

# Aggie News

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2004



## From The Editor:

Greetings Classmates,

With this issue of The Aggie News we ended up with more content lined up than we could fit on 7 pages so we had to make some editorial choices. Director Olsen was kind enough to send us a copy of an alumni publication that was printed in 1948. The booklet contained an excellent article describing the school as it existed in 1948 and we will be sure to have that included in the next issue of The Aggie News. We received a lot more info for the News from the Classes columns and hope that trend continues.

We continue to have a problem with e-mails and newsletters being returned because of invalid addresses. Please let us know when you change your address. Folks that are on line should check their class roster listing on the alumni web

site to verify that we have their current e-mail address. People that are using the free e-mail services such as yahoo, hotmail, junio, etc. should check their mail at least once per week because we continue to have many Aggie Gram messages rejected with "account over quota" status.

Charlie Main Class of '56

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## Campus History Project:

The Alumni Association is still interested in receiving any old photographs or documents of historical interest that anyone might have tucked away somewhere. Of special interest would be materials covering the apple orchard, the poultry complex, etc. because they are now extinct. Materials can be sent to:  
Charles Main, 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562

## Web News:

Our web site at [www.essexaggie.org](http://www.essexaggie.org) continues to be a popular attraction. Be sure to check out our newest features; The Business Card Page and the new & improved Guestbook & Message Board.

We have noticed that many people are signing up and posting messages at the [www.essexaggie.com](http://www.essexaggie.com) web site. That site is a commercial site and has no connection to Essex Aggie or the Essex Aggie Alumni Association so be advised that any directory listings or messages posted there will probably not be seen by most Aggie people.

**Your alumni association officers would like to wish everyone a very happy new year in 2004.**

Current Officers:

President: Alice (Coleman) Henning '56 Melbourne, FL  
Vice President: Lillian (Demers) Seaborne '56 Dracut, MA  
Secretary: Charles Main '56 Phippsburg, ME  
Treasurer: George P. Jones III '58 North Salem, NH  
Webmaster: Charles Main '56 Phippsburg, ME

Happy  
New Year

# The First Kiss Survey:

Pete Tierney '75 came up with the idea of running a survey on the alumni web site to gather information about Aggie student's "first kiss." Many alumni had their first kiss at the school. Many of those first kisses were probably in different areas or buildings and we wanted to find out where. The results of the survey are below.

**Number of respondents:** (69)

## First kiss Ever?

Yes: (23), No: (42), Don't remember: (4)

## Where did it take place?

Inside: (40), Outside: (29)

## If inside, what building?

Auto Shop, Cafeteria, Café, Dairy Barn (4), Dairy Barn hay loft (2), Field House (2), Gallant Hall, Greenhouse (2), Gym (3), Heifer Barn hay loft, High School building (2), Horse Barn (3), Horse Barn hay loft, Horticulture Building, Main Building (6), Metal Shop, School Bus (2), Smith Hall (2), Topsfield Fair info booth, Wood Hall

## If outside, what area?

Apple Orchard (2), Behind the Gym, Between two ponds, Bus Stop (2), Football Field (3), Front Lawn, Front of Gallant Hall, Front of Raccoon Run, Front of Smith Hall (2), Gym (2), Gym entrance, Homemaking School, N R Club camping trip, Outside Admin Building, Outside Extension Hall (2), Outside Field House, Outside new High School building, Parking Lot (2), Pig Pen, Poultry Complex, Topsfield Fair

## Did you initiate the kiss?

Yes: (29), No: (35), Yes & No: (2), Mutual (2), Don't Remember: (1)

## Did you date the person?

Yes: (51), No: (16), No answer: (2)

## Do you remember his/her name?

Yes: (65), No: (3), No answer: (1)

## Did you marry him/her?

Yes: (4), No: (58), Almost: (1), Hell No: (2), Not Yet: (3), Only in my dreams: (1)

## Your graduating class year?

1950s: (6), 1960s: (10), 1970s: (4), 1980s: (9), 1990s: (19), 2000s: (16) No answer: (5)

## Male or Female respondent:

Male: (31), Female: (36) No answer: (2)

Below are some of the comments that were entered in the survey.

