

THE SPIRIT OF PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL 1949 TO 1972—STILL STRONG FROM FIRST CLASS TO LAST CLASS, ALWAYS AND FOREVER!

GREETINGS TO ALL PHILLIPS/BRICKS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS!

WELCOME TO REUNION 2014!

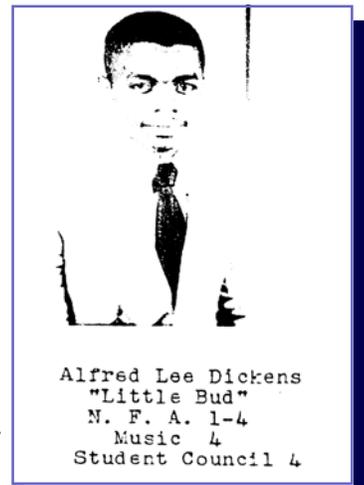
The **FIRST** graduation of Phillips High School on Battleboro-Leggette Road was held in May 1950 for the Class of 1950. That graduating class of 31 left us with a little insight into PHS history and their personal experiences during the opening of the new school. They started out as 96 freshmen on September 9, 1946. Many of the students had nicknames that they were willing to even share in their yearbook. Names like "Tex", "Slim", "Nunnie", "Bunnie" and many others. Can you guess who "Little Bud" might have been?

The details of the **FIRST** class' history shows the excitement and also fearful anticipation they felt going to a brand new school. The same feelings that might have been shared by many of the students who came from feeder schools like Phillips Elementary, Wimberly, Willow Grove and Coker-Wimberly in later years as they too entered Phillips High School.

The **FIRST** graduating class of Phillips in 1950 blazed the trail of success, pride and determination to "Be-Somebody" for classes that followed until the end in 1972, when Phillips closed permanently as a high school. As juniors, the class of 1950 looked forward to their new Phillips High School building and to planning their junior-senior prom in the spring of 1949.

Finally it was 1949-1950 and their time had come. They were seniors. As Ethel G. Cofield, the author of the class history writes: "*So endeth our third year and now our fourth year. We are Seniors! A long awaited year has come at last-1950; now everyone is eagerly waiting for graduation.*" Though the class of 1950 was just a small group of 31 students when they graduated, they had tremendous school spirit, great friends, and pride in being a Phillips High School student and a "bulldog."

(continued Page 2)



REUNION 2014

PHILLIPS/BRICKS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



(Continued from page 1)

What are your memories of the Phillips experience? Can you remember the pride of being a bulldog? Do you remember the fans cheering at basketball and baseball games against Swift Creek, Booker T. and Nash Central? Do you remember the caring, dedicated teachers and long bus rides home taking to friends? What about the long lunch lines at the back door of the cafeteria to enjoy baked spaghetti (or some of your favorites) prepared by the hardworking ladies in the cafeteria? What about Mr. Parker who kept our the school neat and clean and Mr. Brown who was always trying to keep it quite in the Library. All of these staff members and many others cared about Phillips and they cared about the students. At that period of our lives, they were there to help shape us in a positive way. To them all we again take time as reunite to we say Thank You!

In May 1971 Phillips High School graduated the **LAST** senior class as a high school and in 1972 closed its doors and began its transition into what is now a middle school. We can only imagine what it must have been like for the **LAST** graduating class of 1971 as it said a permanent goodbye to Phillips High. Gone were the pictures and trophies that graced the cabinet in the corner hall of the gym. Gone were the class composites that once surrounded the library walls. Gone was the name on the sign on the front lawn that read **Phillips High School**. In the midst of a joyful graduation day for the class of 1971, their good-bye to Phillips was much more final than that of the class of 1950. They would never come back to a Phillips High School.

