



# hilltopper

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2008

## 2009 – Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association is formed

*Centennial class to be among the first*

One hundred years after Tourtellotte Memorial High School first opened its massive doors to students, graduates of the school announce the formation of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association (TMHSAA). The TMHS Alumni Association has been created to continue the educational and philanthropic traditions established by Jacob Francis and Harriet Arnold Tourtellotte more than a century ago. The mission of the association is to maintain a solid and continuous relationship between the school and its graduates through mentoring, social activities, and community involvement. Open to all graduates of Tourtellotte Memorial High School, the Association will also offer honorary memberships to local residents who have made exceptional contributions to the school and/or community.

Jacob Tourtellotte and his wife Harriet funded the design and construction of the high school and presented it to the Town of Thompson in 1909. Beginning in 1906, Harriet took an especially keen interest in all aspects of the school's site selection and construction. She strongly felt that the fourteen-acre site, the current home of TMHS, overlooking North Grosvenordale would be a perfect location for the

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## Alumni Committee Formed



*Right to Left:  
Alex Kirkland,  
Gladys Tucker,  
Eileen E. Deary,  
Joe Lindley,  
Rachael  
Johnston, Sandy  
Becker and Joe  
Iamartino.  
Missing- Deb  
Spinelli*

### ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2008

BY: Staff Writer

Eight local residents with strong ties to Tourtellotte Memorial High School formed the first Incorporated TMHS Alumni Association. The members include, Gladys (Krigsman) Tucker, long time teacher and Thompson resident and member of the class of 1952, Alex Kirkland, Class of 2008 and current student at QVCC, Eileen (Boutin) Deary, Class of 1977 and employee of Bryant University's Alumni Office, Rachael (LeFleur) Johnston, Class of 1975 and owner of Johnston and Associates, Sandy (Becker) Ouelette, Class of 1979, owner of Desired Weddings, Joe Iamartino, President of the Thompson Historical Society, Deb Spinelli, Alumni Liaison and Thompson School's Athletic Director, and Joe Lindley, Class of 1974 and member of the Thompson Board of Education.

The committee is working on a final charter for the organization and hopes to hold elections in December of 2008. The group is also working on establishing an annual alumni banquet and a newsletter committee. Anyone interested in helping can contact Deb Spinelli at 860-923-2350 or Email Deb at [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

**We are looking for articles of past classes!** Send them to:

[AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

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school, and through her influence, convinced the Grosvenor-Dale Company to donate the land. The Tourtellottes also built and donated buildings to house the school's teachers and administrators and left to the town sufficient funds to operate and maintain the school for many years.

The Tourtellottes, both natives of the Town of Thompson, moved to the mid-west after the Civil War where they eventually made their fortunes. Never losing their love for the place they called home, they donated the school because of their extraordinary commitment to a free education for the young men and women of Thompson. They named the school the Tourtellotte Memorial High School, not after themselves, but in loving memory of their two daughters who both died in childhood.

Mrs. Tourtellotte was the daughter of a Thompson mill owner, William Arnold, a partner in the Masonville Mills, Masonville, CT, now known as Grosvenordale, CT. When Harriet completed her grammar schooling in Thompson, her father sent her to an out-of-town high school since Thompson did not then have a public high school. She was one of very few women given the opportunity to receive a high school education at that time. She always greatly appreciated the educational opportunity she was given and felt strongly that others should have an equal opportunity. During a visit to Thompson in the early 1900s, she heard numerous complaints about the lack of a public high school in town, and she quickly mobilized the town to accept the responsibility for a public high school if funds could be found to construct one. After some lengthy discussion the town agreed and the deal was assembled, with the cornerstone laid December 1907.

Upon completion in 1909, the Boston Globe, one of the country's largest newspapers of the time, claimed it was one of the most modern schools in America, fitted with all of the modern amenities including one of the first purpose-built basketball courts in the country. The Tourtellottes also created a splendid museum full of family heirlooms on the second floor of the school. Mrs. Tourtellotte spent many hours in the school, personally selecting furniture, and decorating the Tourtellotte family museum. Accounts of the day all indicate that the school and her philanthropic work were her passion following the death of her husband. Mr. Tourtellotte passed away in Minnesota and never saw the school he helped to fund. Moving back to Thompson, Mrs. Tourtellotte lived alone in a modest home located on Main Street in North Grosvenordale (currently the TEEG Building) until she passed away. From her back window, she would get great satisfaction sitting peacefully and gazing at the magnificent school high up on the hill that she and her husband helped build. Some would argue that her greatest satisfaction was in knowing that for generations young men and women

from Thompson would receive a free educational opportunity they would not have received without her and her family. She went to her grave knowing that she changed the town for the better.