Well if you all look at the Class of 65-67 you will see that we were not that coed then. My girl friend who was a year ahead of me and I snuck into the upper deck of the Assembly room in the then Main building of Aggie. We grabbed a quick kiss before we had to go to our next class. Unfortunately we were discovered by the Head of Students, Mr. White, who, as I remember correctly, was quite livid concerning our indiscretional behavior in the hallowed halls of the very place we gleefully sang our school song.

We snuck into Mr. Clark's class room and spent the evening. She was in nursing school and I was a junior. OOOOHHH to be young again!

We watched the pigs rolling in the mud and decided to jump in and give it a try. We began kissing.

I was such a poor kisser I think she was quite disappointed. Even today my wife of 38 years says I'm a lousy kisser.

You know those green passes to the bathroom made an impact on my life because you can meet people in the bathroom.....with a pass. And it's amazing what you can get away with across the hall from Miss Hegarty's office!!

I had been dating him for a few weeks at the time; Our busses were late due to a storm we were talking in Mr. B's room when all of a sudden he leaned over & kissed me; & in walks Mr. B in mid kiss (red faced) we were told to scat & see if our busses were there yet.

I was 14, we were feeding calves milk from a bucket. At the time it seemed like the biggest thing that would ever happen in life. The anticipation was unbelievable. I was scared out of my mind. She was a beautiful young fellow student of the same age as me. She was as scared as I was and it never happened again probably because we were so naive in those days.

I kissed Breezer. He was the only male on campus that was worthy of my affection. He was such a good horse.

Mine was over in the Poultry complex with the herdsman's daughter. I was completely rejected. I remember she said, "I don't do that." It must have been a traumatic experience because I still remember it clearly today 50 years later!

It was in room 5, right after school, my freshman year. It was the WORST KISS EVER!! But we dated for 2 years after, and were able to stay friends.

We had to be only 15. It was back in 1997. His homeroom was downstairs & mine was upstairs. Before we went home that day we met under the stairs for a quick kiss. Thinking back that was cute.

Me and my boyfriend were on the late bus and were dared to kiss each other. It was my first real kiss.

This is just a sample of the many comments received. A complete list of comments can be found on the alumni web site. The survey form remains on the web site so anyone wishing to fill one out can still do so.

## News From The Classes:

### Ed Russell, Class of 1942

(see article on page 6)

### Pearl (Chase) Ladd, Class of 1955

(see article on page 4)

### Peter Martin, Class of 1956

Pam and Pete Martin have built a new home in Plymouth, NH. They sold their house in Hawaii last year. Pete said; "It is a fun place to visit but not my cup of tea as a place to live. We have bought a recreational vehicle, in which we traveled around the warmer climes last winter to escape the winter. Cheaper than a second home and keeps us nearer to the kids and grandkids."

### Joe LaBonte, Class of 1958

(see article on page 6)

### Florence (Hemingway) Davis, Class of 1963

Sorry I didn't get to visit with any of my Aggie friends while I was in ME this summer. When we get up that way there are just too many kids, grandkids, and great grand kids to take up our time. I have attached a picture of my husband, Howard, and I taken while we were here in PA this month. We will be leaving here the end of this week headed for ST Lucie, FL. We will only be in FL till the 1st of Dec then head for Sam Huston State Park in Lake Charles, LA. We'll stay there visiting more of the kids till after Christmas. We are scheduled to start our volunteer job at Picacho Pike State Park in AZ the first of the new year. We'll stay there till the end of March and then see where we'll go. If any of my classmates are in the area stop by, they'll even give you free entrance to the park if you say you're coming to see me.



Florence & Howard Davis

### Deb Lambert, Class of 1966

Last November we came across a comprehensive article on the Corless Bros. web site. The article entitled, Winter's Coming...Are You Prepared? Was a combination to-do and shopping list for preparing the garden for winter written by expert gardener, Deb Lambert, class of 1966.

