

Aggie News

Volume 10 Issue 2

June 2007



From The Editor:

Greetings Classmates,

Our plea in the January newsletter for additional support was heard by many of our alumnus and we are happy to announce that we will be able to continue with the publication of this newsletter for a while longer. Many of the paid memberships were from new members who have never supported the alumni before and many were from folks who had sent in paid memberships in the past and after a lapse once again decided to send in their support. There was also an increase in donations to the general fund which helps to

support our administrative costs and the expenses of keeping our alumni web site on line. We hope that everyone will remember their alumni association when next January rolls around so that we can continue without fear of running out of funds.

Charlie Main Class of '56

Alumni Scholarship:



\$500 scholarship awarded by Essex Aggie Alumni Association. This scholarship is awarded to the winner of a 500 word essay contest. This year's winner was Chelsea Stephens of Lawrence. The subject of her essay was Mr. Charles Saulnier, Environmental Science Teacher

Alden W. Sanford Scholarship:



\$500 scholarship awarded by Dr. Lee M. Sanford, Class of '64 in memory of her father, Alden W. Sanford. The Alden W. Sanford Scholarship was awarded to Anthony Vitulli of Methuen. He will be studying Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts.

Essex Aggie selects a new superintendent:

After nearly 2 1/2 years of controversy, trials and tribulations, the trustees have selected longtime vocational educator Roger Bourgeois to lead the school in the future.

The trustee's first pick, Ed Bouquillon pulled out during negotiations and the trustees were forced to return for another vote.

Mr. Bourgeois has a 25 year career in vocational and technical education, including 15 years at Shawsheen Technical High School in Billerica.

Mr. Bourgeois will succeed interim superintendent Helen Hegarty, taking over at a time when Essex Aggie is looking ahead to a possible merger with the North Shore Technical High School in Middleton.

When asked about his future relationship with acting principal Gene Demsey, Mr. Bourgeois replied, "We'll make a great team. Agricultural education is his strength so he's got what I don't have and hopefully, I have the administrative background so that as a team we can move the school forward for the students."

What Can I Do?

"There was an important job to be done and everybody was sure that somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it but nobody did it.

Somebody got very angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought anybody could do it, but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done."

Welcome Letter to Roger Bourgeois:

Dear Mr. Bourgeois,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Essex Aggie. We know of the process of finding a new superintendent and it is with this understanding you hold our trust. We also know that there are many more openings for superintendents than there are candidates within the Commonwealth. You have chosen the Aggie as much as the Aggie chose you, for that we are grateful.

Over the years the staff at the Aggie has kept up with the times and has transition from a "project" method of teaching to a more "progressive method." This is not by accident or chance; this is the direct result of the faculty and administrators of the Aggie. Without them the Aggie would just be a fine memory like so many other aggie schools throughout the country. As you are a vocational professional, we are sure you understand this reality.

In keeping true to our mission statement, which is "Objectively forge a steadfast union of past, present, future students and faculty of Essex Aggie, ensuring a sharing of experience, knowledge and goodwill", the Essex Aggie Alumni Association will be honored to work with you and your staff in the years to come. The alumnus not only values the work you will do at the Aggie but we also have a great deal of empathy with the challenges you will face.

Please visit our web site www.essexaggie.org or contact any member of our board with any questions and or issues you may have.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the entire Board of Directors,
Peter J. Tierney, Class of '75
President, Essex Aggie Alumni Association

News From The Classes:

Phil Gelinas Class of 1949

Hello! Just sending this picture of classmate Michael Bonanno. All that good cooking at the Homemaking School at dinnertime seems to have agreed with him. Mike was a pretty good athlete but had to work on his family farm in Methuen. Mike ended up as a policeman.

Photo from the Eagle Tribune

Bruce Arnold of Lynn, program manager at WCCM Radio laughs with Michael Bonanno of Lawrence, friend of Quota International of Lawrence, and brother-in-law of this year's honoree.