All alumni association members will be invited to attend an annual alumni banquet and receive a quarterly TMHS Alumni Association electronic newsletter. The newsletter will update members on major events, school activities and former graduates. The association is now looking for members. Annual dues are \$15.00, due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, sent to: TMHS Alumni Association, C/O Tourtellotte Memorial High School, 785 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

Once an initial membership list is established, elections for officers will be held. Anyone interested in joining the association may call Joe Lindley at 860-928-5527 or Email Joe at [joelindley119@hotmail.com](mailto:joelindley119@hotmail.com) or call Deb Spinelli at 860-923-2350 or Email Deb at [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

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## Memorable school events: NEW HIGH SCHOOL OPENED



*New main entrance of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School*

Nearly 100 years after Mrs. Harriet Tourtellotte presented the 1909 Tourtellotte Memorial High School building to the Town of Thompson, the Town opened its new high school wing. The building project included a new auditorium, early learning center, additional classrooms, library, administrative offices, baseball and soccer field, and multi-purpose gymnasium.

Members of the building committee, who were tasked with the overall management of this extraordinary project, included current Board of Education members, townsfolk and TMHS Alumni. They included: David Johnson, Chairman, Laurence Consiglio, Vice-Chairman, James Naum, Suzanne Wargo, Secretary, Jody Houghton, Merc Robbins, John Rice, William Witkowski, Robert Bentley, Fred Wojick and Joseph Adiletta.

**Visit the TMHS Website at:**

<http://www.thompson.ctschool.net/TMHS/index.html>

**10 things you may *NOT* know about TMHS**

1. There were only eight graduates in 1911, our first graduating class. Two were women.
2. TMHS original colors were Scarlet and Black.
3. The cost to attend TMHS in 1910 for "out of town scholars" - \$20.00/year.
4. The original cost of the TMHS building - \$150,000.
5. 3 members of the Class of 1947 left high school and served in the armed forces during WWII. They returned after their stint and graduated in 1947. They were: Bob Blake - U.S. Marines 43-46, Burt Elliot - U.S. Navy 45-46 and Bob Luster - U.S. Navy 44-46.
6. The class of 1947's favorite actors were Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore
7. Their favorite radio program – Hit Parade
8. Their favorite teachers – Mr. Canty and Miss Gahagan
9. Francis Sheriff '47' was the first TMHS graduate to be accepted at West Point Military Academy.
10. We have had two Alma Maters. Here's the original:

*"Although Yale has always favored  
The violet's dark Blue  
And the gentle sons of Woodstock  
To the Blue and Gold are true  
We will own the lilies slender  
Nor honor shall they lack  
While Tourtellotte stands defender  
Of the Scarlet and the Black.*

*Through the four long years of High School  
'Midst the scenes we know so well  
And the mystic charms of knowledge  
We vainly seek t to spell  
Or we win athletic victory  
On the baseball field or track  
Still we work for dear old Tourtellotte  
And the Scarlett and the Black."*

Source: 1947 TMHS Class Book, compliments of Betty LeClair '52'

**Annual Alumni Banquet and Web Site Planned**

According to TMHSAA Alumni Banquet Committee, the planning phases of the 2009 Alumni Banquet are in full swing. Tentative dates have been set for June 2009 and will be opened to all alumni. Also, with the help of our Webmaster, the TMHSAA is creating a Web Site so we can stay connected. If you are interested in helping us with the banquet or Website please contact Deb Spinelli at 860-923-2350 or Email Deb at: [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

**A Voice from the Past – A Meaningful Reminder**

**WORDS FROM THE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

BY: Staff Writer

Time has somehow masked the importance of the precious gift bestowed upon the Town of Thompson by the Tourtellotte family. On September 10, 1910, at the dedication ceremony Mr. Andem, agent for the Grosvenor-Dale Company, the company that donated the land on which the school now rests, said:

*"Friends of Thompson, do you realize what she (Mrs. Tourtellotte) has entrusted to your care? These treasures of her loved ones are now no longer in her home. It is not an easy thing to do. May the citizens of Thompson realize the benefit that Mr. and Mrs., Tourtellotte are giving to this town that contains much love."*

Maybe these words can serve as a reminder of our obligation to the Tourtellottes.

