

C.G.H.S. Class of '53



Fifty-fifth Anniversary Commemoration May 31 & June 1, 2008

**Saturday May 31, 2008
Pound Town Hall
(Old C.G.H.S. Building)**

**Sunday June 1, 2008
Mosby's Restaurant
(Wise Main Intersection)**

6th Decade - Act One

Commemorating our Fifty-fifth
Anniversary

May 31 & June 1, 2008

**They saved the best
'til last!**



**Class
Of
1953**

FOREWORD

This booklet was compiled as a means of providing each member and honorary member of the Christopher Gist High School Class of 1953 with a convenient, take-home collection of the items created for purposes of documenting and, we hope, enhancing our celebration of this fifty-fifth anniversary of our graduation from CGHS.

We thank each classmate and honorary classmate for being here for this event. To those classmates and honorary classmates who were not able to join us here today, we collectively send our best wishes and hopes that you remain well. We are disappointed that you are not here with us. You wouldn't have missed this for the world!

We all owe special thanks to Rita Addington, Phyllis Williams, Zell Rector, Jim Mullins, Ethel Baker, and Carson Robinson for the part each of them played in generating ideas, putting parts of our program together, and collecting input for this booklet. This reunion and compilation of this booklet would not have been possible without the efforts of these selfless classmates.

Our words of gratitude to the people who made this reunion possible would not be complete without expressing our deep appreciation for the kindness and generosity of Mayor Jackie Gilliam and the good people of Pound in allowing us to hold our Saturday May 31, 2008 event in the meeting room at Pound Town Hall, "The Old CGHS Building". What a fortuitous act of kindness that turned out to be! It allowed us to build our program for this event around being able to come back here to "ground zero" of our high school experience. Our class is forever indebted to Mayor Gilliam and her people.

OUR LETTER TO MAYOR JACKIE GILLIAM

C. G. H. S. Class of '53
Fifty-fifth Anniversary Commemoration

April 25, 2008

The Honorable Jackie Gilliam
Mayor - Town of Pound
P.O. Box 880
Pound, VA 24279

Dear Mayor Gilliam:

This letter is written on behalf of the Christopher Gist High School Class of 1953. You cannot imagine how pleased we all were when Rita Addington informed us that you had so graciously agreed to allow us to use the Town Hall meeting room for our class reunion on Saturday, May 31st, 2008.

Your act of kindness came at a moment when we were struggling to put together a program that would give special meaning to this year's commemoration of our 55th anniversary. Being able to return to "the old CGHS building" changed everything! You and the good people of Pound have given meaning and purpose to this reunion, beyond what any of us could have done on our own. Our class will be forever indebted to you and your town.

From the bottoms of our CGHS hearts we say in unison, "Thank you Mayor Gilliam! Thank you people of Pound!"

Sincerely



Ronald L. Cox
Christopher Gist High School Class of 1953

Thank you Mayor Gilliam for your kindness!
And thank you Rita Addington for being there for us!

C.G.H.S Class of '53
6th DECADE - Act One

PROGRAM

Saturday, May 31, 2008

Event: Dinner Meeting

Location: Pound Town Hall (Old C.G.H.S. Building)

Activities: 5:40 – 6:00 p.m.

- Arrive at Location
Claim, affix and wear name tag (provided)

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Social Hour Class of '53
- Committee Recognition Ron Cox
- Prayer James D. Mullins

7:10 – (open ended)

- Dinner Class of '53
- A Great Day Revisited Zell Rector
- Open Forum (Ad Hoc) All Attendees
- Conclusion Ron Cox

Sunday June 1, 2008

Event: Brunch Meeting at Mosby's Restaurant (Meeting Room)

Location: Directly across U.S. 23 from the Best Western in Wise

Activities: 9:30 a.m. – (open ended)

- Welcome Phyllis Williams
- Prayer James D. Mullins
- Brunch All Attendees
- After-Brunch Presentation Phyllis Williams
- "Act Two" Planning All Attendees
- Conclusion Ad Hoc

CONTENTS

<u>SUB-SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE Origins of CGHS Name and Emblem	1
<i>TOMAHAWK</i> RE-CREATION	5
<i>TOMAHAWK</i> STAFF	6
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM	6
“FOLLOW THE GLEAM” By Miss Trula Qualls	7
CLASS HISTORY	9
HONOR ROLL	11
CLASS PICTURE	13
PUBLIC NOTICE	14
CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS	15
REFLECTIONS OF RUTH RINGSTAFF	31
CLASS OF ‘53 SPECIAL REPORT	33
APPENDIX (Class Roster)	A-1

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Origins of CGHS Name and Emblems

Christopher Gist was born in Baltimore in 1706. Gist was trained as a surveyor by his father who was prominent in that profession and was one of the people responsible for plotting the City of Baltimore.

By 1750 Christopher Gist lived in Yadkin Valley, North Carolina, where he was a neighbor to Daniel Boone. Gist was contracted by The Ohio Company to explore and map the country of the Ohio River. Throughout 1750 and 1751, Gist kept a journal, presumably for reference in creating finished documents for his clients. In his journal he chronicled the movements of himself and a small party of men who explored and mapped the Ohio countryside from present-day Pittsburgh to the Great Miami River (west of present-day Cincinnati). There the Gist party crossed into Kentucky and eventually made their way back to Yadkin Valley. It was that return journey that brought Christopher Gist through the Pound basin, site of present-day Pound.

On Tuesday, April 2nd, 1751, Gist killed a buffalo, somewhere along what we now know as South Fork. On Wednesday, April 3rd, 1751 he and his party reached a large encampment of Indian warriors situated at the mouth of a small creek (Indian Creek). The War Chief in command of the camp was named The Crane. Apparently, The Crane treated Gist and his party hospitably, allowing them to stay there and rest their horses. Gist and his party departed from the camp on Saturday, April 6th, 1751.

From this snippet of colonial history, featuring a white frontiersman/explorer named Christopher Gist and a tomahawk wielding War Chief named The Crane, fast-forward some 170 years. A four-room high school was built very near the spot where the Warrior's Camp had stood. Someone very astutely and aptly named the school Christopher Gist High School and adopted as the school's emblems the arrowhead and the tomahawk. One can imagine the energy and excitement with which those tributes to a distant past were contemplated. One may also comprehend that, with the passage of time, the distant past and not-so-distant past eventually meld together.

Schools in Pound

The record is not clear as to when the first school appeared in Pound. During the late 1880's school was taught in the Old Methodist Church, later blown off its foundation by a tornado. In the early 1900's a four-room wooden schoolhouse was built on the same hill where the church had stood.

The First Christopher Gist High School

In the late 1920's a four-room brick schoolhouse was built and opened as Christopher Gist High School (C.G.H.S.).