### Peter Tierney, Class of 1975

Pete continues to be an active supporter of alumni efforts. He has met with Director Olson and will be working on copying some of the old Green & White yearbooks at the school so that we will be able to complete most of the class rosters.

Work continues on the Campus History Project where we will attempt to document all the buildings on the Aggie campus. Pete has taken a lot of photos this past summer and we will be compiling them soon.

### Tom Wall, Class of 1978

We recently learned that Tom Wall '78 is a member of the rock band Warriors Path out in Seattle. From the Warriors Path web site; "Tom was born to rock! As a bassist and vocalist, he's performed at venues throughout the US. Tom has also received radio airplay and recognition as a songwriter. Tom's driving and melodic bass tones provide the solid backbone of the Warriors Path sound."



Remember those S & H Green Stamps we all used to save and redeem for merchandise at the S & H Redemption Center? Well, believe it or not they are still in business! Visit their web site at:

[www.greenpoints.com](http://www.greenpoints.com)

## Deceased Classmates:

### Robert R. Lamontagne Class of 1954



**"Limie"  
Methuen  
Poultry**

METHUEN – 07/18/03 - Robert R. Lamontagne, 68, died yesterday at Holy Family Hospital. He worked at Jones and Vining and Borden Chemical Co. in North Andover before retiring. Born in Lawrence, Mr. Lamontagne graduated from Essex Agricultural School and was a member and librarian of the Essex County Bee Keeping Association in Topsfield. He served with the National Guard. He leaves wife Judith A. (Coulie) Lamontagne; sons James D. and his wife Sharon of Pelham, N.H., and Robert J. of Methuen; sister Lorraine Giuffrida of Methuen; brother George E. of Methuen; seven grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was the father of the late Christine Barnaby.

### John J. Doucette Class of 1976



**"Jackie"  
Peabody  
Natural Resources**

PEABODY – 06/18/03 - John J. "Jackie" Doucette, 46, died Sunday at Beverly Hospital in Beverly. He worked at Hogan Regional Hospital. Born and educated in Peabody, Mr. Doucette graduated from Essex Aggie High School and earned his Eagle Scout at the age of 18. He leaves parents John H. and Joanne (Hayes) Doucette of Haverhill; and brothers Peter of Haverhill, Dave of North Andover and Michael of North Quincy.

### Editor's Note:

Thanks to Brian Levasseur '77 for sending us these obituaries.

### Alan Roaf Class of 1979



**Danvers  
Ornamental Horticulture**

Alan Roaf passed away last October.  
No further info available

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## News From The Classes (cont):

### Pearl (Chase) Ladd Class of 1955

I have very fond memories of Essex Aggie. I enjoyed it as much if not more than high school. I enjoyed the article on Larkin Cottage. I really liked that place. I still have my green & white Home Economics checked dress we had to make for cooking in Miss Emerson's class.

I also remember the gas oven that blew up at me and ever after I headed for the one electric stove. To this day I will never have gas in my home.

For my lunch at the Cottage I served that chocolate cookie dessert. I have made it from time to time but they changed the ice box cookies since then and it doesn't seem the same.

My husband Fred passed away in 2000. I have a precious little white Maltese - Ginzo that is my buddy & my love.

Pearl (Chase) Ladd '55



## Reunion News:

### Class of 1978

The class of 1978 held it's first reunion on Sept. 26 at the Cy Tenney Community Center in Peabody, Mass. Although our effort to organize this event was only two weeks prior to the event we had a great showing of one-third of our classmates. We hired a DJ, provided plenty of food & drink and passed the hat to cover our costs. We are looking forward to another one and are trying to locate the remaining 50 or so classmates. It is amazing how many showed up as our previous effort in 1990 did not amount to anything. We also saw a few faces from the class of '79 and also saw Mr. Cameron who worked with Al Kelly in the Apple & Fruit Department. Just goes to show the Aggie spirit never dies. We will be compiling a list of new and updated e-mail addresses to publish on the Aggie web site. We do have many pictures also.  
Stephen Martin '78