**We want your old pictures!**



Jacob Francis Tourtellotte (left) and Harriett (Arnold) Tourtellotte (right) with daughter Hattie circa 1905. Compliments of THS

We are looking for your old school pictures. They can include anything Tourtellotte and can include athletics, classmates, plays, special events, etc. Each month we would like to feature pictures from the past. Simply scan them and send them to: [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net) or mail them to **Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Office**, 785 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

**Have Articles or Stories??**

Submit them to:

[AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

Or mail them to:

**TMHS Alumni Association  
785 Riverside Drive  
No. Grosvenordale, CT 06255**

## Photos from the past



(Compliments of the Thompson Historical Society)

The above picture is one of the oldest known postcards of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School building circa 1912. One interesting item that many who live in Thompson today take for granted is the lack of trees that existed in the Town during this period. Because of farming and wood being a primary source of fuel during the 1800's and early 1900's Thompson had few trees, especially when compared against the lush green forests we now enjoy.

## From past hilltoppers

BY: Staff Writer

While today's TMHS students discuss the political, social, moral and ethical ramifications and benefits of the War on Terror, they are not the only generation that had to ponder such difficult issues. The following article, written by a TMHS student, is from the December, 1966 issue of hilltopper.



American UH-1 'Huey' helicopters off loading U.S. Army soldiers in Vietnam circa 1968. The troops shown are most likely from one of the Air-Calvary units.

## Why Do We Sacrifice Lives (December, 1966)

At present this nation is involved in a cold war. Many people are asking why we entered conflict in an area which is five thousand miles from our native land. Why do we sacrifice lives of American soldiers in Viet Nam? These people say there is no good reason, that we should send our troops home and stay home permanently, and never fight again in foreign lands. These people are the same individuals who walk around city streets with placards listing Communistic slogans and ideas. These are the people who denounce our foreign policy, who denounce our president and who denounce our nation.

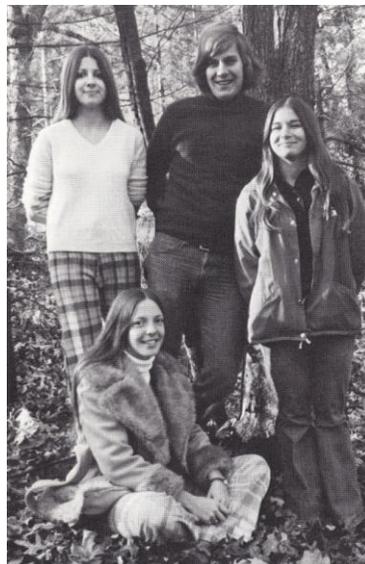
I will tell you why we are in Viet Nam. I will give you the reasons. First, we are giving South Viet Nam the chance to have liberty, to live without tyranny, and to say without fear something that they believe in.

Second, we are not only fighting for the Vietnamese, we are fighting for ourselves! If we do not uphold this front, if we do not fight here, we will sooner or later have to fight for our own freedom. If we let the Communists take over Viet-Nam, they will not stop there. They will go on, taking one by one the countries of Southeast Asia. They will and are taking the republics of Africa. They will swoop down to South America, and conquer those nations. If we do not stop them what will be their next objective? Europe, perhaps? Then where? Only we will be left eventually. And who is to say that we would be able to defend ourselves after the power of our allies has been drained and taken away? Who can say that we would be able to resist, be able to overcome this tyranny? Let us not take that chance. Let this nation defend Viet Nam. We will defend ourselves in doing so.

## Does anyone remember double sessions?

The mid 1970's were tumultuous times for many young adults, especially for the students of TMHS. Students at that time attended school in two shifts, early morning and afternoon, making learning, teaching, athletics, and extracurricular activities very difficult to coordinate. The first shift started around 6:45 AM and was dismissed at noon. The second shift began at noon and was dismissed around 5:00 PM. If you have any stories about this time at TMHS send them to: [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.com](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.com)

## 1974 CLASS OFFICERS



1974 Senior Class Officers: Standing Left to right: Robyn Latici, secretary, Dan Salvas, Vice President, Deb Mead, President, and seated, Suzanne Cloutier, Treasurer

The Class of 1974 was one of several classes that had to deal with double sessions. In spite of their difficult high school years many from these double session classes went on to live productive lives

to include several career military officers, college professors, company owners and career moms and dads. Many of their children are now approaching thirty.