First Christopher Gist High School

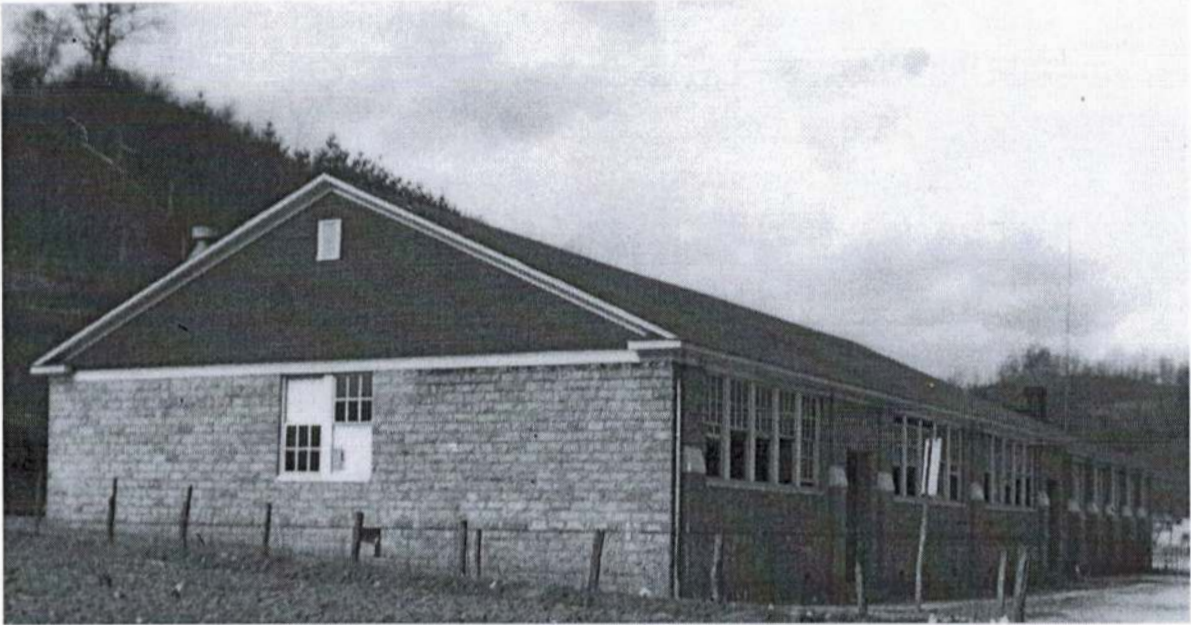
C.G.H.S. graduated its first Senior Class in 1928, a class of one, Thelma Roberson. In 1930, Principal Luther Addington left CGHS to become principal at Wise. He was replaced by O.M. Morris. In that same year C.G.H.S. became an accredited high school.

In December, 1942 the C.G.H.S. building burned to the ground. The old four-room wooden schoolhouse was brought back into service, along with several other buildings around town, including the Methodist Church, pressed into service as a school.

Meanwhile, as the town made do amid what was probably not as chaotic as it sounds, a new Christopher Gist High School was constructed and began operation in the fall of 1944. (For some of us, particularly those of us who lived in the upper reaches of the Pound basin, it may come as a surprise that CGHS, as we knew it, was only three years old when we started 7th Grade there in 1947...amazing!)

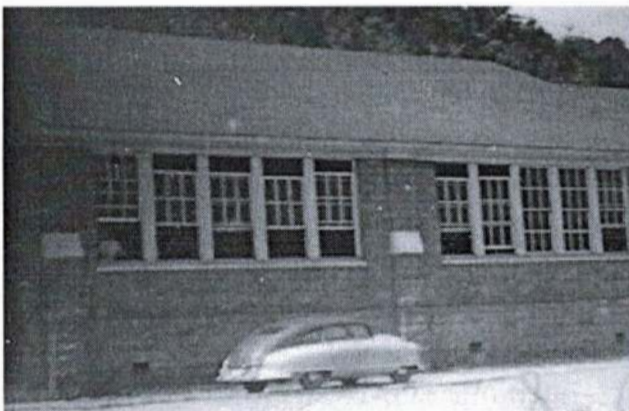
Our CGHS Building

Looking just as she did the day we left her...except more forsaken and empty.



As a name, Christopher Gist High School ceased to exist at Thanksgiving, 1953, when the new, larger, etc. Pound High School opened. According to Phyllis Williams, a publication called *The Tomahawk*, was produced monthly at Pound High School until that name was dropped in favor of something else in the early 1980's. Likewise, tomahawks and arrowheads now have no currency anywhere around Pound. (Except, perhaps, where the spirits of Christopher Gist and The Crane still linger about the hills and valleys of the Pound basin. Perhaps you will allow me this one editorial comment, since I too don't live here anymore.)

**OHHH!...And there was this car that almost became a person...
HONESTLY!!!**



There was this car named?????

MEMORY TEST

1. In what year was the car in this picture built?
2. What make of car was this?
3. What was this car's name?
(Yes, it had a name! Hint: This car was not named "The Qualls Mobile".

If you cannot remember, it's o.k. You will stumble upon the answers on some future page.

Life After Christopher Gist High School

POUND TOWN HALL



Befittingly our brief review of now-ancient local history ends here - right here where “the old CGHS building” languished after we left her in 1953, in between unsuccessful efforts to become a funeral home. We are made happy by our discovery that she has been resurrected as the Pound Town Hall! Our prediction is that she will make it this time. Perhaps she previously had her eye on the wrong type of “tician”. (You know... politician versus mortician!)

From deep within our hearts we say, “Fare thee well old CGHS... fare thee well.”

TOMAHAWK Resurrection and Ownership



Our Bridge from Now-Ancient Local History to CGHS Class of '53 History (Past, Present, and Future)

Originally we had planned to use this space for transitioning from Pound Basin and CGHS history to Class of '53 history. For that purpose, we created a bit of hyperbolic spoofery in the form of a “PUBLIC NOTICE” (fun to write but too much for this space.) That proclamation has moved to a later page in this booklet, for reference, if you need it. It says, in essence, that some generation of fools who came after us buried our hatchet, and we dug it up. (Our “hatchet” being the TOMAHAWK.) Further, we now claim the intellectual property rights to the TOMAHAWK for ourselves and our progeny throughout the United States and North America forever.

As you will immediately see, we do, in fact, need our TOMAHAWK. We need it for a review of our Class History, as told in 1953. We also need it to chronicle for our progeny CGHS Class of '53 History to be made here today and in the future.

TOMAHAWK

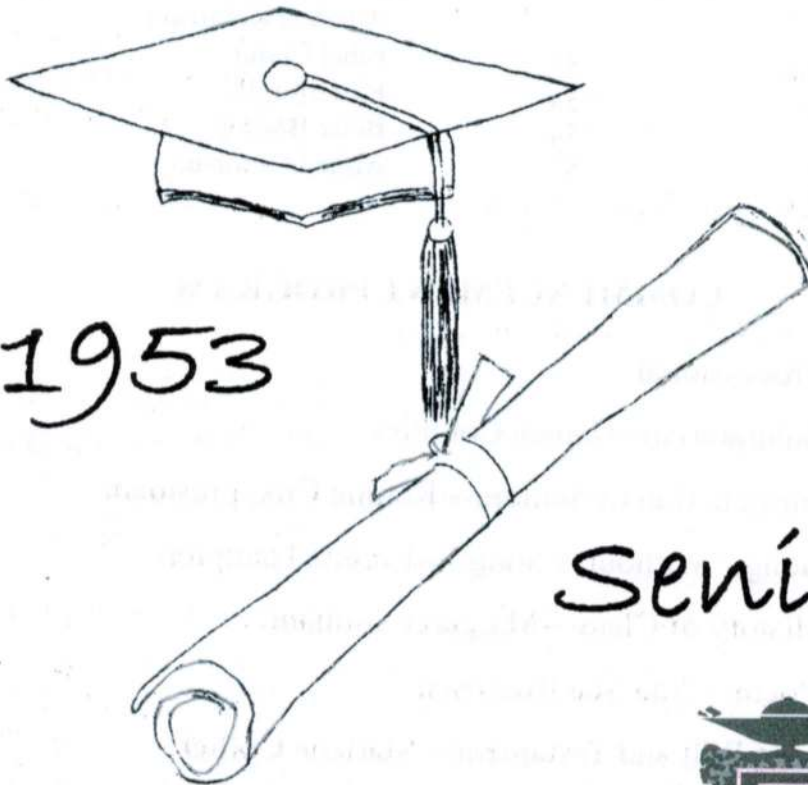
Vol. XXV

No. 8

C.G.H.S.

