



Lonoke Jack Rabbit Tracks

FALL 2008

ALUMNI BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER



Let the Good Times Roll – LHS Alumni to Celebrate 6th Annual Homecoming Gathering

We're Expecting You

LHS alumni have been working since February on plans to entertain you during the annual homecoming festivities September 26-27. We believe there will be something to satisfy every alumnus. The weekend events will kick off with a luncheon at the Lonoke Depot for the class of 1958 to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Invitations have been sent to all class members and their spouses, and we are looking forward to a large gathering. Shannon Clement will cater this event with several alumni assisting her.

The annual homecoming parade will begin at 4:00 p.m., and alumni are encouraged to decorate a float or an automobile for entry in the parade. We have heard from Martha Fay Robertson Stearns, class of '45, and her brother Lloyd Bain Robertson, class of '39, who will participate in the parade and encourage their classmates to join them. They will be traveling from Alexandria, Virginia and Dallas, Texas respectively. We hope to have a large number of classes represented, and if you plan to enter individually or as a class, please contact Cecil Kinley at 501-676-6480 or Edie Lassett at 501-676-2659 and give them your name and the year you graduated. They will work with Judy King, the high school parade coordinator to properly place you in the lineup. Parade entries will begin lining up at 3:00. It is hoped that this year's parade will either begin or end at the high school so alumni will have an opportunity to find their names in the newly laid alumni walk.

Nostalgic memorabilia will be displayed in the Lonoke Museum at 215 Southeast Front Street. You will enjoy reminiscing over old pictures and artifacts from high school, as well as enjoy some permanent displays of Lonoke history. You may even want to buy a leaf to add to the lovely Lone Oak plaque in the front display room. You

may register for homecoming weekend at the museum while enjoying punch and cookies served by Lonoke alumni. If you have memorabilia from your class that you would like to share, please contact Kay Bevis at 501-425-7701. She will begin decorating a week before homecoming, and the display will remain for another week.

The 2008 homecoming court will be presented at 6:00 before the kickoff of the Lonoke-Heber Springs football game. Coach Jeff Jones took the Jackrabbits to the play-offs last year, and alumni wish him well on having another winning season.



Gina Cox Wiertelak Named 2008 Distinguished Alumnus

1977 graduate Gina Cox Wiertelak was selected by the LHS Alumni Association as 2008 distinguished alumnus. Gina and husband Jim believe in "giving back", and they have established the *Grumpy* and *Gigi* charitable foundation to support community activities. They are particularly interested in the arts, sports, and education. Gina's generous donation to the Lonoke School District was the nest egg needed for establishing the Lonoke Public School Foundation which is working to construct a new basketball gymnasium. Gina has been active in fundraising for Bayou Meto Missionary Baptist Church where she and her brother Randy grew up and her parents have been members for 45 years.

Since moving to Memphis in the late 80's, Gina has been involved with the Ronald McDonald House where she cooked meals for families, Coats for Kids Campaign,

and Downs Syndrome Association of Mid-South. She has participated in supporting and walking in the Buddy Walk for the past five years. She has worked with Special Kids and Families, an early intervention program for children with birth disorders. She served as choir mom and chess mom at Ridgeway High and Middle Schools. Gina's most recent project is boxing up food goodies, crossword puzzle books, etc. to send to the troops in Iraq.

Gina is an avid supporter of Jackrabbit athletics and a talented athlete. She was a three-year letterman and played on the 1977 Girls' Senior High AA/AAA State basketball championship team. She plays in the annual golf tournament whenever possible and sponsors a hole in memory of her late brother Randy Cox, a 1975 Lonoke graduate.

Congratulations to Gina Cox Wiertelak; she has brought honor to her alma mater, to herself, and continues working to make the world a better place for those less fortunate. Gina's name will be placed on a plaque that hangs in the foyer of the high school, along with former distinguished alumni Maurice "Footsie" Britt, Jim Lee Howell, Judge ElsiJane Trimble Roy, Dr. Bennie Norton, and Dr. Jerry Havens.

The alumni association will accept nominations for distinguished alumnus at any time during the year and keeps them on file for consideration each year. If you wish to nominate an alumnus for this award, please complete the form on page 3 and send it to Don Steely, 11 Sandstone Ct., Little Rock, AR 72227.

