

# THE LINK

Newsletter, 2007, Phillips-Bricks Alumni Association

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## *Make Plans Now to Attend the 2007 Alumni Reunion*

We extend greetings to all alumni members, graduates, and friends. We are blessed to see another year of anticipated happiness as we mingle and share events of the past year, dine together, conduct business, worship and give thanks. We should be grateful that we are still present as a part of this cherished link of friendship. It is all because we had the privilege of sharing our high school years together.

## *Hines-Hunter Retires as President*

Helen Hines-Hunter has served with distinction and devotion for many years as the national president of the Phillips-Bricks Alumni Association and the local president of the home chapter located in Rocky Mount. She was elected at a meeting at Phillips where all graduates were free to attend. The previous association had become inactive.

There were graduates who spent their first three high school years at Bricks. Some of these graduates were making substantial contributions to the scholarship fund, including the late Dr. J. E. Bryant. Phillips replaced Bricks. Many of these graduates wanted to become a part of the association. Because of this, the members voted that the association would be incorporated as the Phillips-Bricks Alumni Association. This allowed the association to receive tax exempt status. Donors then were able to receive credit for donations made to the scholarship fund.

## *Waldo Powell Becomes New President*

At the business meeting of the association held Friday night, May 27, 2006, the members approved the following slate of officers: Waldo Powell, president; Alma Williams, vice-president; Frances Hart, secretary; Shirley Clark, assistant secretary; Lillian Thorne, treasurer; Marie Bryant, chaplain. These officers were installed on Saturday night as a part of the banquet program.

## *Friday Night Has An Added Attraction*

Avant Coleman was able to show off his auctioneering skills at the 2006 reunion. Members had been asked to donate items. The proceeds of the auction would benefit our scholarship efforts. Everyone enjoyed this activity. Some people were able to get some good bargains.

Please plan to bring some items, big or small on Friday night.

Avant has already begun his collection. He has presented his information showing our scholarship efforts to businesses in Wilson. His collection already includes a set of Firestone tires, five-piece wrench and tool set, rechargeable camp lantern, and 2.5 candle power spot light.

If you don't wish to check businesses in your area, there may be items at home that are in good shape, and you no longer need them. Pack them up and bring them Friday night. Bring some money and join the fun.

*Memories Keep Them Close in Heart*

*We remember the fellowship and friendship of those reported who have entered into a realm where they will never grow old.*

- Ethel Ruth Bullock McKoy
- Edward Bunn
- Acey Cooper
- Minnie Davis
- Thomas Harper
- James Lyons
- Louise Odom Moore
- Ben Ransome
- Jesse Ransome
- Ruby Shelley
- Geneva Thorne
- Clyde Forsythe Worsley
- Dorothy Lawrence Bunche
- Eddie Wiggins
- Mamie Odom Braswell
- Claude Draughn



*Do You Remember these Class Superlatives?*

(This is the way they are remembered by some of their classmates.)

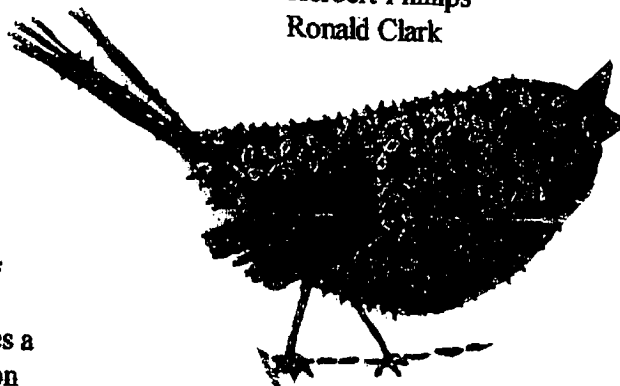
- Ethel Ruth Bulluck - smartest
- Harvey Hymes - best basketball players
- Leslie Pittnan - best basketball player
- Patricia Hargrove and Earline Ransome prancing and twirling majorettes
- Victor Wade - smartest
- Clarence Jenkins - high stepping drum major
- Richard Batts - smartest
- Connie Hines - cutest
- Therlon Joyner - gifted pianist
- Linwood Milbourne - neatest young man
- Avant Coleman and Leon Batts top agriculture students
- Susie Vines - gifted in writing
- Dynamic Voices:
  - Ernestine Dancy Pittman
  - Samuel Bryant
  - Frances Shelley Davis
  - Lessie Pittman Osbourne
  - Linwood Wiggins
  - Herbert Phillips
  - Ronald Clark

Please report death of any financial member as specified or back of your membership card for *special remembrance* to Roy Watson (252-443-3973) or any officer.

*Mrs. Bertha Barnes Succumbs*

There is a graduate who makes a major contribution to our reunion each year. Willie Bennett and his wife really know how to cook, organize, and take charge. They are responsible for making our stomachs happy on Friday night.