Pound, Va.

June 3, 1953



1953

Seniors



Staff

Editor		Feature Editor:	
Phyllis Bolling	'53	Marlene Collier	'53
Assistant Editor:		Circulation Manager:	
Edward Joe Mullins	'54	Thomas Jackson	'55
Mimeographer:		Gossip Editor:	
Robert Mullins	'53	Wilma Riddle	'53
Business Manager:		Ass't. Gossip Editor	
James Countiss	'53	Frances Hounshell	'54
Ass't. Business Manager:		Typists:	
Harold Roberson	'54	Ada Sue Robinson	'53
Arts Editors:		Ethel Carter	'53
Mary Ann Countiss	'53	Rita Sturgill	'53
Margaret Stidham	'53	Betty Bolling	'53
Frankie Cox	'54	Almeda Stidham	'53
Brazella Stidham	'55		

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Processional

Salutatorian---James Countiss

Introduction of Seniors---Ronnie Cox, president

Song, "Without A Song"---Loretta Hampton

History of Class---Margaret Stidham

Poem---Ada Sue Robinson

Last Will and Testament---Marlene Collier

Prophecy---Ozella Killen

Song---Mrs. Cecil Bolling

Valedictory---Phyllis Bolling

Song---Auld Lang Syne

Recessional

EDITORIAL

FOLLOW THE GLEAM

By Miss Trula Qualls

On the northern border line of this country is located Lake Superior, the largest fresh water lake in the world. Its outlet is the St. Mary's River which is very crooked and dangerous and in early times many wrecked vessels could be seen along its shores. To avoid these misfortunes the government established a system of "orange lights" so that the mariner can keep his vessel exactly in the channel, by having two lights in line and steering directly for them until he comes to the range of two others, and thus the river is just as safe by night as by day. The instruction it is necessary for the captain to give to the pilot is, "Follow the Gleam."

The same is true in every human life. We have the gleam of the "orange lights" of others lives to guide us as we struggle through the mists and uncertainties on the great highway of life. Were it not for these, we might find ourselves like the early mariners on the crooked river, lost in the darkness of the night and be wrecked on a rock or sandbar we could not see.

The road of life has been explored and the dangerous places have been marked thousands of times by those who have gone before us, some of them going safely through and others going to wreck and ruin. The one should be a guide to us as well as the other and we should carefully study the various signposts they have left behind.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches" for without it, gold has no value, birth no distinction, station no dignity, beauty no charm and age no reverence.

A good character is a precious thing, above rubies, gold, crown, or kingdoms and the work of making it is the noblest labor on earth. Money-getting is unhealthy when it impoverishes the mind or dries up the sources of the spiritual life; when it extinguishes the sense of beauty, and makes one indifferent to the wonder of the nature and art; when it blunts the moral sense and confuses the distinction between right and wrong, virtue and vice. Character is perpetual wealth, and beside him who possesses it the millionaire who has it not seems but a pauper. Plain living, right thought and grand effort are real riches.

This is an age of specialists when a man centers his life effort on a single thing and makes a success of it. Nature gives to each some talent that dominates all the others and points the way toward a natural goal. He has but to "Follow the Gleam" and his life will usually be a success. A one-talent man who decides upon a definite objective accomplishes more than a ton-talent man who scatters his energies and never knows exactly what he will do.

Victories that are easy are cheap. Those only are worth having which come as the result of hard fighting. Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortunes, but great minds rise above them.

(continues)

It is one of the mysteries of our life that genius is nourished by poverty. Its greatest works have been achieved by sorrowing ones of the world. Not in the brilliant salon, nor in ease and competence, is genius usually born and nurtured; but often in adversity and destitution, in bare and fireless garrets, with the noise of squalid children and in the deep gloom of uncheered despair. In scenes like those have men labored, studied and trained themselves, until at last they have emanated from obscurity the shining lights of their times and have become the companions of kings, the guides and teachers of their kind, and exercised an influence upon the thought of the world for generations that came after them. (*"FOLLOW THE GLEAM" ends.*)

Note: "FOLLOW THE GLEAM" was retyped verbatim except for author recognition, paragraph spacing, and correction of obvious typographical errors.

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED



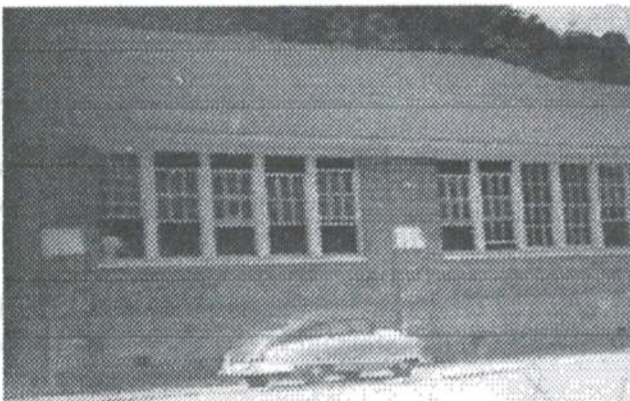
TO



1953 SENIORS C. G. H. S.

Note: This "MEMORY TEST ANSWERS" inset is not part of June 3, 1953 TOMAHAWK.

About this car that almost became a person...



There was this car named George!

MEMORY TEST ANSWERS

1. The car in this picture was built in the 1940's. (James D. Mullins might know the exact year.)
2. The car was a two-tone green Nash.
3. This car's name was/is George. (Miss Trula Qualls, we suppose, named the car.)

Spare us the "not worth the exercise" comments. Miss Qualls effusively shared details related to George's "behavior".



June 3, 1953

CLASS HISTORY

Too often history is regarded as something that is dull, lifeless, but we the class of '53 think our history is unusually vivid and attention-arresting, especially since it is concerned with such unusual and intelligent people.

In the first place, we represent more different schools and sections of Robertson District than any other class in the history of our school. Of the thirty-four members of this class, only three live in Pound. When I told Mr. Orby Cantrell that the majority of this class came from the outlying districts of Pound, he said he didn't believe any place could out-lie Pound!

Then, we believe this class to be the best educated of any other class--certainly enough schools have had a chance at us. Not only have we attended school in seven different states, but we have been enrolled in 28 different grade schools and 4 different high schools. Do you get a picture of the wide-spread suffering we have inflicted upon many unfortunate men and women whose only fault has been that they selected the teaching profession?

Another fact about our history is that no one in the class began and took all of his training in this school. The 1941 was a most eventful one. The Japs bombed Pearl Harbor that year, our school house burned, and that same year Oz ella Killen and Marie Sheppard enrolled in Miss Boggs's class of young hopefuls. Now we don't blame these girls for the bombing of our naval base, but there is a question in our minds regarding the act of arson. Be that as it may, these girls not long after departed for Baltimore.

This class didn't take form as such until the fifth grade when Loretta Hampton and Barbara Sutphin thought they had outgrown Hillman. In the fifth grade Marie Sheppard joined them. They liked Pound school very much and would have been very happy that year if it had not been for the dread of Mr. Morris's paddle which even then was coyly reclining in his office.

Next year these three girls were joined by three others of this graduating class. Benetta Baker and Inez Meade had succeeded in fooling the teacher at Mullins school and from Hamilton University came Juanita Meade.

