the school. Yes, there is hope for the younger generation as long as there are schools like Essex Aggie. It seemed like every kid I talked to that morning gave me hope that our school is still teaching life and it is a special place.

We had an eventful 5 days where we went to special places, met special people and went back in time. Throughout the weekend I was brought back to a special time and a special place by all the classmates I met and to the future graduates, I know it is an honor to say I am a graduate of Essex Agricultural High School.

What made the weekend so very special to me was at our banquet I was presented a plaque that stated "Distinguished Alumni Award" It further had on it "For best exemplifying the Ideals of our beloved Aggie in both his personal and Professional life". I was in total shock. Now that I have recovered from the shock I do wonder if my wife had paid them to do this because I am really not worthy of this award.

So to answer the question, can you ever go back? Yes, but as some things change some stay the same. What stays the same is what is important, integrity and ethics. To my classmates thanks for giving me a wonderful time and to everybody else thank you for taking the time to read about a great school and some wonderful kids that went there. May we always be the kids at the Aggie in our hearts even though our bodies pain for the years we've lived.

Thanks Essex Aggie and it's alumni for the memories and for a great life.

John (Mondo) Perkins, class of '61

News From The School

School to Break Ground This Summer

It has been announced that Essex Aggie plans to break ground for the 340,000 square foot three story building project this summer. The school will be located on the north side of the Aggie campus along Route 62. The new school is expected to cost \$133 million and will merge Essex Aggie with North Shore Tech in Middleton and Peabody's vocational programs. Essex North Shore Agricultural Technical School will accommodate 1440 students.

The project has gone through many design options and is now ready to be finalized this spring. The construction is expected to take two years with an anticipated school opening in the fall of 2014. The mega-vocational school will be the only high school in the state to offer all of the programs in one facility that are being offered between Essex Aggie, North Shore Tech and Peabody.

There will be four major academies divided amongst the building. The academies will include Construction & Technology, Life & Natural Sciences, Technology & Services and Plant & Animal Sciences.

Plans for the present Aggie campus include the demolition of Berry Hall on the north side of Route 62 once the new school is built just behind it.

On the south side of Route 62, Smith Hall will remain in place but Maude Hall and Sanford House will most likely be torn down. The future of the Alumni Gymnasium, Gallant Hall and the McNamara-O'Shea building is yet to be determined by the State of Massachusetts who now owns the campus.



Essex North Shore Agricultural Technical School

News From The School

Wood Hall Demolished

One of the oldest remaining agricultural areas and buildings on the Aggie campus, formerly known as the "Fruit Cellar," is no more.



Photo of Wood Hall captured last March 2011



Photo of the Wood Hall location last June 2011
(Photos by Michael Bourgault '71)

We were unable to ascertain any details as to the uses of Wood Hall over the years, and specially the most recent years after the Fruit Department was discontinued.

If any of our readers could fill us in with some of the Wood Hall history we could certainly use it. Please send info to: Charles Main, 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562 E-Mail: cmain@comcast.net

The President's Corner (Cont.)

Persons willing and able to work with the school administration and other organizations within the school to support past and future grads. To put it bluntly, we are not interested in people seeking to enhance their resumes. We need real people to do real work.

Now you may be of the understanding that you can only serve as a decade representative, e.g. '70's and '80's. That is not the case. We really do not care in what year you graduated and having multiple people from the same year or decade is not an issue.

So, can we count on you to step up and help keep our Association running smoothly?

If you wish to be included on the alumni board, please send us some background information about yourself along with full contact information.

Thank you for caring.

George P. Jones, III Class of 1958

President, Essex Aggie Alumni Association

Newsletter Volunteer Needed

With the news that Maude Hall is on the list of possible demolitions we are in need of a volunteer to write an article for the alumni newsletter. If any former student who attended classes there could send us an article describing its uses back in the days when it was an important part of the Aggie campus and also its more recent history, it would be much appreciated. Please send article submissions to: Charles Main, 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562 E-Mail: cmain@comcast.net



Maude Hall (Homemaking School) in 1959

News From The Classes

Class of 1961 50th Year Reunion

Well in advance of the event a reunion planning committee was formed with a northern and a southern division. They set out finding as many classmates as they could and then decided what they wanted to do. Through the efforts of many people a plan was put together and an eight page information packet was sent out to everyone on their mailing list.

The first planned event on Friday, September 30th was a tour of the Aggie campus led by Director of Community Relations, Ron Vercellone. After the campus tour the group met at Richardson's Dairy in Middleton for an ice cream social.

The third planned event on October 1st was opening day of the Topsfield Fair. Reunion attendees were provided with a free shuttle bus, parking passes and passes to the fair. Later that evening was a reunion banquet at Angelica's Restaurant in Middleton.

The final event on October 2nd was an old fashioned New England Clambake held at Endicott Park in Danvers.

The three day event allowed plenty of time for classmates from all over the country to gather together for a wonderful trip back in time, visiting old places, seeing old faces and reliving old memories. Due to the extensive planning and much help from many people the class of 1961 50th year reunion turned out to be a spectacularly successful event.



