

Glencliff High School Memories from John Young

Hi Class,

I really missed seeing everybody last weekend and appreciate Dan's note as well as seeing the script of his comments. Good recall (See notes at end from Dan Haynes).

We missed due to a long planned annual vacation cancelled last year because of covid at Cliff House Maine in Cape Nedrick ME. Southern summer heat drives us further north each summer

My wife posted my photo on Facebook of either that location or at Kennebunkport ... and thanks for thinking I haven't changed a bit since the Roundup yearbook photos

My weekend story is nowhere near the drama of Dan Haynes riding across country fighting off bugs in the desert and bullets in the cities getting here and then getting back to California. He gets the award for 'most effort to get there'

Back in the 60s, who would have known that we were at the right place at the right time at Glencliff.. the red brick building now painted WHITE on Antioch Pike

Students today don't resemble us and there is no Mr. Tom to make sure we there was order in the house.

I've become even more appreciative of Ben H Thompson as time has passed

All we knew then was he was ..."the man, with the paddle.. and that we had 3 minutes to get from one class to the next and rather than sitting in his office.. he was ALWAYS in a hallway

We couldn't go a day without seeing him several times making sure we saw him

I learned later that years before Glencliff, he was coaching at Antioch and

Donelson High and had several championships back then. I never knew Mr. Tom played semi pro baseball in North Carolina... or that he was principal at Joelton High for 6 years.

He set the tone for Glencliff being the FIRST principal of GHS and had that job 18 years before retiring. He saw a lot of graduations but in running into "Miss Rucker" years later, he didn't hesitate to reflect and say both he and her always thought the class of 67 was their favorite. She couldn't give specifics.. but it was an overall feel of who we were, our attitude then and our life later...

Being the first principal of that new school Mr. Tom made or approved an exceptional faculty. Most appointed principals inherit a staff, many of whom are tenured.

He was 91 when he died and as his wife (who was also a school teacher) said: "we didn't have children of our own..

BUT CONSIDERED ALL OUR STUDENTS.....OUR CHILDREN."

I get it

Discipline was his way of leading with love and his example was character and integrity. Mr. Tom didn't have a brother but 4 sisters and I'm not clear where he was in the birth order.

I can clearly see in the teachers he brought how so much connected..

I could start with Mr. James Currey and Jerry Williams and go to Emma Jo Holly and Ms. Stratford and Leroy Hollis and Coach Moore and Mr. Hurt (biology) and Thomas Parton keep going knowing that each name sparks their face in your memory as you add more names we'll never forget.

The beauty is, as we've grown and gone, the memories are so strong that Rick and the committee can say "let's do it" and those that can show up

My children have good memories from their school years in Atlanta GA but I'm positive that none of their memories come close to equaling ours.. Friday night games and added so many great memories..

and, the Shoney's on Thompson Lane that Dan mentioned is now a....Weight Watchers.. Since our class ate a lot of hot fudge sundae's there, maybe some of us are returning to that building now

The old Ray Batt's furniture store on Thompson Lane is still a furniture store but Nolensville Road feels very different

Some days in our life now seem to feel more and more like a forgettable blur ..

However, I don't need our yearbook to know your name or remember your face and personality.

As more are gone and missed I'm glad to look over this email list of names hoping all is well...just as you deserve.

I hope we're all together if Rick has the time and energy to do this again .. at 60

Always your friend,
John Young

ADDENDUM

Here is more.

After asking John if I could post his thoughts on our web page, John responded in a way only our dear friend John Young can. Enjoy this as well.

Absolutely. It's a compliment if you do Rick and I was typing with great memory's hitting me all at once and the second I hit "send" I thought "how'd I forget Ken

Redmond's name on the list of coaches we loved.. Jimmy Davis, Redmond, Hollis, Moore, etc.. Such standouts on the faculty and of course.. When the principal was a player and a coach before he took on the job of starting GHS...He knew the names he needed to build a successful football team

I've become good friends with a man named Mike Hammond

As you know, on our side of town, Glencliff, Antioch and Overton came along after so many parents went to Central..even though Central was still around in our time

Mike was well liked among Metro schools and when he was picked to start Overton. He said a lot of Overton's rise in the level of respect it got was the staff he hired early on. So many of the best teachers around WANTED to be at Overton knowing that as the principal, Mike would run a school where they wanted to work..