In the seventh grade those students welcomed Ronnie Cox and Rita Sturgill from Riner; Wanda Meade and Joan Meade from Dotson; and Bobby Joe Varner, from Cincinnati. The seventh grade wasn't too difficult and with the help of the teachers and summer school this group made it to the eighth.

Everyone knew the eighth would be easy--only four lessons to prepare! The present class picked up so many new members that year one would think there had been a sale. From Dewy Institution came James Countiss, Barbara Bowman, Ethel and Frances Carter, Flat Gap

(continued)

seminary sent us Robert Mullins, J. D. Mullins, June Mullins, Almeda Stidham, Phyllis Bolling, Betty Bolling and Wilma Riddle; from Laurel Fork came Janice Hubbard and Mary Ann Countiss.

Closplint, Kentucky sent us Paul West and Dorchester bestowed Marlene Collier upon us. We really enjoyed the eight grade; if the teachers didn't have a good time with their 108 they'll admit that life wasn't dull!

High school next! Ada Sue Robinson from Dunham and Shelby Jean Selvey from Harrogate, Tennessee were some of our new classmates. We really did have a good time--studied barely enough and played as much as we possibly could.

Kenneth Stallard was waiting for us in the tenth and Ozella Killen felt brave enough to come back and join us in the eleventh thinking all was forgiven.

Junior year was really exciting--football and basketball games--Junior play--Junior-Senior Banquet. It was in this year that we lost so many of our classmates, matrimony claiming several.

At the beginning of Senior year we found three new members; Margaret Stidham who had gone winter and summer to school; Don Varner who was waiting for us and Ruth Adams who had at last decided to leave Yankee land!

Senior year at last! We gave five public programs including "One Foot in Heaven", our Senior play. We also raised enough money to take a Senior Trip of which 32 participated.

This year of our 34 Seniors, two we think will be married in the near future, twenty plan to enter college this summer or fall, eight will probably seek employment later, one was called to service, and three have jobs.

Much in the account of our lives has been omitted, but if you want to hear some spicy news just listen to us talk sometime---when the teachers aren't near; but please don't tell.

CLASS HISTORY ends

*Note: The foregoing "CLASS HISTORY", like other old Tomahawk articles, was retyped verbatim, except for correcting obvious typographical errors. One can imagine that correcting typos was more trouble than it was worth in the stone-age environment amidst which Phyllis Williams and her staff worked in 1953. **Phyllis describes the process:** "The Tomahawks were typed on long stencils; then wrapped around a drum and copies manually cranked off. I'm surprised we were able to ever get it done. The quality is very poor and the (original) pages aged yellow...but you can still feel the spirit."*

Honor Roll

Browsing the Honor Roll sections of the few old Tomahawks that I currently have, I KNEW that I would not find my name listed there. I just wanted to see who the honor students in the Twelfth Grade actually were. Here's what I find:

December, 1952

Twelfth Grade

Phyllis Bolling
James Countiss

February, 1953

Twelfth Grade

Phyllis Bolling

March, 1953

Phyllis Bolling

April, 1953

James Countiss
Ozella Killen
Joan Meade

Am I the only one who sees a pattern here? In retrospect, it was easy to see who our Valedictorian-In-Waiting was. For Phyllis, failing to make the honor roll must have been... (Well, I certainly have no right to speak for Phyllis.)

The larger picture is the valuable purpose that was served by posting honor rolls for all of the grades then taught at CGHS. We all remember the emphasis that CGHS placed on scholarship, which probably made many of us better students than we might otherwise have been.

**BE ALL THAT AS IT MAY, OUR FINAL
MOMENT AT C.G.H.S. CAME...** (continued)

THIS WAS US, SIGNING OFF!

Phyllis Carson Robinson Sutphin
Bolling Barbara
Robert C. Mullins James Countess
Nanda Meade
Melly Jean Selvey
Barbara Cowan Ozella Killeen
Juanita Meade June Mullins
James Hubbaud Almeda Stidham
Ruth Adams Douglas Mullins
Kenneth Stallard Ethel Carter
Loretta Hampton
Marie Sheppard
Paul Scott Wade
Patty Bolling
Jonny Warner
Mary Ann Countess
Frances Carter Bonetta Baker
Margaret Stidham
Wilma J. Riddle
Joan Meade
Bob Turner
Marlene Collier
Allie Johnson

We graduated, and have the picture to prove it!



- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| * 1. Janice Hubbard | 12. Marlene Collier | 23. Margaret Stidham |
| 2. June Mullins | 13. Barbara Bowman | 24. Mary A. Countiss |
| 3. Inez Mcade | 14. Betty Bolling | 25. Benetta Baker |
| 4. Joan Meade | 15. Barbara Sutphin | ** 26. Carson Robinson |
| 5. Wanda Meade | 16. Phyllis Bolling | 27. Paul West |
| 6. Juanita Meade | 17. Loretta Hampton | 28. J. D. Mullins |
| 7. Shelby Jean Selvy | 18. Ada Robinson | 29. Kenneth Stallard |
| 8. Marie Sheppard | 19. Ethel Carter | 30. Robert Mullins |
| # 9. Johnnie Ruth Adams | 20. Ozella Killen | 31. James L. Countiss |
| 10. Frances Carter | 21. Wilma Riddle | 32. Bob Varner |
| 11. Almeda Stidham | 22. Rita Sturgill | ## 33. Ron Cox |

* Front left corner of picture

** Back left corner of picture

Front right corner of picture

Back right corner of picture

PUBLIC NOTICE



Vol. XXVI No. 1 C.G.H.S. North America June 3, 2008

★★
 ★ **KNOW ALL MEN AND WOMEN BY THESE PRESENTS that** ★
 ★ **whereas a certain student publication known as *TOMAHAWK*** ★
 ★ **was, at a distant former time, maintained and regularly published** ★
 ★ **by certain faculty advisers and students at a school named** ★
 ★ **Christopher Gist High School (hereinafter known as** ★
 ★ **C.G.H.S.), Town of Pound, County of Wise, Virginia,** ★
 ★ ★
 ★ **And whereas the hereinabove named school was abandoned** ★
 ★ **along with the very name C.G.H.S. on or about November 26,** ★
 ★ **1953 and whereas herein above named student publication,** ★
 ★ ***TOMAHAWK* was ceased for all future times and purposes, for** ★
 ★ **whatever motivation, or lack thereof, on or about June 1st, 1982,** ★
 ★ ★
 ★ **And whereas the hereinabove inscribed *TOMAHAWK* name** ★
 ★ **and banner have been resurrected and recreated by certain** ★
 ★ **members of the C.G.H.S. Class of Nineteen Hundred and** ★
 ★ **Fifty-Three (hereinafter known as C.G.H.S. Class of '53) for** ★
 ★ **said class members' own designs and purposes,** ★
 ★ ★
 ★ **BE IT THEREFORE KNOWN AND PROCLAIMED that the** ★
 ★ **hereinabove Inscribed *TOMAHAWK* name and banner is, and** ★
 ★ **shall forever be, the intellectual property and trademark of** ★
 ★ **the members, heirs and assigns of said C.G.H.S. Class of '53** ★
 ★ **residing in The United States or elsewhere in North America.** ★
 ★ ★
 ★ **PROCLAIMED AND PUBLICLY POSTED May 31st, 2008.** ★
 ★ ★★

This seemed like a good place to put our "Public Notice", as a way of saying goodbye to the old *TOMAHAWK*. Perhaps there will be an additional need for a "newsy" approach to something we are doing. In any such case, we will be using the new banner and dateline depicted above. To the old *TOMAHAWK* we say, "We will remember you always, Old *TOMAHAWK*. Rest well with The Crane, his warriors, and Christopher Gist."