### Class of 1983

Our class reunion held July 19th at the Courtyard Marriot in Concord, NH went great. We ended up with 23 classmates & a total of 34 people. Hope everyone had a good time reminiscing about the good old days at the Aggie. Thanks to Neil for the wonderful photo albums he brought. 24 years ago we started our high school years with people we never met before from all parts of the state. We were a small class so friendships came easy. Everyone knew everyone. It was nice to see some things never change, took right where we left off. It did not seem that long ago since we saw everyone, the 10 yr, the 5 yr and high school, seems like yesterday. I am very happy you all took time out of your lives to come to the reunion. Maybe next time we will get more of our classmates to go. Speaking of next time, Emilie will be coming stateside next year, so I thought we could do a cookout thing when she comes home. It would be nice if all of us kept in touch on a regular basis, or even get together every year, instead of waiting for the 25 yr. Even a dinner out every few months or so. Anyway, hope everyone had a great time, I know I did! Hope to see you all again soon!  
Elaine Flanagan '83

### Class of 1985

The class of 1985 20 year reunion committee has started to form and want a few more on the band wagon. Date to be determined in 2005....it's never too early if you want to plan something great. Contact Michele (Martel) MacDonald at [MMM67@msn.com](mailto:MMM67@msn.com) for details and if anyone wants to help...this could be really good if we start now.  
Michele (Martel) MacDonald '85

### Class of 1996

The class of 1996 is planning a small reunion sometime in the spring or summer 2004. Anyone interested can contact me at: [FHBEEMAN78@worldnet.att.net](mailto:FHBEEMAN78@worldnet.att.net) or Jen (Larson) O'Neill at [jeeperscreepers46@msn.com](mailto:jeeperscreepers46@msn.com).  
Fara Beeman '96

### Class of 2000

On February. 15, 2003 members from the class of 2000 got together for a reunion dinner at the Slyvan Street Grille in Peabody, MA. In attendance were Angela (Germinara) Doyle, Julie Murch, Crystal Conway, Lauren Jagla, Sharon Zec, and Kristen Eadie. More people were supposed to attend but, things came up and unfortunately, they could not make it.

We all met at the Slyvan Street Grille around 8:00pm, and talked about "the old days", (barely three years ago) over dinner and drinks. We had a great time talking about old teacher's, wondering what our old classmates were up to, and filled everyone in on what was going on currently in our lives. About two hours later we all exchanged phone numbers and said our goodbyes, hopefully we can get people from the class of 2000 together again sometime soon, and have more people attend.  
Angela (Germinara) Doyle '00

### Other Reunions

There may be other reunions that have been held or are being planned in addition to those mentioned above but at press time these are the only ones we have received notification for.

We are still looking for a volunteer from the 1960s to set up a decade reunion for the 1960s. There are lots of people from the '60s that would like to get together.

## News From The Classes (cont):

### Ed Russell Class of 1942

I started the Aggie in the fall of '38. I know nothing of how the Aggie operates now. As a freshman we got involved in all the types of agriculture. Our first training was picking apples. For the month of September we picked apples. From there we went to the vegetables and gardening. Dear Old Mr. Stearns. We learned how to hill up celery to bleach it out and many other things about getting the gardens ready for winter. In shop we had Mr. Chase who taught us Blacksmithing. We made all the iron parts of a wheelbarrow. In the wood shop under Mr. Hardy we learned to make the rest of the Wheelbarrow. We paid for the material and the wheelbarrow was ours to keep. Through the winter we learned about Poultry, Dairy, Pigs, etc. We even got involved in the slaughter of pigs. In the spring it was to the Greenhouses to start seedlings and learn about flowers and ornamental Horticulture. My parents didn't own a farm but I was raised all around farms. I was very interested in all things to do with agriculture. I became very interested in dairy animals and horses so decided I wanted to be a Veterinarian. I Liked Dr. Forman and the other vet I can't think of his name. However, in the fall of '41 I had an accident on the farm I was working at in West Boxford. While I was in the hospital, Pearl Harbor happened and I went in the Navy shortly after. My Veterinary went out the window and I became a career Navy man.