As time passes every business seems to add layers of 'how we do things'. As their culture is defined by time and repetition of the day to day stuff

Overton started fresh with no past history or agendas and Mike had the promises and assurance from the head of Schools over on Bransford Avenue that HE'D build a school HE would have wanted to work for

In Mike's mind, there was added expectations of a generally higher income demo there than perhaps in Woodbine and Antioch from more white collar family's that he wanted to win over early for PTA and Football support later.

I drive down Franklin Road during the school year and you go from Franklin Road Academy to Overton and Father Ryan next door and it's a sudden rush in mornings and afternoons when school starts and lets out and on Friday Nights when I drive past Brentwood High and Brentwood Academy on nights they're playing football, I wonder if those now in the 5 schools I mentioned will still get together for a 25th.. 50th.. 55th.. etc...reunion and what their memories will be.

I'd bet now, none of them have a takeaway like Ben H Thompson as the one in the HALL speaking to us, rather than in the office writing reports ..

As you know Nashville's private schools ... from the two listed above to Ensworth, MBA, BGA and Lipscomb have waiting lists due in part, I'm told, from varying issues within Metro... although I do hear good things about Hume Fogg and MLK .. But heck with the changing culture of today, it's got to be a challenge to reach effectively students who don't look like we looked..

When referring to OUR generation I'd call us COMPLIANT... We knew the rules and followed them and just one LOOK from Mr. Tom got us right back in line if we were flirting with crossing that line

I was pleased to learn later from "Miss" Rucker that she and Mr. Tom agreed our class was their favorite...we learned and we had fun .. and this many years later, the very fact that so MANY of us REMEMBER what it was like for us then, it is with a grateful heart to look back on those days

You and me had a longer history.

WE HAD GLENVIEW ELEMENTARY BEFORE GLENCLIFF JR HIGH / HIGH SCHOOL

Rose Hammond was our principal, and Mr Hodge was the PE guy on the playground.. Elaine Lavoi and Ronnie Batts were in classes with us along with Pat Waters, James Currey, Dan Haynes, Kathy Spaulding and Cathy Foy. There was guy around School Lane named Smith nicknamed SPOOK in that area.

Later, being thrown into Glencliff Jr High in the 7th grade, it was the GlenVIEW connection that were the only familiar faces I saw

Terry Bartlett, Nancy Withers, and Helen Harris were just a couple of years behind...

I remember a day when Ben Mullins, who lived on McCall Street, referred to US as

"that group from the other side of the tracks" and it sounded offensive

He was referring to the railroad tracks by the Dairy Dip by Mill Creek on Thompson Lane.... That was US.. and his group was Johnny Sanford, Leighton Cammuse, Billy Farris, Johnny Poole, Kenny Batts, Pam Hartman, Pam Cunningham, Jean Grayson, who when to Glencliff Elementary..

At Glencliff High we had one of the best looking cheerleaders ever on OUR side of those tracks.. JOAN DAVIS who lived on Browning Road and was a really nice person. I know that car accident was a real setback for her ... she lived on Browning Road just down from Dick Montgomery

My 6th grade teacher, "Miss Dodson" seemed ornery or impatient and later when going down the list of teachers you and I had, many were not married and never had children.. I could see later, some of those classes of 30 or 35 students could seem a handful

A counselor I know told me later that at that time, the education industry tended to prefer (but weren't limited to) women who didn't have children ...

Teaching classrooms full of kids all day and getting home at night to fix dinner for their own children would be 'too much' for some. It was someone single who would be more effective without that distraction. Having my own workaholic issues, I understand that thinking and know well how just getting out of balance in life, can compromise effectiveness.... I've made HOW I work.. work, but might have been better at everything if I'd know then what I know now.

I don't dwell on this, but today, I realize I've lived more days than I have left...and my job is to try and not let things that don't matter that much to take up space in my head.

In a head full of memories having good memories of peer's at Glencliff was a foundation to see the best in every moment after....

From every job and every city.. and every staff I led. And after working directly for Ted Turner for 2 decades while running a radio station at the same time, I learned the art of listening..but letting it go

If I'd believed every thought Ted had that he told me, I probably would have slept very little each night

In all this, from your setting up the date, and you and Cindy going over email addresses and responses and late responses, this event is a LOT more than work than just having over the next door neighbors.