In 1972, a year of transition, we lost a lot of the physical history of Phillips, some taken away, some thrown away. But there in the hearts of many alumni was still that love and pride in being an graduate, attendee, teacher and a “bulldog.” Those things that can never be taken away. As a result, in the early 1970’s following the school’s closure, some of those pride-filled, dedicated, caring bulldogs organized an **annual reunion** to reunite all the classes. They wanted to continue the memories and to share in a mutual spirit of remembrance and celebration of their love of Phillips High School each year. Amazingly, for **36 years** this has been done by the grace of God with hard work and dedication.

We owe our gratitude to those pioneers who formed the idea and organized the first annual school reunion. We owe gratitude to those who have volunteered and worked tirelessly each year for 36 years to plan and execute the activities of our School Reunion weekend to keep it going so that we all may enjoy. Had it not been for their hard work and dedication, our wonderful legacy and history would be forever lost and forgotten publically. Thru our reunion activities of fun and fellowship, giving back with scholarships to deserving high school graduates and providing financial support to Phillips Middle School; we continue to keep the light and spirit of Phillips shining bright and most importantly, our bulldog pride strong and alive!

Many classes have celebrated their 60th and 50th graduation anniversaries. This year we congratulate, the classes of 1954 and 1964 as they reach this milestone. May the spirit and joy of the **FIRST** Class of 1950 entering PHS, the rich experiences had by all those classes in between, and a little of the sorrow of its loss experienced by **LAST** Class of 1971 leaving it, continue to unite us as one Phillips alumni organization and remind us that we are the “proud-to-be Bulldogs” of Phillips High School!!

HAPPY 36TH SCHOOL REUNION!

Phillips/Bricks Alumni Association

Brenda P. Asbury, Class of 1969





REUNION HELD — Attending the Phillips School reunion were: front row, from left, Myrtle Scott, Mildred E. Hines, Nillian Odom, Lillian C. Thorne, Mary K. Savage; standing, from left William McNair, Marcellus C. Miller, A.P. Coleman, F.J. Morton. (Sowers photo)

Other reunion pioneers not listed above and who helped to perceive the reunion idea and aided in keeping it alive for more than 36 years include: George Birth, Alfred Dickens, Helen Hines Hunter, Margaret Hunter, Waldo Powell and many others whose names are unrecorded. Their deep sense of pride and loyalty to their educational roots allowed them to unite to find ways and means to keep our rich heritage alive for future generations. We sincerely thank you!



2013/2014 - PBAA YEAR IN REVIEW

- Phillips Middle School principal , Lisa Howell, attended September 2013 meeting
- PBAA Members attended/participated in annual North Carolina Association of Black High School Alumni *After Thanksgiving Event* November 2013
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup held November 2013
- Christmas Breakfast, Fashion Show and Program December 2013—Guest Speaker, Morris Roberson, Swift Creek Alumni Association and President of NC Association of Black High School Alumni (NCABHSA)
- Memorial Given to Edgecombe County Library in Memory of African American Historian Rudolph Knight
- Black History Program and Ice Cream Social sponsored for Phillips Middle School—March 2014
- Approved funds in March 2014 for Phillips Middle School field trip to Agapé Center for Environmental Education before the end of school year
- Approved funds for Phillips Middle School for their May 5, 2014 Cinco de Mayo celebration
- Regular monthly meetings were held each month September 2013 to May 2014
- PBAA Day Bus Trip planned August 16, 2014 for Somerset Place (Plantation in Eastern NC) - fellowship and fundraiser for scholarship fund
- Phillips Members Participated in and Attended NCABHSA Thanksgiving Event November 2014
- Artwork of Phillips Donated May 2014: An acrylic painting/mural by Cary Bullock, Jr., grandson of Sylvester Brown and a pencil sketch by McArthur Slade, Class of 1967
- Other - Benevolence, reunion planning, mentoring and volunteering at Phillips Middle School during the year

