



hilltopper

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

Happy Summer!!

July August 2010

GEOFF BOLTE '01



Left: Geoff Bolte, Tourtellotte Memorial High School Class of 2001, all geared up for one of his many photography assignments. Geoff's job has led him to some of the sporting world's most popular events allowing him to meet some of the most recognized names in the business. Geoff began his company in 2006. Photos compliments of Atlantic Expressions.

With the help of Geoff Bolte TMHS Class of 2001 and owner of Atlantic Expressions, a professional photography company based in Spencer, Massachusetts, the TMHSAA was able to capture many remarkable moments of the 2010 Athletic HOF induction ceremony, the TMHSAA Alumni Banquet, and the 2010 TMHS graduation.

Geoff electronically loads pictures on his site allowing access to anyone wishing to view the collection.

continued on page 2

100th TMHS Class Graduates



Above: Dr. Michael Jolin, Thompson Superintendent of Schools, addressing the graduates and guests at the 100th TMHS commencement exercise. More photos on pages three and four. Photo compliments of Justine Gendreau '81.

TMHS Alumni Banquet and HOF Induction Ceremony a Big Success

BY: Staff Writer

More than 100 guests and alumni members attended the inaugural Tourtellotte Memorial High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony this past June. The often-emotional ceremony began with Alan Coombs, the son of the late John Dexter Coombs, head coach for the 1927 Boys' Basketball State Championship team, accepting the HOF award on behalf of his dad and the 1927 team.

"This is an incredible experience for me," stated Mr. Coombs. "I really thought everyone forgot about my father and his coaching days. You don't know how much this means to me."

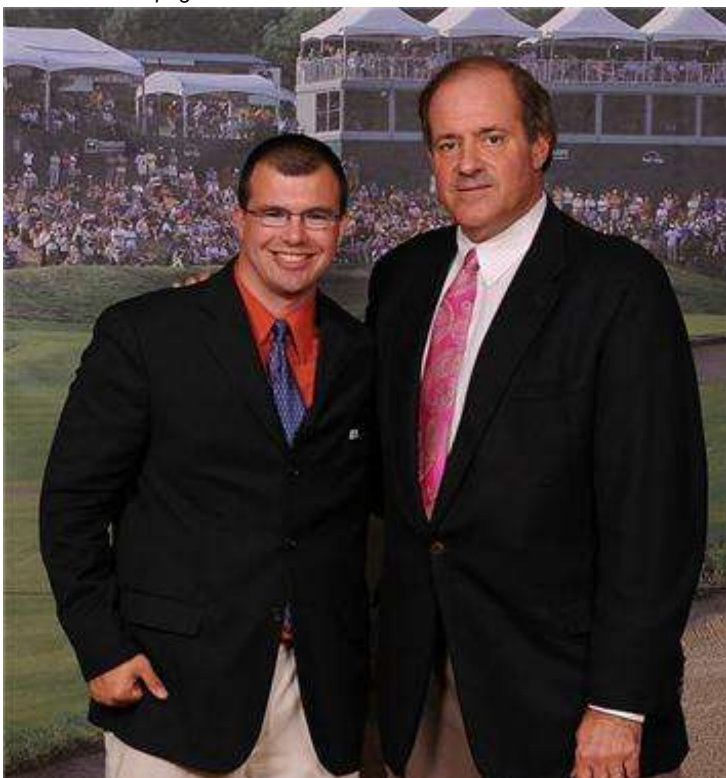
The TMHSAA was able to provide Mr. Coombs pictures of the 1927 team he had never seen and the 1927 statistics of the team. "I knew my dad had a good team, I just didn't know it was this good," stated Coombs.

continued on page 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Geoff Bolte**
- 1 100th Class Graduates**
- 4 2010 Graduation Pictures**
- 5 Articles From the Past**
- 6 1948 TMHS Court Appearances Require**

Electronic copies of this newsletter can be found at:
www.thompsonpublicschools.org - Then click TMHSAA



GEOFF BOLTE '01 (Cont.)

After leaving Tourtellotte Memorial High School in 2001 Geoff attended Barry University. He graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts, specializing in graphic design. Geoff started his photography business in 2006 and as they say the rest is history.

Geoff's love for photography began when he was 10 years old, but he placed this particular interest on hold for a few years while he concentrated on athletics. While at Tourtellotte, Geoff played baseball, basketball, football, cross country, and indoor track where he became a State Champion in 55m hurdles in 2001. This title earned him all-state honors in 2001.