## Where are they now?

### BIOGRAPHIES OF FORMER GRADUATES

#### Brian Murphy Class of 1975

BY: Staff Writer

Anyone who is familiar with baseball in Eastern Connecticut will know the name Brian Murphy.



Brian was a baseball, soccer and basketball stand-out while at TMHS. He excelled in baseball and quickly became one of the areas predominant pitchers. He was an All State baseball player three of his four years at Tourtellotte. In 1975, after he graduated high school, he was recruited by Eastern Connecticut State University where as a pitcher he became an All American. Brian was such a dominant force at Eastern he became America's number one college pitcher.

The New York Yankees drafted him in 1979 where his pitching abilities grew. Brian was selected to the Minor League all-star team for two years. He was a roommate with Yankees great, Don Mattingly and he and Don remain friends to this day. Brian continued to play baseball for many years after his professional playing days and has contributed to several clinics as a pitching instructor.

In 1981, after his life in baseball, Brian began his career with the Connecticut Department of Correction as a Correction Officer and progressed through the ranks to his current position as Deputy Commissioner for Operations. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Sociology Degree in Applied Social Relations from Eastern Connecticut State University.

During his career, Brian has served in a variety of positions, to include the Agency's Director of Security, interim Commissioner, Complex Warden of five correctional facilities in the northern part of the state, and the Lead Warden of the newly consolidated MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution.

Brian's noteworthy accomplishments include the development of the Department's policy on managing gangs, telephone monitoring, and policy and procedures for the Department's Internal Affairs Unit. Brian Murphy also authored the Department's Security Administrative Directives and Emergency Plans.

Brian is a founding member of the National Major Gang Task Force, which monitors and disseminates information on gangs to law enforcement agencies across the country. He has provided technical assistance to other states concerning the management of gangs and is considered an expert witness on such matters. Brian's

accomplishments with gang investigations have assisted both state and federal authorities in the prosecution of these criminal enterprises.

Brian currently is Deputy Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Corrections, a member of the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association. He is the recipient of the 1994 Commissioner's Award and a former Executive Board Member of the Connecticut Special Olympics.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Corrections. Found at: <http://www.ct.gov/doc/cwp/view.asp?A=1503&Q=265508>  
Photo compliments of CT, DOC.

## Alumni group participates in Thompson Community Day

BY: Staff Writer

On Sunday October 5, 2008, the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association participated in the Thompson annual Community Day event. The Alumni booth, manned by several founding members, attracted alumni old and new. The damp weather did little to dampen the spirits of those attending the day's



*(L - R) Boy Scouts open the day by raising the Stars and Stripes as the TMHS Choir sang the Star Spangled Banner. Items exhibited included Jim Canty Trophies and year books.*

events. The booth featured old yearbooks, high school documents dating back to the 1800's, photos of the 1944 and 1949 Championship basketball teams and two large 1949 and 1967 basketball trophies awarded to Coach Jim Canty.

The booth was visited by many alumni, to include former Canty players Jim Sali '51', and Tasi Vriga '49.' Those at the booth were privileged with first-hand stories of Coach Canty and the road that culminated in several State Championship seasons. Canty, one of the winningest basketball coaches in the State's history, was loved by all his players for the patience he showed and the class he always exhibited. "Coach Canty was a real class act," states Vriga, "and I am glad to see his trophies here."

Teresa Muraco, class of 1940, gave the group a short description of her years at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, a time that goes back nearly 70 years.