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

How It Was/How It Should Have Been

Initially, we invited classmates to share reflections about their years as students at C.G.H.S. as a means for gathering input into our program for this fifty-fifth anniversary celebration. Specifically, we were seeking input on the “honor student” question; the remaining six items in the questionnaire were a “fishing expedition” of sorts that, we hoped, would allow us to engage in a virtual “focus group” discussion of how we remember our time together as students at C.G.H.S.

At first, we intended to extract highlights from responses to each of the seven items in the questionnaire and create this section of our booklet from those highlights. As we began reading incoming responses, it became obvious that we were definitely onto something! It also became clear that our purposes would be better served by presenting all of our classmate reflections in their entirety.

TO EACH ONE OF OUR CLASSMATES WHO SUBMITTED A RESPONSE:

Thank you for sharing. You gave something of yourself to this celebration. By doing so, you helped make this event special. All of us will find something of ourselves in each response!

THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

For reference, the seven items in the questionnaire are listed below. A complete rendering of responses follows on succeeding pages.

Subject: Sharing C.G.H.S Flashbacks

1. Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because
2. Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me the most memorable event, other than graduating, was
3. The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was
4. The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was
5. The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is
6. The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is
7. You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say)

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Ethel Baker

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: If I had spent as much time studying as I did playing basketball, being an honor student would have been a cinch. For the love of the sport, I overcame many obstacles. I never knew how or when I would get home after practice. Usually, I walked a couple of miles and then caught a ride with a neighbor. I was so glad when Margaret Maggard started driving and had access to the family truck. Six of us girls would pile into the front of the truck and head home, never thinking about being cramped. Luckily, Ada would invite me to spend game nights at her home in town.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: being elected captain of the 1952 girls basketball team and co-captain in 1953. Also, being crowned 1953 Wise County champions was a very exciting and proud time for the whole team as well as for the school.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the friendly atmosphere and caring teachers. Our senior sponsor was very generous with her time, accompanying us on outings, trips, plays, etc., always involved in various aspects of our social lives.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: never having enough time to play as much basketball as I would have liked. Having a gymnasium would have eliminated our playing in rain and snow, and constantly dodging those nasty mud puddles which left our white shirts mud spattered.

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I felt comfortable with my classmates and teachers. I loved the independence of going to town during lunch and browsing in the shops.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: My goal in high school was to pass a course rather than to excel in it.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): Even though I hadn't given high school studies my best effort, I felt very prepared for college, and my goal there was not just to pass a course but to excel in it.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Frances Carter Boring

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I have had a successful life. I have been blessed with a husband that I have always been proud of and three wonderful children - 5 Grandchildren. I have enjoyed all the jobs I have had in life - I have taught school as well as being a substitute teacher for a number of years. Also I have been a Nursing Assistant.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: having the opportunity to go to the Barter Theater to see Our Town with half of the Senior Class. This was a good trip for me.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the teachers & students - We were proud of our school - although we didn't have a Gym, Cafeteria, or Football Field. We made do by using the Theater when we had high school plays. Eating our lunch in a restaurant near by & making use of Wise Gym - for basket ball. In a way this made us more interesting because we found a way to accomplish what we needed.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: We didn't have enough activities going - such as football, a field to play on, and a Gym to play basketball in. It made it hard for lots of people and students to watch a game somewhere else. Also - to have other activities going.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is:
I'm not going to mention...

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): The roots we had growing up in the hills of Virginia are most interesting and unique. We have a great, interesting background which I love and am proud of.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Mary Ann Countiss Carden-Sharp

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I was lazy and did not perform at my highest potential.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: the nights I spent at Aunt Noma's (wife of Dallas Bolling) and the time I spent at extra-curricular activities.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the pride we had at CGHS, even though we did not have a gymnasium indoors.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the loneliness I had, which was caused by "being an outsider" of peer groups.

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I became successful in spite of not obtaining a college degree. I tried, but my late husband was a Chief in the Navy, and traveling interfered, plus I had four children.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I didn't perform at my highest potential.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): I am proud of CGHS and my Appalachian heritage!

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Ron Cox

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I could have; I simply never placed any priority on academic achievement. I excelled at high-payback tasks (term papers, “impossible” geometry problems for an automatic “A”, short story contests, etc.). Until I got to college, where I graduated with a 3.9 grade point average, I was only concerned about getting passing grades, avoiding summer school, and keeping Mother off of my back. Throughout my childhood and teen years, my interests, partly out of necessity, were focused outside of school and away from really being part of the school “scene”.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: at the Junior/Senior Banquet, when, accompanied by Sammy Branham playing guitar, I sang *The Song From High Noon*. For a few golden moments, I was truly in my element.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the academic quality of that environment. As a freshman in college, I learned quickly that I was better prepared for college than almost all of the other students. I reflected often upon the tremendous impact that both Miss Trula Qualls and Mrs. Ruth Ringstaff, for different reasons, had upon my life.

From Miss Qualls I learned not just grammar and sentence structure; I also gained a life-long appreciation of the beauty and power inherently resident in the English language. Surely all of us remember the spell-binding ability of Miss Qualls to stand before our class and read a poem, or a passage of prose, in the way that its creator must have intended for the piece to be heard. What little ability I have as a creative writer has as its foundation those moments in Miss Qualls’s classroom.

Mrs. Ringstaff, my all-time favorite teacher, probably was responsible for my staying in school, at a time when I was perilously close to dropping out. It was simply a matter of her showing special concern about my underperformance as a student. It became a monthly Report Card Day ritual for Mrs. Ringstaff to ambush me in the hall and proceed to quietly chastise me for not performing at the same level as my brother Paul or my friend James Countiss.

Later, when I spent a day or two in the woods meditating about whether to go or stay, hearing Mrs. Ringstaff’s words inside my head influenced me to decide in favor of at least sticking it out until I had finished high school. I am one of those who, without Ruth Ringstaff, would not have been a part of the CGHS Class of ’53.

continued

Ron Cox continued

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the crowded conditions, other students changing classes and barging into the rooms where classes were still in session, having "study hall" in active classrooms, etc. Actually, the conditions at CGHS were just slightly better than Riner School, where we had seven grades taught in two rooms by one teacher in each room. (The Seventh Grade was shipped to Pound when Rita and I finished Sixth Grade at Riner, in 1947.)

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I could hunker down and do it, when I really had to. I possessed the ability to excel, but that ability usually remained undiscovered, which was o.k. with me.

In fairness to myself, I did have other competing responsibilities. Ours was a large family that had to get by on very little. Our mother worked very hard and did wonders with the meager incomes that she and my father were able to earn. When I was fifteen years old, I privately resolved that I would not ever again ask my parents for money, and I never did. I clothed myself and earned my own spending money. By doing any and every task that would earn me an honest dollar, I kept that promise to myself. I learned how to stand up in the storm of life, and the importance of making good grades in school may have gotten lost in that picture.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: Usually, I was more motivated by other things than by getting my school work done. Going to the Indian Head (a night club/beer joint on Indian Creek) and singing with the band in front of an inebriated audience was more important to me than achieving excellence as a student. (There are other very unflattering things that I could say about myself, but, hey, I've got my progeny to think about here!)