Jean (Ouellette) Radford Class of 1954

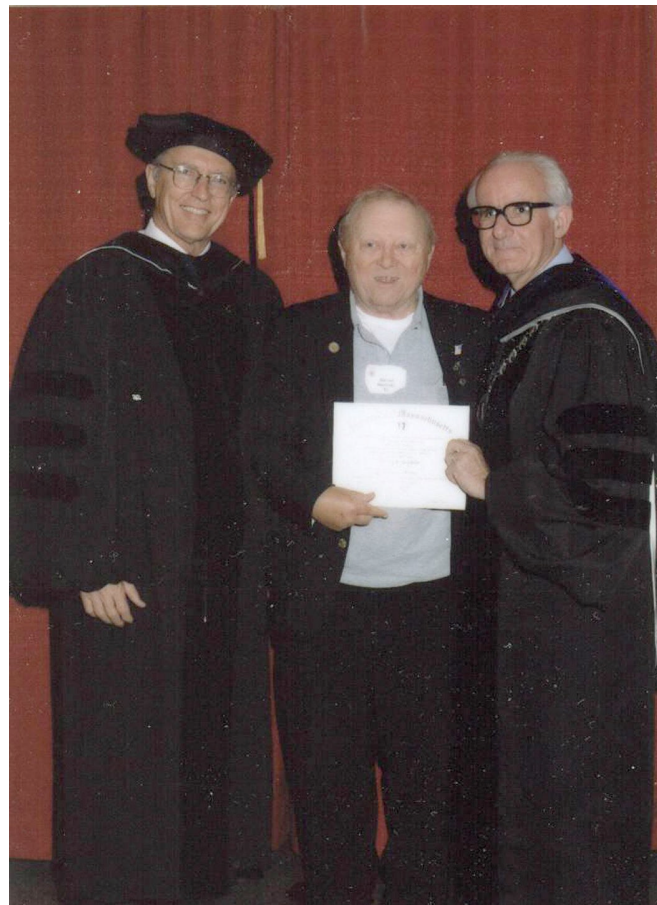
Jean, who now lives in Lynchburg, Virginia has recently signed up with the alumni association and has volunteered to be on our membership committee. She will be researching and attempting to contact missing classmates from 1952 thru 1955.

We could use more volunteers to help on the membership committee. If anyone would like to help find missing classmates from any class years of their choice, contact alumni secretary Charlie Main '56 at cmain@gwi.net and he will help get you started.

Donald Reynolds Class of 1958

In the spring of 1960 Don received his diploma from the University of Massachusetts in Turf Management. 46 years later he received an

Associate Degree in Turf Sciences. Over 350 students attended the university to receive their degrees in various fields of endeavor. Don tells us, "It was such an honor with full celebration in the auditorium and dinner was great. My wife and I spent the whole day at the university visiting other students and professors."



Barbara (Clark) Townsend Class of 1937

We received membership dues and a general fund donation from Barbara this year. Even though she signed up for a Life Membership many years ago she wanted to help with our funding situation. Barbara wrote, "I know I don't have to pay dues as I am a life member but I'm celebrating 70 years since I graduated and I love getting the Aggie newsletter. I doubt there are many of my class left but I'm still alive and kicking."

We congratulate Barbara for her dedication to her alumni association and hope she will be with us for many years to come.

Deceased Classmates:

Carlton K. Brown Class of 1932

Carlton K. Brown, 94, former tree warden for the town of Rockport, husband of the late Eleanor (Wilson) Brown, of 3 Broadway Ave., Rockport, died on Friday, December 16, 2005, at Den-Mar Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Rockport.

Born in Rockport on Feb. 7, 1911, he was the son of the late Alvin S. and Caroline (Sears) Brown. Mr. Brown was a graduate of Rockport High School and Essex County Agricultural School.

One of his first jobs was at the age of 14, delivering special delivery letters on his bicycle for the U.S. Postal Service. Following his graduation from Essex Aggie, he worked as a gardener on the Blood Estate in Lynnfield, as well as on the Taylor Estate in Gloucester. He also worked for more than two years at the former Cape Ann Tool Co.

In 1946, Mr. Brown was elected tree warden and was re-elected to that position until 1960. In that year, Mr. Brown was appointed forestry superintendent and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1974. He was also a member of the Rockport Fire Department from 1945 until 1971.

Mr. Brown was very civic-minded and over the years worked on many projects that helped beautify the town that he loved. In 1992, a Resolution of Appreciation was signed by the board of selectmen for his many years of service to the town of Rockport.

In his early retirement years, he and his wife traveled extensively, often to a warmer climate during the winter months. They were both very active square dancers and attended many square dance conventions across the country.

Mr. Brown had a very busy and active life. He was an avid sailor and a longtime member of Sandy Bay Yacht Club. In addition to sailing, Mr. Brown enjoyed taking care of his property, especially his gardens, dancing, reading, and music. During the last decade his dancing took center stage, especially at Gloucester Elks and the Peabody Senior Center. When the music played, it was not uncommon for him to dance every dance.

Mr. Brown was a member of the Ashler Lodge A.F. & A.M., Rockport Conservation Committee, North Shore Horticultural Society, First Congregational Church of Rockport, BPOE Elks Lodge 892, Massachusetts Tree Wardens Association, and the Thacher Island Association.

