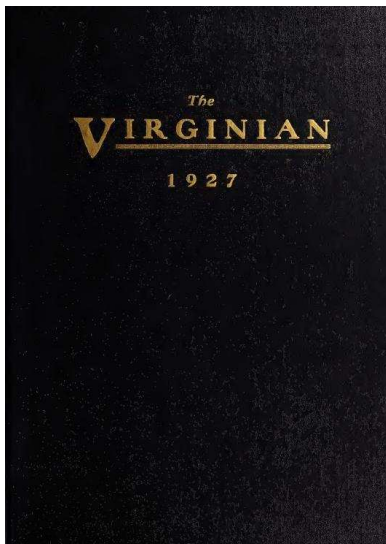


IN GENERAL

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Issue 4—Spring/Summer 2013

W-L Yearbooks Online!

In 2012, Pete High '53 noticed that many high schools and colleges/universities have made digitized copies of their yearbooks available on the internet. He began to investigate the possibility of doing the same for our 88 Blue & Gray (and The Virginian) annuals. Pete found a limited number of W-L yearbooks available from some Internet Companies, but access usually requires a membership fee.



The 1927 yearbook was called “The Virginian”

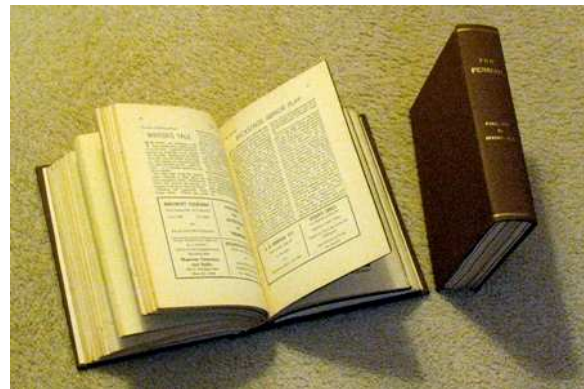
In Spring 2012, the W-L Alumni Association conducted a feasibility study to ascertain the method and cost to place the W-L yearbooks on the Internet. Of the three organizations considered, the LYRASIS Consortium provided the lowest cost.

The LYRASIS Consortium works with over 6,000 libraries nationwide to access and manage digital information. The Mass Digitization Collaborative, funded by LYRASIS and a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, has helped many libraries, schools, and cultural institutions digitize their collections and place them online in the Internet Archive at archive.org, a non-profit website created in 1996 as an Internet library. Esperanza de Sisneros, the W-L librarian, and Principal Gregg Robertson were supportive of our plans, agreeing to allow the W-L library's pristine yearbook archive to be sent to Princeton,

New Jersey for digitizing and placement on the Internet Archive.

The Alumni Association decided to proceed and began soliciting alumni donations in support of the project, estimated to cost just over \$5,000 to digitize our 21,000 yearbook pages. Institutions participating in digitization must join LYRASIS, so this amount included the cost for the W-L Library's membership in LYRASIS for the next year as well as shipping costs. We received contributions from several alumni for the digitization effort.

This spring, the Alumni Association learned that the Sloan Foundation grant supporting the Mass Digitization Collaborative may not continue beyond this year. We also learned that scanning 4,000 additional pages would put us into the next price category, lowering the cost by \$1,500. Since these pages needed to be bound in book form, Pete suggested that the Alumni Association consider scanning archived copies of Penman Literary Magazine that were in bound form – 1948-1973. Adding these 4,000 Penman pages to our purchase order brought the total to approximately \$3,500.



Bound copies of Penman Literary Magazine.

Due to the uncertainty of the grant funding continuing beyond this year, the Alumni Association decided to move ahead on the digitization process, with the Alumni Association providing the remaining money while we continued fundraising with alumni. After discussion, members of the Alumni Association approved funding at the April 10 meeting.