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): As young people in a rapid state of becoming, we shared something really special. Our roads all crossed at C.G.H.S., but there was much more to it than that. The learning environment created by our teachers was a big part of our story, but not the *whole story*. I am convinced that the 34 people in our class were far more special than we recognized at the time, since we had no other frame of reference. Our small class, small school, small town, engendered unavoidable closeness - so aptly described by Jim Mullins's statement: "We were like a large family." Together we experienced passage into young adulthood, and, in the process, we bonded in a way that few high school classes will ever know.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Wilma Riddle Lambert

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: One of my most memorable events at CGHS was acting in our Senior play One Foot In Heaven at Pound Theater with Trula Qualls, director. My husband was Reverend Spence, James Countiss, and our children were Hartzell, Ron Cox, a gawky teen with whiskbroom hair and a genius for getting into trouble, and Eileen, Phyllis Bolling, pretty and unspoiled.

Other characters were: Dr. Romer, Carson Robinson, the good-humored, slightly cynical country doctor. Louise, Marlene Collier, a pretty miss. Maria, Barbara Bowman, a pretty Mexican girl. Molly, Ada Robinson, age 15, very intent, and a serious crusader. Ronny, Paul West, good natured, likes to tease. Letty, June Mullins, always has a "crush" on someone. Mrs. Sandow, Ozella Killen, a wealthy woman who wears large hats. Mrs. Digby, Rita Sturgill, a choir singer who has a whip hand control over the choir. Georgie, Bob Varner, Mrs. Digby's lazy teen son. Mrs. Cambridge, Betty Bolling, a church worker, talkative and bossy. Mrs. Jellison, Ethel Carter, a church worker and rival of Mrs. Cambridge. Sparks fly when they are together. Major Cooper, Kenneth Stallard; his opinions are narrow, and he takes great pride in his dress. Bishop Sherwood, Robert Mullins, a shrewd, kindly man. Reverend Frazer, J.D. Mullins, tall, pleasant looking minister with a ready smile.

Setting: A small town in Iowa, about 1910.

Note from Wilma: I thought this would bring back good memories for a lot of people (18 characters, 5 deceased). Some probably have not thought about this for the past 55 years.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Johnnie Ruth Maggard

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I was always on time. Looking back to those days, for being on time, I give the credit to the bus driver and the teacher that I sometimes rode with.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: Each morning (weather permitting) the whole school would meet on the school grounds for the pledge to the flag and a prayer.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: Our principal and teachers kept control of everyone. The students showed respect for the teachers. If you had a problem, the teacher or principal would try to help solve the problem.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: The principal or teacher seemed to remember the little scrapes that we chose to forget.

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I knew how to be quiet and listen when the teacher was trying to get the lesson across.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: When the teacher was lax, I took advantage of him or her.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): Yes, I do wish to say that those school days were happy days. But I didn't have to be such an airhead in those years. It truly helped with raising my family, not to repeat those days, to a degree.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Benetta Baker Mullins

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I missed it most of the time by 2 points.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: Being in a beauty pageant once.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: Looking and learning, having friends, getting crushes on the guys.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: One of the students being sent to Mr. Morris's office and hearing that big, hard paddle that went "Whop! Whop!" over and over. I don't know how many he was allowed to whop!

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: My classmates seemed to be a mixture of angels, and I'm sure God had His reasons for putting us together. I am honored to have spent those years as we struggled. It was a struggling time.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I can't say anything unflattering. I'll never say that I didn't have pride in coming from a loving home where we were taught the right way even though we were World War II kids. We were clean and upright.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say):

Dear Ron,

You are a Real President. Without your efforts and caring, we couldn't hold this major accomplishment that brings out who we were and where we came from.

I'm proud of the People of Pound, VA and am honored God allowed my journey through life with my schoolmates. They have made the most difference in my life (the children we were and the adults we are). All of my best memories go back to going to school and associating with them (my classmates) and sharing the lives they lived.

Thank God for the memories of classmates and school days.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Jim Mullins

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I was so “honorous”.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: Our Senior Trip

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: Being able to know all the classmates. We were like a large family.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: Having to cross that sewage-filled river to get to lunch.

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I graduated.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I should have done better. My grades were atrocious, yet in college, after I had matured somewhat, I made mostly A's and B's.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” *Rom. 1:16*

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Carson Robinson

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: our school years were years of prosperity for this great country. The devastating depression was over and economic stability had returned. Rural electricity was available for most farm homes and students were no longer required to study at night by the light of the fireplace or kerosene lamp. Our teachers were outstanding, educated professionals who worked diligently to impart their knowledge to their students. Bus transportation was provided to haul students to school. Our facilities were adequate. All that was lacking was the individual desire of the student to excel. Some of us failed to grasp the opportunity to make excellent grades because we lacked the necessary drive to complete that extra project or problem for additional credit. Some, including me, may say that the home environment wasn't conducive to study, that farm chores required too much time, or that playing was more fun than studying. As a result of these excuses and, in early school years, no real desire to attend college, I was one of those students. In fact, I'm not sure I ever made the Honor Roll in high school, and this was due to my own shortcomings.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: the one football game that Coach Barker selected me, a right guard, to carry the ball as a halfback when Bob Varner needed a minute to catch his breath. I was afforded the opportunity to become another Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch, but I was doomed by a strong defensive line and only made inches on the carry - but the opportunity and the ball had been placed in my eager hands. *At least I didn't fumble!*

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the fact that going to school was enjoyable, scholastically rewarding, gave me the opportunity to make new friends of townies and students from other rural sections of the school district, and most of all I could escape the drudgery of back-breaking farm work. I ALWAYS ENJOYED GOING TO SCHOOL.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: carrying lunch from home, especially a biscuit with gravy or a pint jar of milk & bread. I hate to say it, but I envied those who could afford light bread & lunch meat and especially those who could afford to buy lunch at the store. They weren't any better off than me; I just thought they were at the time.

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: that I made a wooden bookcase or something similar for Mrs. Ringstaff while a student in our Wood Working Shop at Wise and that Mrs. Ringstaff still has that piece “of furniture” in her home in Abingdon after more than 55 years.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: that I didn't apply myself more vigorously in my studies. I had the opportunity and support to excel but failed to accept the challenge.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): My high school years were some of the happiest times of my life. I was exposed to new subjects, new challenges, new opportunities, new friends; all of which laid a ground work for my future success in life. I also became friends with students who were members of the local Boy Scout Troop which resulted in my joining the “Scouts”. With the exception of schooling, this single fact probably had the largest impact on my life and on my future. I was exposed to an educated professional Scout Executive, prominent local business leaders, successful scout masters, leaders and board members, who for some reason, unknown to me at the time, took an interest in me. As a result of their support, encouragement and almost insistence, I started thinking seriously about attending college. The Scout Executive had graduated from Berea College, and he strongly suggested I fill out the application that he just happened to have with him. The business leaders loaned me some money along with their encouragement and helped me apply for and receive an annual grant from the Slemp Foundation. As a result of their gentle push in the right direction, I graduated from Berea College in 1957 and eventually received my Master of Science Degree twenty years later. With the help and assistance of many friends, neighbors, teachers and my family; I was able to escape from the coal mines and mountains and see what the rest of the country had to offer a young person who had only traveled to one state, Kentucky, by the time he graduated from high school.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Marie Sheppard Horne

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I made a wiser choice of a husband than Miss Qualls did! I'm truly thankful for my spouse.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: the Junior/Senior Banquets and going to Wise High to see their play. We had some talented classmates.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: that life was fairly simple. A bag lunch was always better with that coke out of the vending machine.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: that I had to walk to school every day, but then again I always had shoes to wear!

