

Aggie News

Volume 2 Issue 2

June 1999



From the editor

Greetings classmates,

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the recipe for brownie pudding featured in the last issue. I know that when we make it in our house I get a vivid picture of heading for the cafeteria, standing in line, and loading up the tray. I can see Mrs. Ghiatis standing there observing how everything was going. After processing through the checker and puncher I find a place to sit and chow down. If brownie pudding was being served that day I would try to sit near someone I knew didn't care for it so that I would be assured of seconds. After the meal I would head for the lawn for some pleasant conversation with some friends. "Hi Al, Hi Rosie, Hi Marge!" There are some wonderful memories there and all brought back by mixing up a batch of Essex Aggie brownie pudding!

That reminds me, we still haven't found Rosie yet. (Rosemary Lessard Class of '56) Does anyone out there know where she is?

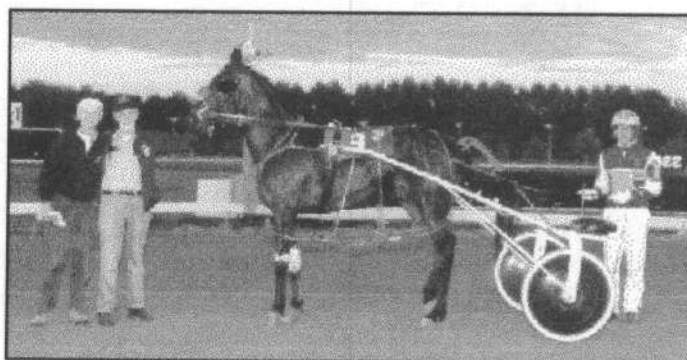
The response to our inquiry about matching those photos and names for the class of '52 was good and we have made some progress in completing the list. Thanks to Shirley (Gray) Miller Class of '50, Carol (Briggs) Gray Class of '52, and Fred Perkins Class of '53, for helping us identify those photos.

Alice would like to have your opinion on the proposal to hold the Reunion 2000 event in the Field House on the Aggie campus. Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire and send it in.

This issue of The Aggie News features a news article that appeared in the Daily Evening Item some time ago. Those of you who live outside the Aggie area may not have knowledge of the goings-on concerning the Aggie and may find it of interest. If any of our readers in the Massachusetts area ever come across any newspaper articles pertaining to the Aggie we would appreciate it if they could send it along to the Aggie News Editor so that it could be included here.

Charlie Main
Class of '56

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The Editor and wife Carol enjoying a win with one of their race horses, Daja Artist

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1997 DAILY EVENING ITEM

Essex Aggie Charts New Path

County changes make upkeep the big question

By Thor Jourgensen

Daily Evening Item

DANVERS – On July 1, the Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute becomes the state's new "agricultural charter school" but at what costs to future students and the communities that have supported it for years?

Those are the questions local officials asked Friday as they reviewed plans for the "Aggie's" future pending the upcoming abolition of county government.

The voter-approved decision to scrap centuries-old Essex County will divide the school in half with two-thirds of the 1,200-student enrollment shifting to North Shore Community College.

The college plans to organize an agricultural, environmental and food and animal care degree program around the reorganized Aggie. The High School portion of the school will remain in its current location and continue to accept students from the three dozen communities that make up the county.

The death of county government gives Massachusetts the chance to follow the lead of Connecticut and other states and establish statewide agricultural schools with the Aggie taking the lead in this new educational initiative.

"The Aggie is the largest regional vocational education district in the commonwealth," Director Gustave Olson said.

Olson and state college officials insist the decision to split the Aggie will reduce the costs communities like Lynn and Peabody pay to subsidize the school.

The division will make the school a smaller institution and one that is cheaper to run. Its status as a statewide agricultural school with a year-round working farm will allow the Aggie to reduce community subsidies by attracting students from outside the North Shore area.

The Legislature is also reviewing a bill that would halve community assessments in Fiscal Year 2000, which begins July 1. The assessments and state aid combine to cover the school's budget.

As the biggest contributors to the school, Lynn and Lawrence would see the biggest savings. The two communities combined will send 145 students or about one-third of the total enrollment to the high school next year.

But elected officials are worried about what the Aggie's reorganization and other implications of the county's demise mean in the long run to their city and town budgets.

State Rep. John Slattery, D-Peabody, said concerns about how future subsidies for the Aggie will be divided are dwarfed by implications involving the county's unfunded pension liability.

Slattery doesn't want to see Peabody, which has a fiscally-healthy pension system, burdened with debts that remain after the county dissolves. "You could be asking me to put my community \$4 million to \$5 million in debt," Slattery said.

Olson said the Aggie's \$12,000-per-pupil-cost is competitive with other vocational school's expenses – especially for a school that operates year round.

This news article from the Daily Evening Item was sent to us by Lillian (Demers) Seaborne, Class of '56.

History Of The Institute

August 8, 1913, Trustees purchase Maplewood Farm from Trustees of the House of the Angel Guardian (Nuns of the Archdiocese of Boston) at a price of \$42,500.00.