He can regularly be found on the sidelines of many colleges and universities to include UCONN and Boston College. He has covered many major sporting events including the FedEx Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida, the NCAA Hockey Regional Tournament, the NCAA Fencing National Championships, Major League Soccer, U.S. National Soccer games, NASCAR in Loudon, New Hampshire, and the National Federation of High Schools National Cheer and Gymnastic Championships.

Geoff's work has allowed him to meet some of sport's biggest names to include renowned ABC sportscaster Chris Berman, and PGA pros Luke List and Hal Sutton. His work has been featured in Sports Illustrated, ESPN the Magazine, The Sporting News, and many other popular sport publications. He regularly works all over the world with many large corporations such as Travelers, Deutsche Bank, Globe Op, and Commerce Insurance covering their widely popular sponsored events. A recent travel assignment found him in Toronto, Canada to cover the Red Sox versus Blue Jays series at the Rogers Centre.

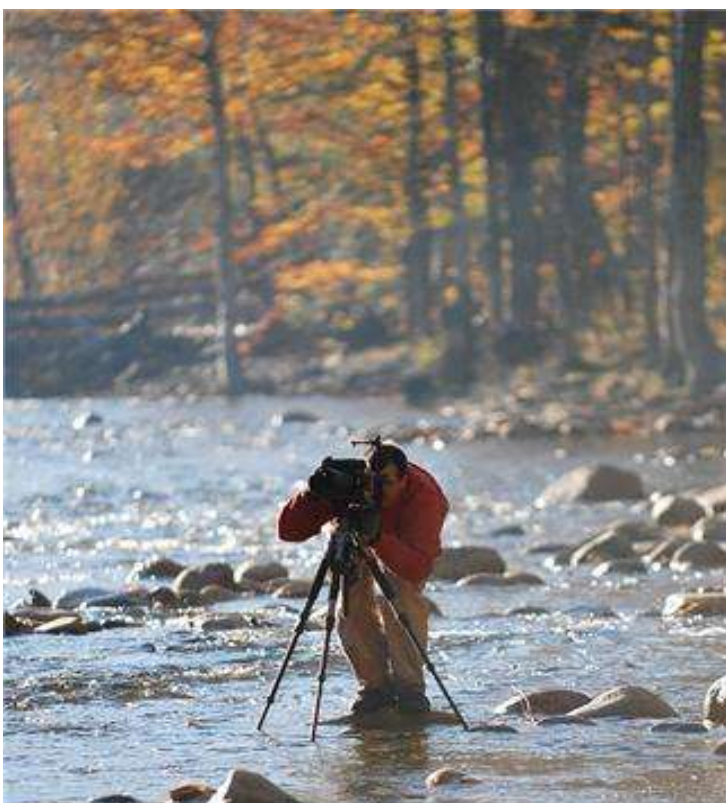
He is married to Jessica (Williams) Bolte TMHS '01. They enjoy traveling to the White Mountains of New Hampshire regularly, camping in the Crawford Notch area. They both enjoy hiking and backpacking and have conquered a few 4,000 foot plus White Mountain peaks. It is reported that by the time this issue is published Geoff and Jessica will have climbed the always impressive and often dangerous Mount Washington. We hope He and his wife have a great time!

He plans on attending and working the 2012 Olympics to be held in London, England.

Geoff is the son of long-time Thompson Middle School office secretary, Rachael Bolte and Dan Bolte of Thompson, Connecticut.

Geoff is available for any photography needs. You can contact Geoff and view photos from the TMHS 2010 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, the 2010 Alumni Association Banquet and the 2010 Tourtellotte Memorial High School graduation at Atlantic Expressions found at:

<http://www.gcbphotos.com/tmhs/>



Above: Geoff Bolte '01 with long-time ESPN and ABC sportscaster, Chris Berman. Geoff's work has been featured in Sports Illustrated, ESPN - The Magazine, and Sporting News. Below: Geoff demonstrating his skills as a multi-dimensional photographer. His work can be found in a number of different areas. To see Geoff's work go to: <http://www.gcbphotos.com/tmhs>. Photo compliments of Atlantic Expressions.