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I tried.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I was too timid to go out for basketball and become their star player. Just think, I could have been the shortest girl on the team.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): We were ordinary kids with great potential. I even enjoyed summer school because there was not much else to do during the summers.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Bob Varner

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: having friends like you; I can't recall hearing an unkind word about anyone of you or me during my high school days. I think we had a lot of mutual respect. Each of us treated one another as equals: no better or no worse. My respect for all of you still exists today. I regard each of you as a true friend and wish you the best in the years to come.

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): Thanks, Ron Cox for doing this. It is great we can all still get together and enjoy each other for a day or two.

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Paul S. West

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: the many students and teachers involved in those “learning” years and all the excellent teaching I received.

Looking back on our years at C.G.H.S., for me, the most memorable event, other than graduating, was: surviving the notion that I’d never own my own auto after I bought “the” 49 Ford Sedan and the relative “benefits”.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the enjoyment I had playing sports and classes I had with many dear friends.

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: having to practice basketball on a dirt court. (This was a close first to eating hot dogs at noon at Pound Café.)

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I always thought I was very good in English, even though Miss Qualls thought otherwise.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I agree that some females were prone to call me, “West the pest”?

You didn’t ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): Please let’s not do this again! A lot of us will have suffered substantial memory loss in five more years!

CLASSMATE REFLECTIONS

Phyllis Bolling Williams

Looking back on our years together at C.G.H.S., I should have been an honor student because: I was, I guess. My mind was like a sponge then, and I had no problem learning. Later come the problems when you must put into life all that accumulation of facts and concepts.

The best thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: Miss Qualls' English classes. Her rigid set of rules was just what I needed at sixteen and seventeen to help me with the concept of self discipline. The homework assignments and the daily spelling tests gave an order to life. Her concept of grading curve beginning at 95 instead of 100 stayed with me all my life - You cannot be "all the way" right ever. I learned a little English, too!

The worst thing about being a student at C.G.H.S. was: the lag time. I had to ride the bus twelve miles morning and evening - with all those stops for students to get on and off. A lot of lost time, mental and physical, now that time seems so important.

The most flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: I really was trying most of the time.

The least flattering thing that I can say about myself as a student is: The inherent Impatience of teen years often showed. Sorry!

You didn't ask for this, but (anything that you wish to say): In March 1953 Tomahawk under the title "The Meaning of CGHS" under my name is "Alcatraz the second" - I don't know whose insight wrote all this article but it pegged me. I never liked school; learning in a controlled environment was too much for me. Now in my eighth decade I can learn at my own pace and it's so much fun to learn!

REFLECTIONS of RUTH RINGSTAFF

By Ethel Carter Baker

Mrs. Ringstaff was born on April 27, 1910, in Tannersville, Virginia, into a family of 2 brothers and 3 sisters. She has now outlived all of her siblings.

Mrs. Ringstaff graduated from Burkes Garden High School on May 20, 1927. That same night as the commencement exercises were being held, Col. Lindbergh made his solo flight across the Atlantic. Mrs. Ringstaff went to Radford College where she received a degree in education. Upon graduation, she returned to Tannersville to teach history at Burkes Garden High. She married Carl Ringstaff and moved to Pound because Mr. Ringstaff had taken a job at the Rock Quarry in Jenkins, Kentucky. However, he promised Mrs. Ringstaff that they would live on the Virginia side so she could continue her teaching career.

Mrs. Ringstaff has very fond memories of her time at Christopher Gist High School. She loved the school, the staff, and the students who had a "yearning for learning". She felt that the success of a school depended a great deal on the principal, and she thought that Mr. Morris was such a good man and a great leader both at the school and within the church.

In 1963, Mr. Ringstaff took a job in Scott County, and they moved from Pound. She said they hated to leave so badly that as they were driving up Indian Creek, she began to cry and looked over and saw tears dripping off Mr. Ringstaff's chin. They both felt that the happiest years of their lives were spent in Pound.

In Scott County, Mrs. Ringstaff taught at Rye Cove High School until age 65. She wanted to teach until she was 75, but, at that time, Scott County did not give contracts to teachers over 65.

Upon retirement, she and Mr. Ringstaff moved to Abingdon where her brother lived. He as well as Mr. Ringstaff have passed on, and Mrs. Ringstaff, who is legally blind, depends on her sister-in-law to take her places. She is still an active member of the Abingdon United Methodist Church.

In comparing the America into which we graduated to the America of 2008, Mrs. Ringstaff said we are all human beings, and we react to the times. There were not as many classroom interruptions and fewer demands on a teacher's time. In 1953, parents enforced good behavior, and teachers were highly respected.

Today a teacher faces more fear of the students than in 1953. It is hard to talk to students today about becoming teachers, even though they are needed, because of drugs and weapons in the classroom.

Mrs. Ringstaff said that too many years had passed to remember differences between our class and other classes that came before. However, she felt that we as students wanted to learn in order to better ourselves. She remembered one class which had 68% to attend college, and she thought that would rival today's percentages.

When asked whether she had any idea how much she is revered by former students, she graciously replied that she was happy to know she was able to help any student learn. She still enjoys receiving cards, telephone calls, and visits from former students. In fact, there is a former student living in Heathville who sends her candy for every holiday and special occasions.

While talking about school consolidation, Mrs. Ringstaff expressed the opinion that she would like to see Wise County build 3 new schools, combining Pound and J.J. Kelly, Coeburn and Saint Paul, and Appalachia and Powell Valley.

Mrs. Ringstaff encourages each member of the 1953 class to be appreciative of their legacy. Be thankful that you grew up in a safe environment, and be proud of your school, community, and town and the proud, hardworking people who lived there.

Finally, Mrs. Ringstaff wanted to leave the class of 1953 with this quotation:

**“God gave us memory so that
we can have roses in December.”**

We all owe a big “Thank You” to Ethel Baker for the fine job she did interviewing Mrs. Ringstaff and then creating the foregoing article.

Early in our process of planning content for this booklet, Carson Robinson mentioned that Mrs. Ringstaff was still living and still in possession of the sharp mind that we all remember. Then, guided by the knowledge that Ethel has visited Mrs. Ringstaff at her home, we did the obvious: We drafted Ethel! Being the team player that she is, how could Ethel say “no”? Again, Ethel, thank you for this first-class contribution to our 2008 reunion.



Class of '53 Special Report

Vol. XXVI No. 1

C.G.H.S.

North America

May 31, 2008

RE-GRADUATING WITH HONORS

Christopher Gist High School Class of 1953, already famous for being the last and best ever to graduate from historic CGHS, now becomes the only class in the History of Virginia to graduate twice.

On Saturday, May 31, 2008, fifty-five years after graduating from Christopher Gist High School, the CGHS Class of '53 returned to "ground zero" of their high school experience, the "Old CGHS Building", now Pound Town Hall. Many of the classmates were surprised to learn that the centerpiece of the evening's program would be *their* re-graduation *with honors* from their high school alma mater.

The Class of '53 Life Achievement Awards Committee, headed by Zell and Ben Rector, cited input from a number of classmates, careful evaluation of the exemplary lives evidenced by classmates, and examination of educational practices sanctioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia as their bases for this unprecedented action. Zell Rector explained, "*Re-graduation with honors* gives visible, meaningful recognition of the extraordinary contributions this class has made to life on the North American Continent over the past fifty-five years."