Saturday Events

The annual Lonoke alumni golf tournament will begin bright and early at 8:00 on Saturday morning, September 27. This has been a fun event for the golfers and a great fundraiser for the annual scholarship fund. Teresa Rowton 501-676-5484; Matt Boyles 501-676-0138; Wes Clement 501-676-3806; Robert DePriest 501-676-7700; Robert Cole 501-676-0654; or John White 501-658-1687 can give you more information and sign you up. The cost will be \$50 per person or \$200 per team which includes your golf cart and complimentary food after the game. The 2007 winning team of Robert Cole, Philip Cole, Matt Cole, and Charles "Bo" Pearson will be back to defend their title.

The class of '57 has raised enough money to sponsor two golf holes and has challenged other classes to raise \$100 to sponsor a hole. In addition to our dedicated

business sponsored signs, you will see "nifty" new signs marking the class sponsored holes. If you or your class wishes to sponsor a hole, please write your \$100 check to Lonoke Alumni Association and send it to Peggy Anderson, P. O. Box 429, Lonoke, AR 72086, and we will order a sign acknowledging your class. The classes of '51, '55, '58, '64, '66, '68, '76, '87, and '90 have met the challenge, and many more are expected to contribute.

The Main Event

All classes have been notified and encouraged to erect individual class tents at the golf course. Some of you may have the 10' x 10' pop up tents which are easy to use and can be personalized to represent your class. You will also need to bring a lawn chair that can be used throughout the day. The tents can be erected Friday evening or Saturday morning before the general membership meeting. At 2:00 p.m. all alumni are invited to the "Main Event Tent" for the general membership meeting where we will hear from new Superintendent Dr. John Tackett, Principal Phynaus Wilson, and Mayor Wayne McGee. The victors of the golf tournament, the 2008 scholarship winner, and the 2008 distinguished alumnus will be introduced. You will also have an opportunity to vote on the 2009 officers. In order to leave you laughing, we have invited Arkansas humorist John Philpot to wrap up the program.

The end of September will most likely be warm, and we encourage you to dress casually. For \$10.00 you may purchase a purple tee-shirt decorated with a white rabbit on the front and the Lonoke Alma Mater printed on the back. If we all buy tee-shirts and wear them, we will be able to remember the words to our alma mater and sing with gusto.

Following the general membership meeting, you will have time to visit from tent to tent while partaking of the beverage of your choice. The alumni association will sell margarita cups for \$10 with free refills. Beer, wine, or soft drinks may be purchased from the golf club. The Tasty Treats ice cream truck will make rounds at the golf course, and Bubba's Barbecue will arrive at 5:00 and remain until 7:00 if you wish to purchase dinner. Jeffery Clement will have finished feeding the golfers and has agreed to keep his grill fired up for those who prefer burgers or hot dogs.

Yesterday's Wine, a group made up of Jerry Ray and Doug McIntyre, Billy Bob Bettis, and their friends will provide music from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

LHS MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Class of _____ Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY: LIFETIME ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00

ONE-YEAR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00 LIFETIME ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Lonoke High School Alumni Association • P.O. Box 395 • Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

Going Once-Going Twice-Sold...



Lonoke High School has graduated many gifted and noteworthy alumni. Among them is Gaylen McGee, class of 1982, who has made a name for himself in the world of auctioneering. Gaylen won the Arkansas Auctioneers Association bid calling contest in January of

this year and was very proud to have been judged by world champion auctioneers.

The Double M Auctions was formed in 2003 where Gaylen auctioned off estates, farm equipment, and construction equipment. He purchased I-40 Auctions in 2006 where he sells automobiles to both individuals and dealers. He readily admits that benefit auctions are his passion, and he has helped to raise over two million dollars in live benefit auctions. He has shared the stage with Amy Grant, Kenny Rogers, Al Green and other celebrities. He set the state record for the most money raised at live benefit auctions last year, \$161,000 at one and \$179,000 at another. He has raised money for CARTI, UAMS, Baptist Health, Inner City Ministries, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, CASA, Arkansas Symphony, AWA, Ducks Unlimited, as well as many schools, churches and other benefits. Congratulations to Gaylen McGee, and thank you for supporting the LHS Alumni Association. Gaylen will demonstrate his showmanship in auctioning several items on September 27, at 7:00 p.m., and if you have not seen him in action, you are in for a treat.