September 2, 1913, Teachers start school year.

October 1, 1913, Student start school year. 90 pupils first class.

From 1913 to 1916, There were no building expansion projects, however, there were many old structures on the newly acquired property, I.e. sheds, a dairy barn, farm and maintenance buildings and a greenhouse. Some of these structures were demolished, for example old sheds, other buildings were improved, such as the dairy barn and the greenhouse. This work was done by employees in the maintenance department.

From 1916 through mid-fifties, there were two major construction projects, Smith Hall in 1916 and Maude Hall in 1934. During this same period there were ongoing building projects such as the farm shop, horse barn, Larkin Cottage, milk room and the mechanical equipment addition (maintenance shop) all handled by the maintenance employees of the school.

From the mid-fifties through 1978, projects included: McNamara-O'Shea - 1966; Alumni Gymnasium - 1967; John T. Berry - 1968; Agric. Engineering - 1969; Maude Hall Annex - 1971; Gallant Hall - 1978. During this period many small construction projects were initiated and completed.

From 1978 to present, the only major construction project was the Fish Barn - 1995 and other small projects.

CONSTRUCTION DATE

BUILDINGS

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 1900* | Extension Hall |
| 1900* | Farm Managers House |
| 1900* | Farm Garage |
| 1900* | Poultry Headhouse |
| 1916 | Smith Hall |
| 1929 | Horse Barn |
| 1933 | Farm Shop |
| 1934 | Maude Hall |
| 1938 | Maintenance Shop |
| 1938 | Milk Room |
| 1938 | Dairy Barn |
| 1938 | Old Barn |
| 1948 | Mechanized Equipment |
| 1950 | Storage Shed |
| 1950 | Market Building |
| 1953 | Larkin Cottage |
| 1954 | Field House |
| 1955 | Sanford House |
| 1960 | Wood Hall |
| 1964 | Barn, Piggery |
| 1966 | McNamara-O'Shea |
| 1966 | Egg Laying Shed |
| 1967 | Alumni Gymnasium |
| 1968 | John T. Berry Hall |
| 1969 | Agricultural Engineering |
| 1969 | Roadside Stand |
| 1970 | Greenhouse |
| 1971 | Maude Hall Annex |
| 1978 | Gallant Hall |
| 1978 | Greenhouse |
| 1981 | Storage Shed |
| 1984 | Sheep Shed |
| 1989 | Saw Mill |
| 1990 | A Greenhouse |
| 1990 | Greenhouse |
| 1995 | Fish Barn |

* Already on property

(Information snatched from the agtech.org website)

Reunion 2000

Well Aggie Classmates, We're asking once again for your help with a few questions. Please answer concerning our year 2000 Reunion scheduled for early Fall of next year. The date and time will be announced later.

- #1 We can hold the reunion in the Field House at the Aggie. Yes _____ No _____
- #2 We can't have alcohol on school grounds. Is this a problem? Yes _____ No _____
- #3 Have the reunion in a hotel function hall? Yes _____ No _____
- #4 We can have a cocktail hour prior to going to the Field House. Would you attend? Yes _____ No _____

Comments: _____

Return your response to: Alice Henning, 3075 Woodsmill Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934

Note, we ask for your response to these surveys and questionnaires because it helps us with planning and to keep our mailing list up to date. People tend to move, die or whatever and we lose you. We have worked hard finding all of you. We like to keep our list current and it only takes a minute of your time. Thanks again to all who have been so good at responding.

Alice (Coleman) Henning

Class of '56

Classmates in Mass. & New Hampshire Get Together

Last May, Jim Palmer (Class of '56) and his wife Linda, Tom Krajewski (Class of '57) and his wife Sandy (Viles) (Class of '58), along with Tom's sister Barbara (Class of '59) and Jim's sister Carol (Class of '59) had a little get-together.

As reported by Jim, "The day was great, food and weather excellent, company even better"!

Organize Your Own Get Together

If anyone is interested in organizing a get together with some former classmates in their local area we can help get you started. A picnic on the lawn, dinner out at a local restaurant, or even a trip somewhere could be planned. The database we have developed with all the people we have found is available for your use. We can supply you with a list of classmates by STATE or by YEAR of GRADUATION. Send your request for whatever list you need to The Aggie News and we will mail it right out to you.

Alumni Membership for 1999

The Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute has an Alumni Association for College Division students only. There is no Alumni Association for High School Division students.

We have made great strides in locating long lost classmates from the classes of the 50s. Up to now all expenses for this effort, including supplies, telephone, postage, and this newsletter itself, have been covered by individual donations. In order to keep this fledgling organization going and to continue the publication of this newsletter we must begin to collect membership dues.

Membership dues for 1999 will be \$20.00. Please fill out the form provided below.



We need your support



Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 1999

Please register my membership for 1999

Member's Name and Address: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 1999 Membership: \$ _____

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

For the Reunion 2000 Fund to help with expenses incurred with organizing the next reunion.

Return this form and your check made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

George P. Jones III
P.O. Box 49
North Salem, NH 03073-0049