2013 Reunion Summary Report

Total Paid Members of PBAA for Period Ending May 31, 2013—74

Total Number of Scholarship Fund Donors 2013—59

Total Dollars Donated to 2013 Scholarship Fund—\$2,700

Total Dollars Raised from Reunion 2013 Activities for Scholarship—\$6,510

Total Number at Reunion 2013 Activities—665

Friday Meet and Greet Attendees—150

Saturday Breakfast Meeting —Attendees 40

Reunion Scholarship Banquet Attendees— 285

Sunday Church Worship Attendee— 95

Total Scholarship Funds Accumulated 2013—\$9,210

Scholarships Awarded 2013—4—\$4,000

Aid to Phillips Middle School—\$600

General Fund Beginning Book Balance FY 2014 June 1, 2013—\$7,833

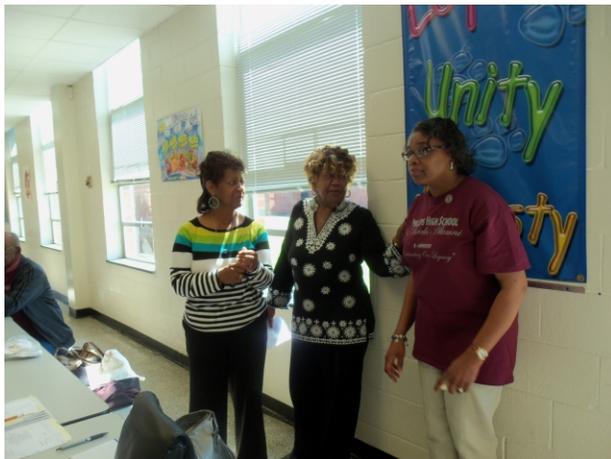
Scholarship Beginning Book Balance FY 2014 June 1, 2013—\$8,500

2013/2014 - YEAR IN PICTURES

2013 Reunion Meet and Greet—Phillips Middle School



REUNION 2013
35TH
ANNUAL REUNION



Alumni with former Phillips teacher Mrs. Elnora Oxendine



Class of
1969



PBAA Officers for 2013-2015

HAPPENINGS FROM THE CLASSES

CLASS OF 1968
Submitted by Constance Hymes

OH WHAT A NIGHT!!!

Our forty fifth class reunion is now history and it will be remembered as one of our best! The food was delicious. The entertainment was good! As we walked in the dining hall there was a video showing the class members and past reunions. That was awesome. Once again James Sharpe knocked it out of the park as our emcee. We were entertained by comedian Catherine Arrington.

It was so nice to see everyone at the recent reunion. Everyone seemed to have had a wonderful time. There was a photographer there that developed pictures on the spot.

We displayed a picture in memory of our beloved deceased. There was a special page honoring Annie Bryant one of our fallen committee members.

The Class of 1968 Class Reunion Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Thomas Ricks-Chairman</i> | <i>Curtis Avon Williams</i> |
| <i>Constance Mack Hymes-Secretary</i> | <i>Carolyn Harper Smith</i> |
| <i>Earnestine Dancy Pittman</i> | <i>Hassell Draughn</i> |
| <i>Shirley Whitehead Clarke</i> | <i>Frances Petway Hart</i> |
| <i>James V. Sharpe</i> | |

CLASS OF 1967
Submitted by Mary Knight

The Class of 1967 will be celebrating their 50th Class Reunion in May 2017 and are in the process of making plans for what will be another memorable event. All classmates who would like to join in the planning, please contact any member of the 2013 Reunion Committee. We look forward to celebrating a wonderful milestone and our time to shine with other "Golden Bulldogs" of Phillips High School!