Among the items to be auctioned are a Remington shotgun, a duck stand, a dinner for 15 at the Coca Cola House, a two hour consultation by Kay Bevis's Interior Designs, two haircuts from Classic Cutters in North Little Rock, skin care products from Seriesse, and much more. Bring your checkbooks – Gaylen will charm you into benevolence.

Application for LHS Distinguished Alumni Award

Name _____

Year Graduated _____ Living Deceased

Date of Birth _____ If deceased, Date of Death _____

Nominee's Address (if living) _____

_____ Telephone _____

Nominee's significant accomplishments: _____

Please attach a biography and provide a photo of nominee (if available).

If nominee will not be present to accept award, please give name, address and phone number of person who will be attending. _____

Your name, address and telephone number: _____

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 26-27

FRIDAY:

- 11:30 Class of '58 Luncheon at Depot
- 2:00 - 4:00 Registration and Reception at Lonoke Museum – Visit the Memorabilia Room
- 4:00 Homecoming Parade
Visit the high school and find your name on the alumni walk
- 6:00 Homecoming Festivities
- 7:00 Lonoke Jackrabbits vs. Heber Springs Panthers – James B. Abraham Field

SATURDAY:

- 8:00 Golf Tournament at Lonoke Golf Course
- 1:00 - 2:00 Lunch for golfers
- 10:00 - 2:00 Pitch class tents at the golf course and visit with other alumni
Registration
- 2:00 - 3:30 General membership meeting in "Main Event Tent"
Keynote Speaker – John Philpot
- 3:30 - 5:00 More visiting with alumni
- 5:00 - 7:00 Bubba's Barbecue
Jeffery Clement will be grilling burgers and hot dogs
- 6:00 - 9:00 Music by *Yesterday's Wine* –
A Band of Lonoke Alumni and Friends
- 7:00 Live Auction with award winning Auctioneer Gaylen McGee
- 8:00 Opportunity to win \$100+ through Rabbit Raffle

RABBIT RAFFLE

You have an opportunity to win \$100.00+ and invest in the future of a graduating Lonoke senior by buying a raffle ticket for \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. Half of the money collected will be awarded to the lucky ticket holder, with a minimum of \$100.00 guaranteed. The ticket holder must be present for the 8:00 drawing. Several alumni will be pre-selling tickets, and for additional information you may contact Carla McGee (501-676-3483) or Angela Armstrong (501-412-5557.)



John Philpot, Noted Arkansas Humorist – Leave Them Laughing



John Philpot is a professional humorist from Little Rock who has entertained audiences all over the United States and Canada with his brand of *total collapse humor*. His speaking career grew out of four decades of work in radio and television, much of it as a farm broadcaster. He continues to host the award winning *Arkansas Outdoors* which has been airing statewide on AETN for sixteen years. Philpot is a native of Mena, Arkansas where he graduated high school. He attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and was awarded a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture in 1957 and a master's degree in Educational Media in 1975. The name John Philpot is synonymous with agriculture and he has served countless numbers of agriculture and agribusiness organizations as mass media trainer, communications consultant, master of ceremonies and program entertainment. He was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in March, 2005.

John Philpot is a professional humorist who has graciously volunteered his services and contributed his fee to the scholarship fund which is the major recipient of any money raised through the efforts of the LHS Alumni Association.

For a good laugh, we highly recommend that you be on hand Saturday, September 27, to meet and enjoy John Philpot's *total collapse humor*.

John Philpot, host of AETN's *Arkansas Outdoors*, was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame on March 4, 2005. The ceremony marked another milestone in the career of this television pioneer. His first full-time employment in television was 44 years ago at KCMC-TV in Texarkana, Texas where he was a farm broadcaster. After additional study at the University of Iowa and work at KTAL-TV and KEEL Radio in Shreveport, Louisiana, Philpot accepted a position as Radio and TV Specialist with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and moved to Little Rock in 1965.

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JOIN NOW!!!

Newsletters will be sent out twice a year with lots of information about classmates.
Check out the Lonoke Reunion Web site: www.lonokealumni.org.

Lonoke High School
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 395
Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