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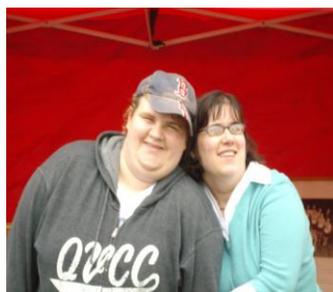
Other visiting alum and guests included Mary Anne R. (Wallace) Fontaine '84,' Rosse marie (Poplawski) Tiernan '64,' Frances Gesualdi '49,' Evan Faucher '08.' Joyce (Barbour) Mezzoni, Tracey Santerre '08,' Nicole Beno '08.' Jane Elison, George Becker '78,' Joshua Kusek '08,' Rhonda (Benoit) Rooney '85.' Daniell M. Chapdelaine '06,' Kelli M. Langer '06,' Christine E. Flood Leary '87,' Carol (Robbins) Smith '60,' Kathy (Faucher) Morin '73.' Jessica E. Desmond '94,' Larry and Cindy Consiglio, Pat Donnelley '69,'

The booth was manned by Jim Sali '51,' Eileen Deary '77,' Gladys Tucker '52,' Joe '74' and Sue Lindley. The group also raised a few dollars by selling old obsolete TMHS athletic uniforms.



*Gladys Tucker, class of 1952, former TMHS cheerleader, student, long-time Thompson teacher, and alumni member with Jim Sali, class of 1951, long-time resident and former Thompson selectman. Jim is also a former Canty Man, but more on that in later issues*

*Jim Sali, class of 1951 with former classmate Norma O'Leary, also from the class of 1951. Norma is always seen around town helping out where she can. Today we found her parking cars as a Community Day Volunteer.*



*New alumni members Tracey Santerre and Nicole Beno, both from the recently graduated TMHS class of 2008. Both young ladies have been close friends for many years and stated they have been, "the best of friends since fifth grade."*

*Frances Gesualdi, TMHS class of 1949 and Teresa Muraco, TMHS class of 1940. Teresa, when looking at old photos of Tourtellotte, said she remembers a time when there were few trees on TMHS Hill.*

*(Courtesy photos)*



## Where are they now?

### BIOGRAPHIES OF FORMER GRADUATES

#### Tony Consiglio Class of 2002

BY: Staff Writer



It wasn't all that long ago that Tony Consiglio was running the halls of TMHS as the 2002 Senior Class President. But much has transpired for Tony in the last 6 years.

Upon graduating from TMHS, Tony attended Emerson College located in Boston, MA, where he earned a B.S. Degree in Broadcast Journalism, minoring in Political Science. While in college, Tony further developed a love for the air waves as the Emerson radio station's sports anchor and news reporter. While in Beantown, Tony also interned at Boston's WEEI and NESN sports stations.

Tony joined the Fox 22 WFVX/ABC-7 news team, in Bangor Maine in April 2006. After spending a year as a sports reporter, he moved into his current position as a news anchor and producer in May 2007. His station bio states that he considers himself very lucky to have been in Boston for three of the best years in New England sports history, including two Patriots Super Bowls and the long awaited Red Sox World Series.



*TMHS Alum, Tony Consiglio on the set of ABC-7 'Your Bangor News,' Bangor, Maine. Tony began his interest in broadcasting while at TMHS*

Many in Thompson remember Tony for his athletic achievements on the baseball diamond and soccer field. Tony, after a long successful high school and American Legion Baseball career here in Northeastern Connecticut, continued to play college baseball for a year while at Emerson, finally hanging up the spikes to pursue his work in broadcasting. Tony's broadcast achievements include the Maine Association of Broadcasters Award for Photojournalism, four Associated Press Awards for work in television while at Emerson College and a Fox 61 Student News Silver Award in Overall Achievement awarded while at TMHS.

During his years at TMHS, Tony earned 10

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varsity letters, was the senior class president (2002), and a member of the student council for four years. Special memories while at Tourtellotte include being asked to speak at graduation, making the baseball state tournament as a senior, making the state quarterfinals in soccer and the life-long friends he made while in high school. Tony's favorite teacher was Mr. LaMontagne.

Tony is the son of Larry and Cindy Consiglio of Thompson, Connecticut. His brother Andy and sister Stacey also attended TMHS and are now both attending college. Maybe the **hilltopper** can feature another Consiglio alum in a future **Where are they now?** article.

Photos and bio information compliments of WVII Fox22 News, Bangor, ME. Found at: <http://www.wvii.com/staff.html>.

## Tourtellotte Family Memorial Room

BY: Staff Writer

Located on the second floor of the 1909 Tourtellotte Memorial High School building hiding behind a large copper cladded door is a historical and cultural gem that few in Thompson know exists.