Diplomas conferring graduation from "Regular High School *With Honors*" were awarded to the following students (some in absentia):

Rita Sturgill Addington

Ethel Carter Baker

Juanita Meade Banks

Frances Carter Boring

Betty Sue Bolling Brown •

Mary Ann Countiss
Carden-Sharp

Ronald Lee Cox

Marie Sheppard Horne

Loretta Hampton Howard

Huilet Hubbard •

Margaret Stidham Kirby •

Wilma Riddle Lambert

Johnnie Ruth Adams Maggard

Wanda Meade

Almeda Stidham Mills •

Barbara Sutphin Mullins

Benetta Baker Mullins

James Douglas Mullins

Ozella Killen Rector

Carson N. Robinson

Shelby Selvey Shortt

Kenneth G. Stallard •

Ada Sue Robinson Stanley

Joan Meade Stewart

Bobby Joe Varner

Paul Scott West

Phyllis Bolling Williams

**1953 Graduating Class
Christopher Gist High School
Pound, Virginia**

Revised 4-18-08

Deceased:

Marlene Collier Adkins	Monett Bolling Church
James Countiss	Don Varner
Janice Hubbard Niece	Oveda Meade Shortt
June Mullins Bebord	Inez Meade Wilson
Robert Mullins	Barbara Bowman Hall

Rita Sturgill Addington ✱
P. O. Box 312
Pound, VA 24279
(276) 796-4923
E-mail: cbaddington@msn.com

Ron Cox
1635 Shaker Lane West
Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 773-1792 Cell: 727-512-6494
E-mail: RL835C@verizon.net

Ethel Carter Baker ✱
P. O. Box 1356
Pound, VA 24279
(276) 796-4241
E-mail: ebaker2g@yahoo.com

Marie Sheppard Horne ✱
501 South Eden Drive
Cayce, SC 29033-2355
(803) 794-2480
E-mail: horne5357@sc.rr.com

Juanita Meade Banks ✱
2605 Highway 588
Whitesburg, KY 41858
(606) 633-7318
E-mail: BanksUZ@se-tel.com

Loretta Hampton Howard* ✱
105 Harbor View Dr.
Madison, AL 35758
Ph: (256) 509-5845 Fx: (256) 534-7675
E-mail:

Frances Carter Boring ✱
1707 Maggie Street
Maryville, TN 37803
(865) 983-3257

Huilet Hubbard
P. O. Box 20195
Roanoke, VA 24018-0020
(540) 929-4118

Betty Sue Bolling Brown
41 Caithness West
Caledonia Ontario Canada N3W 2J2
(905) 7654664

Margaret Stidham Kirby
Office of CATE - Career
Virginia Dept. of Education
P.O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120
Office phone: (804) 225-2846

Mary Ann Countiss Carden-Sharp ✱
1112 Tinsley Blvd.
Prince George, VA 23875
(804) 733-1545
E-mail: romasharp@verizon.net

Wilma Riddle Lambert ✱
21196 Jessica Lane
Abingdon, VA 24211
(276) 623-0792

Imogene Sturgill Donaho ✱
P.O. Box 543
Bristol, TN 37620
(423) 878-9734
Cell: 276-393-7078
E-mail: grannyjean@charter.net

Johnnie Ruth Adams Maggard ✱
7742 South Fork Road
Pound, VA 24279
(276) 796-7230

Wanda Meade
P. O. Box 164
Pound, VA 24279
(276) 796-4914

Almeda Stidham Mills
333 Patton Avenue
Marion, VA 24354

Barbara Sutphin Mullins
52 West Gramby Street
Manheim, PA 17545
(717) 664-2407

Benetta Baker Mullins
10844-A Meade Fork Rd.
Pound, VA 24279
(276) 796-2242

James D. Mullins
208 Scenic Drive
Pickens, SC 29671
Email: jdmullins3@charter.net

Ozella (Zell) Killen Rector
14438 Eagle Villa Grove
Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3225
Res: (719) 598-3143
Email: zellrector@yahoo.com

Carson Robinson
114 Southridge Drive
Missoula, MT 59803
(406) 251-1287
E-mail: bigbluesky45@earthlink.net

Shelby Selvey Shortt
262 New Bethel Road
Piney Flats, TN 37686

Kenneth Stallard
P. O. Box 513
Norton, VA 24273
(276) 679-5227

Ada Sue Robinson Stanley
15010 Whipoorwill Road
Nokesville, VA 20181
(703) 754-0271
E-mail: PAS5GKIDS@AOL.com

Joan Meade Stewart
P.O. Box 147050
Gainesville, FL 32614-7050

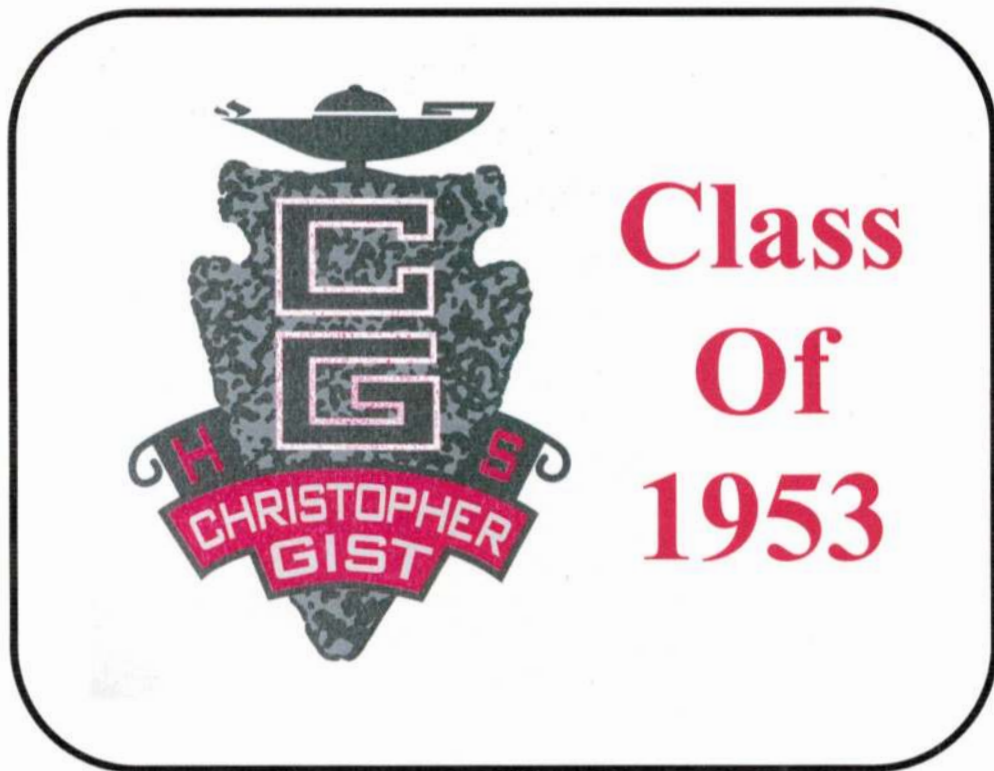
Bob Varner
13451 Bent Creek Rd.
Amelia Ct. Hse., VA 23002
(804) 598-1597

Paul West
1208 Executive Drive
Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512
(870) 670-4844 Cell: 870-373-1390
Email: wpaulnicki@aol.com

Phyllis Bolling Williams
P. O. Box 674
Wise, VA 24293
(276) 328-6650
E-mail: williams32001@verizon.net

*alternate address:
4305 CR 513
Wildwood, FL 34785

**This concludes our
2008 celebration**



**Class
Of
1953**

6th Decade - Act One
Ends Here

Act Two, anyone?