Ed Russell '42

### Joe LaBonte Class of 1958

Donna and I are fine and active. We travel to Durango Colorado several times a year. Our two children, Joe & Linda live there with their families. Joe has two boys, 15 & 13, both of whom became Eagle Boy Scouts this year. Our daughter Linda has four girls. Can you imagine what it's like to be a man in that household? Linda's oldest daughter is very talented and was the lead in the high school play of Les Miserable last month.

I thought I would report not the fires in San Diego. They were worse than was shown on TV. About 2400 homes were lost and a lot of other damage was caused. We were fortunate that the fires didn't reach Rancho Santa Fe. I spoke with Bob Stevenson, ('57) who lives in Chula Vista. He and his wife were also spared. Bob spent 30 years in the Navy medical corp. After discharge, they decided to stay in Chula Vista. Once you get used to this weather, it's tough to deal with the snow and ice.

I spoke with Dan Conery last week, and he hasn't changed much. For several years he owned a farm in

Speedwell, TN. When I asked him why he bought it, he told me he missed the farm and the animals, so he bought a beautiful place in the hills of East Tennessee. After several years of caring for the animals, working the farm and nearly tipping over a tractor, he decided he had enough. I love the farm too, but the only way I want one is if someone else does the work and I can simply play when I want to. Now that Dan and his wife Terri are free, they have spent a lot of time traveling in their new 5th wheel. They spent last summer in NH. Dan worked one day a week, which paid for his campsite.

I spoke to Gary Marsella, who was a PG student in 56/57, and a close friend. Gary and his wife are living in Cocoa FL. and he has a construction company with several of his boys. He was taken ill last spring and fortunately, his wife was a nurse. He sounds the same and Donna and I want to visit him soon. I know they are now splitting their time among TN, NB and Houston. They also have some family in west TX. They do get around.

Oh, I almost forgot. Dan & Terry went to visit their grand daughter in MD and were given a private tour of Air Force One. As it happened they were both surprised when their granddaughter, who works on the AF #1 team took them to the plane. Dan sent me a picture post card and when I talked to him he told me all of the details from the nose to the tail. Quite a surprise!

I had a call from Norm Wellington '58 who was one of my classmates. He had been on the police force in the town in which he lived in MA. Norm and his wife settled in Duneden, FL. which is on the West Coast. Norm bought a new mobile home and decided to travel back to MA last summer to see the grand kids. After several days of nonstop rain, and some typical grand kids, he said they had enough and headed west. When they got to the Midwest it was cold and raining, so they headed for Monterey, CA. I guess Norm has a friend who works on Clint Eastwood's ranch. They were there for a while and we hoped to meet them in CO but it didn't work out. I think they were ready to get back home at that point.

I think this is enough for now. I look forward to the next issue and hope to hear about other classmates.

Warm regards, Joe LaBonté '58

### Reunions

10 Year Reunion: Out to impress

20 Year Reunion: Out to have a good time

30 Year Reunion: Generally have more fond memories of high school

40 Year & Beyond: Can be sad as this may be the last time they will see some of these people

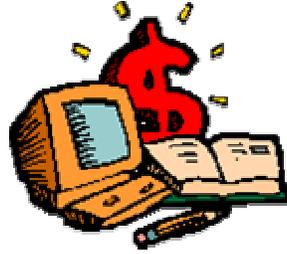
# Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2004

Membership dues for 2004 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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Please register my membership for 2004

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2004 Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, I would like to donate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

Mail this form to: Essex Aggie Alumni Association, George P. Jones, III, Treasurer, P.O. Box 49, North Salem, NH 03073

Occasionally our members move and forget to notify us of their new address. This often results in us never being able to find them again. Also, sometimes communication will unexpectedly stop and we are concerned about someone's health. Please provide the names of up to two people who will always know how to find you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Alumni Association Officers: Always available for questions, comments & suggestions.

President: Alice (Coleman) Henning 3075 Woodsmill Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934 Phone: 407-255-9843 e-mail: [alicefromwonderland@cfl.rr.com](mailto:alicefromwonderland@cfl.rr.com)

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