The Tourtellotte Room has been a piece of TMHS tradition for nearly 100 years. Mrs. Tourtellotte, in an attempt to memorialize her family and daughters, placed a number of family heirlooms in the room and donated them to the Town of Thompson. She spent countless hours organizing the room for future generations to enjoy. The Thompson Historical Society, caretakers of the room, has done its level best to insure the room is the same today as it was in 1909.

The Alumni Association has made the preservation of the room and building a priority. "This building is an architectural gem," states Joe lamartino, president of the Thompson Historical Society. Students from the school used to tour the room on an annual basis to learn about the Tourtellottes and their philanthropic work, something the Alumni Association hopes to re-instate. The room is open one Sunday per month for anyone interested.



Left - Portrait of Dr. Francis Jacob Tourtellotte in his Civil War Union Uniform, circa 1864. Dr. Tourtellotte served as a physician for the Union Army before moving to Minnesota.



Starting at the top and moving clockwise: Portraits of the Tourtellotte family (Dr. Jacob Francis Tourtellotte – center), statue of a woman, fine furniture collected by the Tourtellottes during their extensive travels, family heirloom quilt, circa 1890. (Photos courtesy of Joe Lindley)

## THE CANTY YEARS

Here's an article we found in the archives:

### 28<sup>th</sup> Straight Win Brings Fifth Hoop Crown to Tourtellotte High

Norwich Bulletin

Friday, March 17, 1950

When defending champion Tourtellotte Memorial High School defeated Ellsworth of South Windsor, 40 to 26, in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic conference Class S finals at New Britain Teachers' college gym Thursday afternoon it not only registered its 28<sup>th</sup> straight victory of the 1949-1950 season but also captured its fifth class championship. Only undefeated high school quintet in the state this season, Tourtellotte wound up its regular schedule with 24 victories and then polished off four tournament foes to complete a perfect season.

Prior to their tourney competition the Tigers annexed the Quinebaug Valley conference championship by sweeping six conference foes aside in two meetings each.

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# Basketball has a rich tradition at TMHS

## THOMPSON HAD ITS OWN COACH CARTER

BY: Joe Lindley



Left is the 1944 TMHS Class C-D State Champs basketball team with legendary Jim Canty (top right). This picture was taken in the winter. If you look close you can see snow on the ground.

The *hilltopper* staff is gathering information on Coach Jim Canty and hope to run a story on Coach Canty and the 1949, 1950, 1951 State championship basketball teams in a future edition of *hilltopper*. As many alumni know Coach Canty served as head coach of the Tigers from 1940 -1971 and still owns the Tourtellotte High School record for total number of wins, division (QVC) championships and State Championships. Coach Canty truly set the standard for coaching in Northeast Connecticut. Many former players remember their home court, the Cluett Peabody gymnasium, now the Knights of Columbus, filled to capacity game after game. TMHS also won States Championships in 1927, 1929 and most recently 1987 under head coach Jim Naum, a former Cantyman. We are looking for any personal memories, photos or newspaper stories you may have from that time. If you would like to share, call Joe Lindley at 860-928-5527 or send them to: [joelindley119@hotmail.com](mailto:joelindley119@hotmail.com)

## Class of 1967 dedicated their year to one of TMHS's best MR. J. WILLIAM SAUNDERS



Bill Saunders 1967

Bill Saunders was a friend to all and a mentor to many. He was a teacher at TMHS for many years and made his mark as one of the profession's best. In addition to teaching Mr. Saunders also coached cross-country and basketball. The class of 1967 gave Mr. Saunders their highest award the TIGER. Here's their story.

The *TIGER* dedication is the highest honor that a class can bestow upon a member of the faculty. We, the class of 1967, have chosen to dedicate our *TIGER* to a man with whom we have worked long and hard throughout our high school years.

The stimulating and varied discussions held in his class have comprised, for many of us, the most enjoyable learning periods that we have had. His

sometimes difficult assignments are now regarded with growing appreciation as we prepare to face the adult world ahead of us. He is well-known throughout the school for his corny jokes, term papers, Irish temper, and for the tremendous aid he gives each year to the yearbook staff.