Former Phillips High School Teacher

Mr. Troy Hardy
Speaking at the Class of 1967 Reunion



Class
Of
1968





PBAA AT PHILLIPS MIDDLE SCHOOL

MARCH 2014



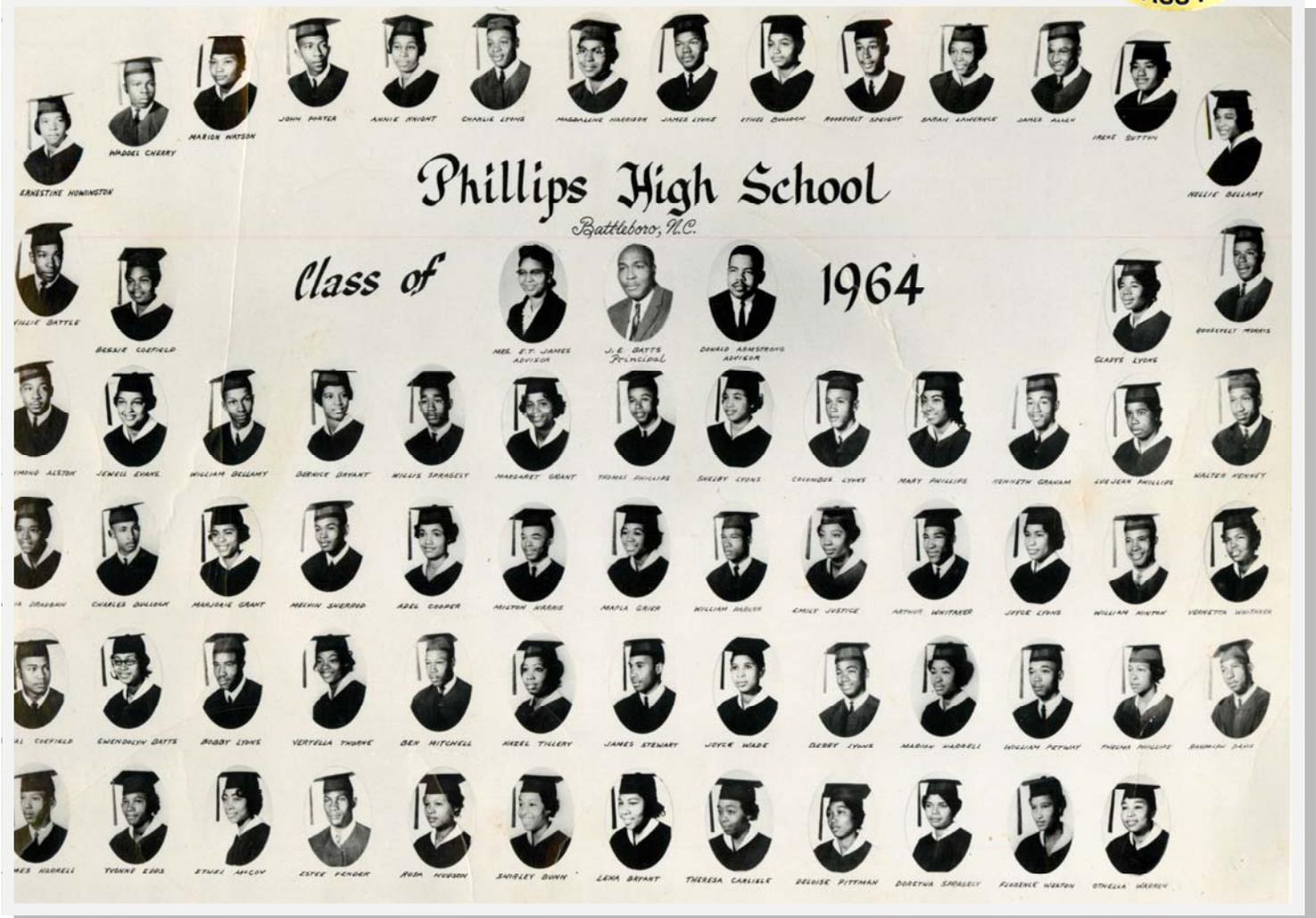
“Success is to be measured not by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington





50th CLASS REUNION



60th Class Reunion

Ms. Bessie Dancy—
Class of 1954



WE SALUTE THE
CLASS OF 1954
CELEBRATING
60 YEARS!
AND
CLASS OF 1964
CELEBRATING
50 YEARS!