We extend our sympathy to Willie and his family in the loss of their mother, Mrs. Bertha Barnes, who was funeralized, Saturday, March 17, 2007.



**PLEASE GET YOUR REGISTRATION AND MONEY IN ON TIME. THE SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND BANQUET COMMITTEE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION. Y'ALL COME!!!**

**Arnold Pittman Is Honored**

Arnold Lee Pittman recently celebrated his birthday with a party. In addition to family and friends, many of his fireman friends helped him to celebrate his special day.

Pittman has the distinct honor of being the first **Black Fireman** and the first **Black Chief** of the Rocky Mount Fire Department.

We extend congratulations to him. He is another Phillips graduate who remembered the motto of the school, "Be Somebody."

**Congratulations to Our 2006 Scholarship Winners**

**Latarsha Worsley**  
North Edgecombe High School  
The class of '56 in celebration of their special year gave her their scholarship of \$1,000.00.  
**Parent: Earline Ransome**

**Erin Lewis**  
Rocky Mount High School  
Received the scholarship of \$1,000.00 given by the national body.  
**Cousin: Flo Bynum**

**Shaniqua Allen**  
A savings bond of \$100.00 was given to the eighth grade student chosen by the principal and faculty at Phillips School  
**Parents: Anthony and Roslyn Allen**

Many classes have given a donation to the scholarship fund when they celebrated their 25th or 50th year. We hope others will strive to do the same.

Congratulations and thanks are in order for the class of 1956 for their excellent cooperation in helping us to extend our scholarship efforts. Yours is the largest donation that we have received from any class. It is evident that you planned ahead.

It may be a good idea to let each class present a donation from the members who are present each year. If we only collected \$5.00 or \$10.00 from each class represented, it would add to the scholarship account. Give a dollar or two willingly and when your year is called for the count, allow the designated representative to present the amount from your class. Look back from whence you have come. Give back to be a blessing to someone and you in turn will be blessed with more than you have given if you give it sincerely from your heart.

**Make Me a Rain**  
I am only a spark; make me a fire.  
I am only a string; make me a lyre.  
I am only a drop; make me a fountain.  
I am only an ant hill; make me a mountain.  
I am only a feather; make me a wing.  
I am only a serf; make me a king.  
I am only a link; make me a chain.  
I am only a sprinkle; make me a rain.  
—Author unknown

*Mr. William Etheridge, Principal  
Serves as Banquet Speaker*

Mr. Etheridge stated that he was happy to be a part of the Phillips School family. He had served as a teacher and his children had attended Phillips.

These are two of his main beliefs: "You have to love children to be successful and you have to be able to form relationships."

He informed us that the main building where most of us had our classes will be torn down. It will be replaced. Plans call for fourth and fifth graders to be moved to Coker-Wimberly School.

He is not satisfied with the fifty per cent teacher turnover. Many of teachers are from other states.

Economic status: 89% receive free lunch. 11% receive paid lunch.

Test scores show growth. He believes in giving all children the full opportunity to develop their potential. If you set high expectations children will rise to meet these expectations.

He encouraged local alumni to attend board meetings and show an interest in what may be good for Phillips School by letting your voice be heard, support the activities, and volunteer some of your time when possible.

He is grateful for supportive parents.

*There are many things to do  
and YOUR time can only be given by YOU!*

*The world is a better place to live  
When people like you are willing to give.*

*Many Members and Friends  
Attend Sunday Worship  
Service*

Alumni members and friends attended worship service at Cherry Hill Baptist Church, Howell Road, Tarboro, North Carolina, where the Rev. Jesse Williams is pastor. We were invited by alumni member, Mrs. Shirley Clark.

Music was rendered by a ladies' chorus of which Shirley is a member.

We left inspired by a most inspiring message and beautiful music. There were gifted soloists who really shared their talent for the glory of God.

Members left with thanksgiving in their hearts to have been blessed to share another reunion and to be able to go their separate ways and dine with families and friends.

*Phillips Is Featured as A Part  
Black History*

The local newspaper, *The Rocky Mount Telegram*, included an article about former "Black High Schools."

-Phillips replaced Brick High School, spoken of as "Bricks." Originally, it was a junior college, named after Mr. Brick, a philanthropist. Later, it operated as a tri-county high school with students from Nash, Halifax, and Edgecombe counties.

-The '48-'49 school year was the first year of operation with grades 8-12.

-*Mr. C. M. Carraway*, former principal of Carver High School, Pinetops, NC, served as first principal.

-*1952, Change in Enrollment*  
All Nash County students were required to transfer to Swift Creek High School.

All Halifax County High School students were required to transfer to Eastman High School. Inborden High School was built later.

-The class of 1949 was the first graduating class. The class of 1972 was the last graduating class.