It is with deep gratitude for a job well done that we dedicate the 1967 *TIGER* to Mr. J. William Saunders. (Source: 1967 TMHS Yearbook)



Bill Saunders - 1974

Mr. Saunders held a B.A. from Providence College and a M.Ed. from Worcester State College. He taught English at TMHS for many years until a tragic accident took him away from the profession and students he so deeply enjoyed. He loved discussing politics with TMHS students, often taking controversial positions to encourage discussion.

Many of us do not appreciate the impact our high school teachers had upon us until we ourselves become adults. Send us your stories about your favorite teachers, coaches or those from Tourtellotte who had a special impact upon your life. Send them to: [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ct.school.com](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ct.school.com)



When the current Alumni Council began discussion about the potential for a periodic newsletter we were delighted to find that in the past TMHS has produced a newsletter called the *hilltopper*. The newspaper staff consisted of students and teachers. We (TMHSAA) decided to carry on the tradition established years ago by these dedicated individuals. Left is the front page of the February 1967 issue.

## This month in 1962...

According to our yearbook research staff, boys' soccer at TMHS began this month in 1962. Members of the team included Parmi Leo, David Thomas, Clifton Thompson, Robert Svenning, Ronald Donovan, Paul Morin, Bruce Hay, Brian Mead, David Wojciechowski, Ronald Shippee, Richard Freudenthal, Paul Thomas, Louis Leo, Michael Johnson, Robert Wojciechowski, Gene Austin, Dana VanderSwaagh, Peter Ward, Dennis Shooter, Coaches - Michael Molinaro, George Turano.

## Local photographer helps Alumni Association

By: Joe Lindley

While searching for historical information about Tourtellotte Memorial High School I came across a series of magnificent photographs on Flickr, the on-line image center for Yahoo. While seeking permission to use the photos I found they were taken by and belonged to Ron Morin of Thompson, Connecticut – small world. After a few Emails, Ron was gracious enough to grant us permission to use them for the Alumni Association. Ron's work can be found at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/hammerron/>



The above are 2007 pictures of the front façade of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School – Courtesy of Ron Morin.

### Upcoming Events:

#### MARK YOUR CALANDERS!

- Alumni Meeting – October 15, 6:30 PM, HS Library
- Alumni Meeting – November 5<sup>th</sup> (Tentative – Contact our web address to keep posted.
- Boys' Basketball Season Opener – December 1
- Girls' Basketball Season Opener – November 24
- Alumni Banquet – Currently scheduled for June. Date TBD- Stay tuned
- November edition of the *hilltopper* – Scheduled for November 24, 2008
- December edition of the *hilltopper* – Scheduled for December 29, 2008

### Canty in Five Titles

The Tigers are coached by Jim Canty, former Holy Cross athlete and strangely enough Canty had had a part in all five TMHS stat title victories. Twice when he was a player at Tourtellotte the school won the crown and three times as a coach his Tigers came through.

The great TMHS hoop success of the 1949-50 season was due largely to the brilliant play of southpaw George Dargati. A sensation last season and named to the Class S all-star team, Dargati eclipsed his 1948-49 efforts by far as he collected a record total of 529 points for 28 games played. During the team's regular schedule, George hit for 455 points to better his own mark of 436 points set during the 1948-49 play. In tourney competition this season the sharp shooting forward connected for 74 tallies in four games. Over the 23-game route Dargati averaged 18.9 points per game.

Runner-up to Dargati in the individual scoring race is Tom Tanacea, also a forward, who hit 264 tallies for 28 games. Over the 24-game schedule Tanacea was credited with setting 231 points.

Team statistics show that the TMHS club scored a total of 1587 points against 915 for the opposition.

### Team Play Did Trick

Although Dargati was the star performer his feats were made possible only through the team work of his mates. The usual starting Tiger combination was made up of Dargati and Tanacea at forward, Frank Ungerer at center and Chris Carabina and Jim Naum in the backcourt. It was team play that enabled Tourtellotte to accomplish its great court feat.

Next season Coach Canty will have to do a complete rebuilding job for he will lose seven regulars by graduation in June, Dargati, Tanacea, Ungerer, Naum, Carabina, Karapanos and Hagstrom are members of the 1950 graduating class.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Initial membership due at time of application, yearly renewals due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year

Regular Membership..... \$15.00  
Senior Citizens (65 and older)..... \$5.00  
Graduating Class..... \$5.00

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If you would like to contribute short stories to the *hilltopper* please contact Joe Lindley at

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