In mid-April, Pete High and Betsy Lockman '60 spent two days packing the W-L Yearbooks (1925-2012) and Penman Issues (1948-1973) in eleven boxes, which Pete drove to Princeton for digitizing and placement on the Internet Archive. The 2013 Blue & Gray was sent to Princeton as soon as it was received from the publisher.



Pete High '53 hard at work packing yearbooks.

Fellow yearbook-packer Betsy Lockman commented: "Pete had every detail of this packing project worked out to the 'nth' degree. The personnel at the school couldn't have been more supportive of what we are doing and are looking forward to it coming to fruition as well. I know that we all will be proud of this effort and each and every alumnus will enjoy viewing it on the internet." The Alumni Association thanks W-L librarian Esperanza de Sisneros and Principal Gregg Robertson for their support, our generous alumni members for their donations supporting this project, and special thanks to Pete High and Betsy Lockman for their work preparing the annuals and Penman magazines for safe shipment.

Scanning the 25,000 pages took a few months; all documents should be on the Internet Archive by late June. To view them, visit: www.apsva.us/washingtonlee. Click on the "Alumni" tab, and then click the "Digital Yearbook/Penman" link on the left-side of the page. The Alumni Association welcomes contributions to support this digitalization project. If you wish to make a donation, please indicate "Yearbook Digitization" on your donation. To learn more about the Internet Archive, visit archive.org/about/.

Submitted by Jennifer Lane '95, Pete High '53, and Betsy Lockman '60. Photographs courtesy the Internet Archive and Pete High '53.

Contact Pete High wlaa.president@yahoo.com for further information on this effort.

Meet Me at the Fair

The Arlington County Fair returns to the Thomas Jefferson Community Center this August and your Washington-Lee Alumni Association will be there. The outdoor rides and games open Wednesday, August 7, and indoor exhibits open Friday, August 9. Indoor hours are Friday from 4 p.m. – 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. If you live in the county or are visiting, stop by and chat, page through an old yearbook, and check out this year's special exhibition. If you have the time to stay a while, consider helping to staff the booth. Two to four alumni at a time staff the booth in two-hour shifts. Not around that weekend? Help us set-up on Thursday 3 – 5 p.m. or break down Sunday 7 – 9 p.m. If you'd like to help this year, contact Mila Albertson at mila4646@gmail.com. For directions and information about the fair, visit arlingtoncountyfair.us/. See you at the fair! Bring a friend!

Submitted by Jennifer Lane '95

Walk Down Memory Lane with a Building Tour

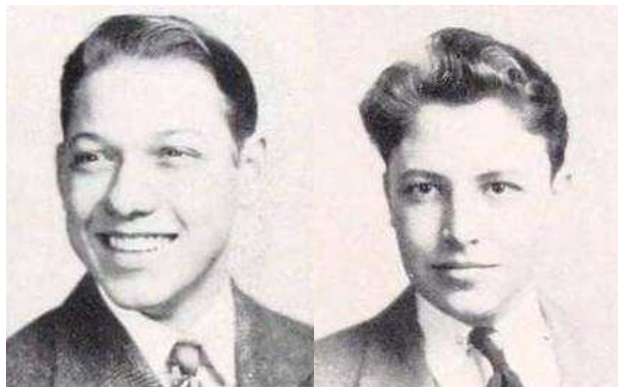
Invite your class reunion to walk the halls of Washington-Lee with our alumni tour guides. Your Alumni Association provides guides for groups – large or small – as one of the functions of the organization. On tour we explore the new school's state-of-the-art LEED Gold facilities and encounter memories of our own high school days along the way – Old Oaken Buckets, images of crew teams past, a bird's-eye view of War Memorial Stadium from the library balcony, the Family & Consumer Science and Design Technology classrooms (i.e.: "Home Economics" and "Shop"), and photographs from yearbooks past incorporated into the columns of the main hall have been popular stops. The "proud walls and hallowed halls" of today's Generals may not be the same ones that we walked, but as our feet walk the new school halls it's easy to retrace our own high school days. Reminisce with us. Tours are offered on Saturdays, take between one to two hours, and can accommodate any size group, even if you just someone visiting who would like to see the school. Contact Betsy Zimmerman Lockman '60 at dblockman@verizon.net or 703-354-7112 to schedule a date and time to make this happen!