Gertrude (Lawton) Devaney Class of 1936.

Gertrude Devaney died at the Pleasant Valley Nursing Home in Derry, New Hampshire, Saturday Morning, February 3, 2007. She was 89. She was a graduate of Essex Agricultural School in 1936. She served on the Editorial Staff of the Green and White as the Editor-in-Chief in 1935. She is survived by sons, Robert, Joseph, and Stephen ('67)

Paul F. Journeau Class of 1967

Paul F. Journeau, 57, of Haverhill, formerly of Arizona and Lawrence, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007 at Lawrence General Hospital after a lengthy illness. Paul was born in Lawrence, son of the late Rene J. and Lillian A. (Tetreau) Journeau.

Gregory H. McClain Class of 1975

Gregory H. McClain, 50, of Exeter died Monday, Feb. 19, 2007, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born Sept. 17, 1956, in Lynn, Mass., a son of Warren and Elaine (Jacobs) McClain of Lynn. Mr. McClain was raised in Lynn and lived there most of his life. He was a graduate of Essex Agricultural High School of Danvers, Mass., and the Wentworth Technical School.

He had lived in Exeter the past nine years. He was an active member of the United Church of Christ of North Hampton, where he served on the board of the Interfaith Hospitality network for the homeless. He was an HVAC and an appliance technician for Sears for many years, before which he was employed as a respiratory therapist at the Lynn-Union Hospital.

He was very proud of his Scottish heritage and had made several trips to visit the castle of his family in Scotland.

He was an avid gardener and he enjoyed making his home brew. He had a wonderful sense of humor and quick wit and would often repair elderly customers' appliances for free.

Reunion News:

Essex Aggie Family BBQ

Everyone is invited – All years – All classes
Hosted by Scott Greaney '83
Rain or Shine

at the Center For All Seasons
(Belgrade Lakes Community Center)
on Great Pond in Belgrade Lakes, Maine

From Augusta, ME take Rt 27 north about 12mi

Saturday, August 25th starting at 2:00pm and
ending at 10:00pm.

BBQ will be served around 4:30pm

BBQ pork, deep fried turkey, roasted baked
potato, corn on the cob, salad, rolls, water/soda,
strawberry shortcake

Adults (13 yrs & older) \$12
Children (8-12 yrs) \$6
Children (7 & under) Free

Info on nearby overnight accommodations
available on request

Reservations should be made by August 5th

For reservations send payment to Scott Greaney
Box 980, Main Street, Mercer, ME 04957

For additional info contact:

Scott Greaney at stfarm@tdstlme.net

Phone: (207) 587-4062

Jim Emery at james.c.emery@state.ma.us

Missy Blowers at raini@rainiridgefarm.com

Class of 1965

Nancy (Robishaw) Desmond '62 & '65 hosted a
get-together for the class of 1965 at her home in
Ipswich, Massachusetts on June 17, 2007.

Class of 1977

The class of 1977 is planning on having a reunion
this year. The last we heard it was going to be a pot
luck affair in someone's yard. Contact Cheryl Joyce
at cjoyce@paulsmiths.edu for information.

Election Year

for Alumni Officers & Directors

All terms for alumni officers and directors will
expire this year. If anyone is interested in running
for a position on the board of directors, info can be
obtained from the alumni secretary, Charles Main
'56. Any alumnus who is a paid member of the
alumni association can run for office.

In particular, we currently have no candidates for
the positions of Director 1930s, Director 1940s,
Director 2000s, Director School Staff and Current
Student so if anyone would like to be placed on the
ballot for any of those positions please let us know.
The election will take place in December, 2007 and
the term of office will be for two years (2008-2009)

Requests to be placed on the ballot can be sent to:
Essex Aggie Alumni Association
Essex Agricultural & Technical High School
562 Maple Street, P.O. Box 362
Hathorne, MA 01937
alumni@agtech.org or cmain@suscom-maine.net

Pampered Chef Fundraiser

Last March the alumni association featured a two
week long Pampered Chef fundraiser hosted by
Michelle Mercier '96 who is a Pampered Chef
consultant. The sales resulted in a 15% donation to
the alumni General Fund (\$92.51) plus an additional
5% personal donation (\$30.84) for a total of
\$123.35.

Alumni Membership Gift Certificate

Jean (Ouellette) Radford '54 sent us another idea to
encourage additional paid memberships. She
suggested that we might offer a gift certificate for
alumni dues. It could be a gift for alum who have
everything, a stocking stuffer at Christmas, a
birthday present for a friend, an anniversary present,
a membership for a new graduate, etc.