Dare I say, what you did, was more like a THANKLESS job and what a leader you were and CONTINUE to be for our class

I'm glad I voted for you and I never expected you to still be ON the job decades later. I'd also bet.. no other class at Glencliff.. OR Overton OR Antioch OR Stratford, etc., have people like you that care this deeply and work this hard to keep the memory alive

I'll confess honestly. While not making the event, it is YOUR passion and example that inspires me to not let this go....

I hope and pray and most in our class who loved life then, still love life NOW .. and after a life of careers and marriages, Vietnam and burials of friends and some classmates, some days, LIFE CAN BE HARD...

Attitude is everything and as I visualize you.. I can't remember a time when you weren't smiling and I never saw you angry. You were focused and effective and boy oh boy.. your ability to get along with a lot of opinionated people in downtown government and development circles on the right page for the right look in parts of town I never knew could look so good... shoot, even where you live on Russell Street is a neighborhood that cares about bringing out the best of a great part of town that COULD have gone down

THANK YOU for FAR exceeding what anyone else would have done

Your friend and ole neighbor from over on Currey Road

John Young

June 10, 2022

55th Reunion Remarks from Dan Haynes

Welcome to the 55th Class Reunion of the 1967 Glencliff High School Graduating Class. Wow, I Never thought I would be saying those words.

First of all, let's thank Rick Bernhardt and his entire Class Reunion Committee for organizing our 55th Class Reunion. This Committee spent a lot of time and hard work planning and organizing our Reunion Weekend. I think we are blessed to have such a dedicated group of fellow Classmates to put this Reunion together. So if this Committee could stand up, we would like to give you all a big round of applause.

Just for fun, the next couple of minutes will be dedicated to Awards and Memories from 1967

MEMORIES

Do you remember buying a \$1.00 worth of gas and circling the Shoney's Parking Lot for hours at a time on Friday and Saturday Night?

Do you remember playing football with that triangular piece of paper in Study Hall?

Do you remember Mr. Tom and his paddle, especially if he caught you standing outside a Classroom in the hallway? That wasn't fun.

AWARDS

Now Rick Bernhardt sent out Secret Ballots to all the members of our 1967 Graduating Class to Vote on the following Awards:

The James Dean Mr. Cool Award: This went to the only person who could ride a motorcycle while smoking a cigarette and never had one single hair out of place. Congratulations to Gary Luther

Funniest Girl: Congratulations to Rita Sledge

Funniest Boy: Congratulations to Jody Bailey

Best Smile: Congratulations to Martha Hoskins

Best Artist: Congratulations to Frank Gee and Donna Oakley

Best Athlete: 3 Way Tie Congratulations Jimmy Rash, Tommy Francescon, and Rick Bernhardt (I wonder if Rick Voted Multiple Times),

Best Party House Host Award: This was the Notorious Party House where they played Spin the Bottle for hours at a time and all invitees were required to bring a stick of chap stick for entry. By the way, who do you think would Win this Award? Congratulations to our Winner Sylvia Lee

Most Amazing Talent Award: This Award went to the only person able to simultaneously type 100 words a minute in 6th Period Typing Class without making one single error while singing 96 Tears: Congratulations to Jean Grayson

Best GHS Student Council VP Award: Without a Doubt, Dennis Jackson

Well anyway, I started thinking about what should I say at our 55th Class Reunion. We are living in a very different world now than the world we graduated in 1967. Although we are living in very divisive Time and a World in turmoil, we are all very Blessed to be here tonight. We can still talk to each other, have dinner together,

enjoy dancing, enjoy the music, and reminisce about the good old times. So yes, we all are Truly Blessed.

I have always believed our Graduating Class was the BEST GRADUATING CLASS GLENCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL EVER HAD. It's not because we are a Class of High Achievers, successful People, and outstanding citizens in our communities. But I say this because of the fact that throughout the last 55 years our love and caring for each has never faltered.

I think that one fact puts us in a Class all to ourselves. Mr. Tom, Mrs. Rucker, Coach Davis, Miss Holley, and all our Teachers would have to agree.

I know I am so proud to have you all as my Classmates and I am especially proud to be a member of the 1967 Glencliff High School Graduating Class.

So now our Goal for the rest of the night is to have a great time and enjoy being together once again after all these years. God Bless You All!

Dan Haynes
June 5, 2022