Our tour guides have lots of fun talking with so many alumni. The Tour Committee is looking forward to a great upcoming touring season, and we're looking for new tour guides. If you'd like to join this fabulous group of volunteers, contact Betsy.

Submitted by Betsy Lockman '60 and Jennifer Lane '95.

A Near-Miss Reunion – Thomas Creekmore and Lewis Burke, Class of 1941

Many of us encounter former classmates in the years after our graduation from Washington-Lee. We expect to meet many of them again at class reunion events. If we live locally, we have run into fellow alums at the grocery store or on Metrorail. We may have met former classmates in the most unexpected places, sometimes halfway around the world. Most of us, however, haven't experienced an almost-reunion quite like Thomas Creekmore '41 and Lewis Burke '41 have.



W-L Seniors Tom Creekmore and Lew Burke, Blue and Gray 1941, courtesy the Internet Archive.

Tom arrived at W-L in 1938 as a sophomore from Portsmouth, Virginia. Tom and Lew both put their bikes to work while they were students at Washington-Lee. Tom cycled to school from his Cherrydale neighborhood, joining the W-L Bicycle Club and later becoming its President. Both Tom and Lew had newspaper routes. Lew helped route managers solicit for new customers which he excelled at, even winning a three-day trip to New York City for the 1939 World's Fair. Back at W-L, Tom spotted movie star and alumni Forrest Tucker '38 returning to his old alma mater: "he would pull up in front of W-L in his chauffeured limousine to visit his favorite teacher, Ma [Sally] Loving." In his senior year, Tom met a recent transfer from Mississippi, Barbara Jean Hostetler '42, a brunette with a southern drawl; the high school sweethearts married in October 1942 after she graduated.

There were two graduating classes in 1941, one in February and one in June. Tom graduated with the early class and worked for a Washington bank before securing a job in the General Offices of Pennsylvania Central Airlines at recently-opened Washington National Airport. After his June graduation, Lew worked at C&P Telephone Company until his parents gave their consent for him to

enlist. He was called up in January 1943 and arrived in England in September 1944. Coincidentally, both alums entered the service on the same date, Tom departing Arlington by bus for Camp Lee, Virginia while Lew took the train from Union Station to Miami for basic training.



Tom in uniform in 1945 and recently, courtesy Tom Creekmore '41.

Tom and Lew served in two different bombardment groups that were part of the Eighth Air Force. Tom was a radio operator in the 305th; Lew served as a co-pilot in the 398th. Both bomb groups flew many missions over Northern Europe, bombing infrastructure targets – factories, warehouses, shipyards, and railways. By the end of the war, Tom had flown nineteen missions and Lew flew twenty-nine.



Lew in England – as a newly-minted pilot and again in 2008, courtesy Lew Burke '41.

By mid-April 1945, the war was nearing an end and the Soviet army had encircled Berlin. Early on Thursday, April 19, 1945 nearly 1,200 B-17 bombers and fighter aircraft assembled in the skies over England before their mission to bomb German rail targets. One veteran recalled the weather as bright but cloudy that morning. While the pilots assembled their planes into formations, the rest of the crew could relax before the mission. In the radio room of his B-17, Tom was taking a brief nap. Suddenly, he was awakened as the plane took a dive. Tom recalls:

I became weightless and hit the top [of the plane]. Immediately afterward, I hit the floor with

a thump. This was repeated until I was able to grab the leg of my radio table and hold on until our B-17 resumed normal flight. Over the intercom, I soon learned that our 12-plane formation had flown into another 12-plane formation and it was up to each of the 24 flight crews to take whatever evasive action was necessary to save their airplanes along with their crews.