Class of 1961 Banquet

News From The Classes

Howard Elms '53

Howard Elms was kind enough to send us a large collection of photos for the alumni archives from his days at the Aggie and of some of the places he has been and the things he has done since he retired in 1989 at age 62. Howard and wife Beverly are now living in Huntington, Utah. Howard noted, "I'll be 78 this June and slowing down just a little!"



Homemaking School Cooking Class 1953



First Three Beef Cows in Utah 2002



Beverly & Howard Elms
10th Anniversary in 2009

Francesca (Frankie) Weeks , Class of 2014

Over the years there have been a number of Aggie students who have demonstrated their talent in the music world. We have recently discovered the latest one, Frankie Weeks.

Whole Music recently announced the release of eight new songs by artists in the Whole Music Artist Development Program on its independent label, Whole Records.

<http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=150337>

Frankie Weeks has two recordings included in the new releases. The digital singles are available for preview, purchase and download on iTunes.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/so-serious-single/id483179284>



David Snell '57

David Snell sent us this photo of John MacDonald '57 and Louise (Lanford) MacDonald '58 taken on the occasion of the MacDonalds' 50th wedding anniversary. David and the MacDonalds' currently live about 60 miles apart in western North Carolina.



John & Louise MacDonald and David Snell

History Corner

The First 25 Years (cont): From Seed to Fruit

One of the outstanding developments of the fruit department has been the apple orchard set in 1915 by students of the first class. The orchard stands out clearly in the minds of many former students for they had a definite part during their school days in its growth and development. The students of the first and subsequent classes have cared for the trees in class and on project, and the orchard today is largely a product of the Alumni.

A plum and pear orchard was set in 1923, and today the trees are yielding good crops. A planting of McIntosh and Baldwin apples was made in 1925, and in 1928 two of our newer apple varieties, Red Gravenstein and Cortland, tested in the Fruit Nursery, were established on the hill as part of the original planting. The apple orchard on the hill adjacent to the County Sanatorium contains slightly more than four hundred trees. The plum and pear orchard near the old Ferncroft Farm contains one hundred and eighty-eight trees, and the Railroad orchard below the School building and parallel to the old Salem-Lawrence railroad line, contains one hundred and five apple trees, and eleven plum trees (largely new varieties).

The Fruit Department maintains a small but useful vineyard, several rows of new varieties of raspberries, and two strawberry rotations. As with the orchards, these are maintained to supply practice material for the students and to demonstrate good farm practice. The fruit nursery is reserved for research and testing work with new varieties.

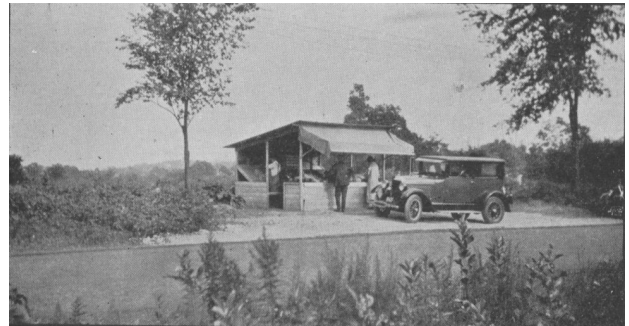
The products of the fruit department are sold and used locally; the Future Farmers of America roadside stand on the Turnpike buys a large quantity of the products. Samples of the department's products are exhibited annually at the Essex County Fair, Topsfield, in order that all may see the results of the work.

Many students have taken fruit courses during the past twenty-five years. Success achieved during

school days is shown by the prizes and medals they have won. The Bauer prizes and the many Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association prizes remain with the students. Many of the fruit-judging prizes remain at the School; the School Trophy Case contains the first silver cup to be won by any Massachusetts school for excellence in fruit judging. This award is from the Massachusetts State College for being first in the State for three years.

The results of many boys taking fruit courses during the past years are being shown tangibly by the numbers being found on the fruit farms today. The best fruit farms of the county have graduates or students of the Essex County Agricultural School as employees or employers. The quality of the fruits which they raise is shown by the number of prizes which they win at the Essex County Fair each year. This year was outstanding in this respect. With such a fine group in the fruit work, very few of the prizes go to others or to those outside of Essex County.

C. M. WOOD



The "Half-Way Stand" in 1925

The "Half-way Stand" was started in 1925 as a Senior project and has served the public efficiently. In recent years it has been enlarged and today stands on the north side of the Newburyport Turnpike on land leased by the school.



The FFA Stand on the Newburyport Turnpike
(1937)

Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2012

Membership dues for 2012 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 2012

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2012 Membership: \$ _____

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

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

I would like to donate to the Richard M. Brown Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the V. Byron Bennett Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the Business Start-up Bursary: \$ _____

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 Aggie Alumni Association

c/o Charles Main

643 Main Road

Phippsburg, ME 04562

The Aggie News

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643 Main Road

Phippsburg, ME 04562

"Getting old friends and classmates together"

www.essexaggie.org