A gift certificate of a \$20 membership would be
economical, and an easy way to come up with a
nice gift that would not add more stuff for the yard
sale and at the same time would benefit the alumni
association. If anyone is interested in purchasing an
alumni membership gift certificate they can send a
request to the alumni office alumni@agtech.org and
we will send out an application form.

Deceased Classmates:

Nathan H. Clark (Staff)

Nathan "Nate" H. Clark, 94, died peacefully on Thursday, April 12, 2007, in the Baldwinville Nursing Home with his family by his side.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Eleanor (Marcy) Clark, and his second wife, Myrtle (Fennell) Clark, also a step-son, Keith Mudgett, of Meredith, N.H.,

Mr. Clark leaves six step-children, David Mudgett and his wife Dorothy of Belmont, N.H., Dennis Mudgett and his wife Norma of New Hampton, N.H., Wayne Mudgett and his wife Carol of Meredith N.H., Gail Hewitt of Central Harbor, N.H., Kathy Rossbach and her husband Eben of Leominster, and Nancy Afonso and her husband Albert of Hubbardston. He also leaves 22 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; a sister, Margaret (Kimball) Whipple in Groton, Conn.; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Clark was born Feb. 27, 1913 in Swampscott. He served in the South Pacific with the Seabees Unit during World War II and returned to his landscaping job for the City of Salem. He then taught Horticulture for close to 30 years at Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute. After his retirement he was a member of the Danvers Senior Citizens, where he especially enjoyed golfing weekly and was honored for volunteering his bookkeeping skills to other seniors. In 2000 he moved from Danvers to an assisted living facility in central Massachusetts to be near his family. There he continued gardening and lawn care, which was his great love throughout his life

Joseph Finocchio Class of 1929

For 50 years in northern Massachusetts, if you were looking for a sign to point you in the right direction, Joseph Finocchio was your guy.

As proprietor of Salem Sign Co., Mr. Finocchio's neon signs lit up businesses throughout the region. Some of his creations included the Howard Johnson pie man, Peanut Man, and the Leaning Tower of Pizza. Now collectors' items, many of the original Salem signs were featured in a special neon exhibit

at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington in 2003. "He was a pillar of the local economic community," said his step-daughter, Kathryn Hughes. "He was a very creative, very innovative man with strong business instincts."

Mr. Finocchio died May 12 at Masconomet Healthcare Center in Topsfield. He was 100. He was born in Catignano, Italy, and came with his family to the United States at the age of 5. He was raised in Danvers and educated in the one-room Putnamville School. After graduating from the Essex Agricultural School in 1929, he attended Wagner School of Sign Arts in Boston. Mr. Finocchio's career began in a cramped rented apartment in Beverly, where he launched a small sign company with a set of brushes and paints.

"He was a resourceful, hands-on kind of guy. He used to stop trucks on the street and ask them if they needed him to paint a sign for them," said his step daughter.

In 1935, he acquired Salem Sign Co. and set up shop on Highland Avenue. The site became recognizable by his handiwork, a huge neon flying witch, said his family. The National Heritage Museum in Lexington labeled his Howard Johnson's pie man a "landmark for hungry Americans."

As Howard Johnson motels and restaurants opened across the Eastern seaboard, his company grew right along with them, his "pie man" leading the way. "Not many businesses survive for 50 years. He always tried to stay ahead of his trade and aggressively pursue his business," said his step daughter. "He really enjoyed being part of the local business community and to help out other local business owners. It was his American Dream. We all aspire to have the kind of life he lived."

At the time of his death Mr. Finocchio was the oldest living alumnus of Essex Agricultural Institute. He was an avid gardener, bowler, and tennis player during his retirement. In his 80s, he participated in the USTA Super Seniors Tournaments at Longwood Tennis Club and the Essex Country Club Tennis Nationals and in other senior citizen tournaments

For those who have not already sent in their membership dues and donations for 2007 the form is provided below. We welcome your participation in alumni affairs and any comments or suggestions you may care to offer. We can be reached by mail at the school address or via e-mail at alumni@agtech.org

Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2007

Membership dues for 2007 will be \$20.00
\$5.00 for Junior Membership (current students)

(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 _____

Please register my membership and/or donation for 2007

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2007 Membership: \$ _____
I am enclosing my check for \$5.00 for 2007 Junior Membership: (current or graduating student) \$ _____
In addition, I would like to donate to the Scholarship fund: \$ _____
In addition, I would like to donate to the General Fund: \$ _____
Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ _____

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

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