One plane from Tom's formation made a swift dive, reaching over 250 miles per hour and coming within fifty feet of the ground before pulling up.

Little did Tom know that his former classmate Lew was in the other plane formation. Lew later recounted the near-miss:

I remember that my pilot was flying off of the right wing of the plane we were in formation with, and [he] could not see the [other] formation that was at exactly the same altitude as ours. I grabbed the yoke of my plane, N7 B, at the last second and put most of my crew on the top of the fuselage as I dived to miss the plane coming straight at us.



This depiction of the incident shows Tom's B-17 with the green triangle "G" on the tail. Lew's plane with the Triangle W on the tail and number N7-B on the fuselage is shown below taking evasive action to avoid a collision. "Wake-Up Call" by Paul Rendel, oil on canvas, 18" x 24", 2013, used by permission of Tom Creekmore.

Tom writes that "approximately 200 guys were flying with the two squadrons that day. Yet, there were no collisions or casualties, and all 24 crews completed their missions, because of the quick thinking and skillful maneuvers by the pilots and co-pilots."

This mission on April 19 was Tom's final combat mission; Lew's final combat mission took place a few days later. A week after the war ended, both men participated in "Operation Revival" in which 200 planes airlifted American and British soldiers out of prisoner-of-war camps in Germany. As the planes landed and took off, Tom writes that he and Lew "were only a few planes from each other that day and never knew it." Tom returned to work at Pennsylvania Central Airlines (later renamed Capitol, then incorporated into United Airlines). His career took him to Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Baltimore before he retired in 1981. Lew returned to his job with the C & P Telephone Company, where he worked as a repairman and in management until his retirement in 1978. He continued working as a realtor until retiring last year at age 89.

Tom always wondered about that other squadron. He checked into records at the National Archives and kept following leads until this year, when someone suggested that it might have been the 398th bomb group. Remembering that his W-L classmate Lew was a co-pilot in the 398th, he asked if he recalled the near-collision that morning and Lew remembered it well. And so, sixty-eight years later, Tom finally solved the mystery of who his squadron collided with – and learned that he and his classmate had luckily avoided a chance reunion far from home.

Editor's Note: Although they came close to meeting again in the air on April 19, 1945 and correspond regularly, Tom and Lew haven't met in person since their days at W-L. Tom writes that classmate Clark Luther '41 flew 30 missions in the U.S. Army's Eighth Air Force before returning home. After the war, he became a pilot for Pennsylvania Central/Capitol/United Airlines retiring in 1984 as Chief Pilot and Senior Vice President. Clark died in 2010. Many members of the Class of 1941 served in World War II; at least four 1941 classmates lost their lives in the war.

Submitted by Jennifer M. Lane '95. Many thanks to Tom Creekmore '41 and Lew Burke '41 for sharing their story with our alumni. Do you have an alumni story or W-L memories to share in our newsletter? E-mail the newsletter editor Jennifer Lane '95 at wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com.

Sports Roundup

Eight National District Championships and First Principals' Cup Win

This year, Washington-Lee concluded the 2012-2013 sports season with eight National District Championship wins and took the SunTrust Mortgage National District Principals' Cup for the first time.



The Principals' Cup, proudly displayed in the main hall of Washington-Lee.

W-L's sports teams competed against neighboring high schools as part of the Virginia High School League's (VHSL) AAA National District. Other National District schools are Hayfield, Mount Vernon, and Thomas Edison in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County; JEB Stuart and Falls Church just across the Fairfax and City of Falls Church borders, respectively; and Arlington rivals Wakefield and Yorktown.

Our National District Champions were:

- Girls Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Girls Indoor Track
- Girls Gymnastics
- Boys Swim and Dive
- Girls Track & Field
- Boys Tennis
- Baseball

Boys Swim and Dive had an undefeated season; like Boys Tennis this is their third National District title win in a row. This was the fourth year in a row that Girls Gymnastics were National District Champions; they went on to win their second Northern Region Gymnastics Championship in a row.

The SunTrust Mortgage National District Principals' Cup is awarded to the high school with the strongest record in VHSL competitions during the school year, based on points. Rival Yorktown High School has won the Principals' Cup since its inception in the 2009-10 school year. This year, W-L edged out Yorktown, receiving 179 points to Yorktown's 172. The next closest finishers,

Thomas Edison and Hayfield High Schools, tied with 147 points.

The next time you visit the school or attend an Alumni Association meeting, you can see the Principals' Cup for yourself. It's in the large display case in the main hallway to the right of the Alumni Conference Room. It will be displayed at W-L during the coming school year – and hopefully it will return there for another school year!

New Softball Field Opened



Our new softball field!

Washington-Lee inaugurated a new softball field on May 6 on the Washington-Lee campus at the corner of Washington Boulevard and N. Quincy Street with a 16-1 victory over JEB Stuart High School. The softball team previously used Field #3 in Quincy Park.

It is fitting that Washington-Lee teacher and alumna Lori Grimm '76 was one of those who threw out a ceremonial pitch. Lori was a captain of the softball team, excelling at basketball and soccer as well. She later returned to W-L to teach physical education and coach Generals softball.

Two New Crew Shells Dedicated

On the morning of this year's Charlie Butt Regatta our crew team dedicated two new boats – the "Charlie Butt" and "Tom Chisnell". According to the W-L crew website, since the team's 50th anniversary in 1999 there has always been one eight-person shell called "Charlie Butt" in honor of the founding coach. Later, the crew team decided to similarly honor Tom Chisnell, the founding coach for the women's crew team. For names of some previous crew shells, visit "The Ghost Fleet" at <http://w-lcrew.org/team-history/ghost-fleet>.



Crew shells “Charlie Butt” and “Tom Chisnell”

Would you like to contribute W-L sports memories to the newsletter on a regular basis? Contact

wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Jennifer M. Lane '95. Photographs courtesy Jennifer M. Lane '95, wlatletics.org, and WLHSPincipal Twitter Feed twitter.com/WLHSPincipal.

Upcoming Meetings

September 11

October 9

November 13

Meetings take place at 7:30 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School (1301 N. Stafford St.) in the Alumni Conference Room, located on the first floor on the Main Concourse. Use the Stafford St. entrance for access. All are welcome!

Alumni Association Officers

President: Pete High [Class of '53]

wlaa.president@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Denny Phipps [Class of '63]

wlaa.veep@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ed Peetz [Class of '70]

wlaa.treasurer@yahoo.com

Secretary: Lynne (Schmidt) Lilly [Class of '60]

wlaa.secretary@yahoo.com

This newsletter is being edited by Jennifer M. Lane [Class of '95]. Questions, comments, ideas and newsworthy information may be sent to her at

wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com.

The W-L Alumni Association website, including the Alumni Database is available at www.apsva.us/washingtonlee then click on the [Alumni](#) link at the top.

Upcoming Reunions

2013

Class of 1983	Aug 9-10, 2013	Cathleen Clime	wl1983@aol.com
Class of 1953	Sept 27-29, 2013	Pete High	plhighjr11@verizon.net
Class of 1958	Oct 11-12, 2013	Kitty (Sherwood) Richmond	wlhs1958@yahoo.com
Class of 1963	Oct 4-5, 2013	Bob & Joan (Odland) Cocker	jrcocker@verizon.net
Class of 2003	Oct 5, 2013	Andrea Alegrett	andrea.alegrett@gmail.com
Class of 1973	Sep/Oct 2013	Julia (Money) Crull	jcrull3@yahoo.com
Class of 1988	Oct 11-13, 2013	Minh Le	wl88reunion@gmail.com

2014

Class of 1959	Oct 10-11, 2014	Jane/Bob Lanham	rjlanham@aol.com
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Current reunion information is always available on the [Reunion Scorecard](#).