5 things you may *NOT* know about TMHS

1. According to a January 12, 1933 Brochure for the Senior Play "Oh, Professor," the Hilltopper was called the Tourtellotte Eye. The brochure reads: The "TOURTELLOTTE EYE" is a paper of the pupils, by the pupils, and for the pupils of TMHS. Get your subscription NOW for the January issue from Myrtle Strait, 33, Business Manager
2. In 1932, Morin Studios in Webster, MA would develop and print Kodak graduation pictures for \$.29 each and enlargements for \$.25 each.
3. As a means to teach TMHS students the U.S. legal system the school held "court" when students were found in violation of minor school rule infractions (See article on pg. 6).
4. Silver spoon collecting is a popular hobby that dates back many years. Mrs. Tourtellotte was an avid silver spoon collector. There are more than 100 samples of her collection displayed in the Memorial Room. Many of these spoons are reminders of places visited or of special events in the collector's life. We hope to analyze and better understand the collection in greater detail over the upcoming years.
5. While the Class of 1930 prepared for graduation, Mahatma Gandhi began his famous civil disobedience in order to protest the English occupation of his country. He would become one of the world's best known figures for non-violent disobedience.

JOIN THE TEAM! WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Art and history researchers
- History and art enthusiasts
- Newsletter writers and editors

WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES AND HELP!

We try to keep our annual membership fees as low as possible but they are desperately needed in order to keep our organization running. If you are enjoying this newsletter we need your help in continuing the good work we have started. None of this happens for free and we are solely dependent upon our members. Please send your membership fees and donations to TMHSAA, PO Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

If you are from the 1980's, 1990's, or the 2000's send us a story updating us what you have been doing since leaving TMHS.

Find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=66394168063&ref=ts

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Initial membership due at time of application, yearly renewals due January 1st of each year

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

hilltopper Staff

Editor: Joe Lindley '74'

*Staff Members: Jim Sali '51' - Gladys Tucker '52' - Jane Ellison '61' - Eileen Deary '77' - Sandy Becker '79' - Rachael Johnston '75' Alex Kirkland '08' Kris Blanchette '87
Archives: Gladys Tucker '52' and Rita Rohr '56*

If you would like to contribute short stories to the hilltopper please contact Joe Lindley at joelindley119@hotmail.com

WE WANT YOUR OLD PICTURES AND STORIES!

We are looking for pictures and stories from your time at TMHS. They can be about anything Tourtellotte and can include athletics, classmates, plays, special events, etc. Each month we would like to feature pictures from the past. Send them to: TMHSAA@Charter.net or mail them to **Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Office**, PO Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. We'll scan them and send them back to you.

Visit the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Website at:

<http://www.thompsonpublicschools.org>



Above: The Tourtellotte Memorial High School Class of 2010 during the recent graduation ceremony held on the Tourtellotte Memorial High School softball field. Seventy-eight Tourtellotte students and two alumni members, Bill Mayo '36 and Maurice Negip '44, received their high school diplomas. The weather was perfect and by all accounts the day was perfect. More photos can be found at Justine Gendreau's Facebook page and at Geoff Bolte's Atlantic Expressions. Photo compliments of Justine Gendreau '81.

2010 Graduation Pictures



Above left: Maurice Negip '43 with nephew David '85 shortly after receiving his TMHS honorary diploma. David is the son of Bev (Valade) '59 and the late Ed Negip '59. Above right: Long-time TMHS teacher Merrill Seney, addressing the graduation ceremony crowd after announcing his retirement a few weeks earlier. Merrill has served at TMHS as teacher, coach and mentor to many Tigers over the years. To the left of Merrill is Dr. Penny Hebert, TMHS principal. Below left: Mary (Alongi) Mayo accepting brother Bill Mayo's '36 honorary diploma. Below right: June Duclos '73 and Joe Lindley '74 presenting the honorary diplomas. Photos compliments of TMHSAA member, Justine Gendreau '81.

Letter from Bill Mayo '36

We received this letter from Bill Mayo '36. Bill recently received his honorary diploma after leaving TMHS more than 70 years ago to help support his family and fight in WWII. We assume the package he speaks of in his letter was his diploma and graduation program. It reads:

First of all, let me thank you and Lou Alongi for the time and effort you both put in securing my graduation from Tourtellotte High School, class of 1936.

I appreciate all you did in getting this to me. My son Bruce, who is staying with us... noticed the UPS envelope that was dropped off just inside our gate.

After I opened it I felt an immediate sense of pride and even a few tears of joy as my wife and I admired it, and read with interest the accompanying documents. As they say, good things are worth waiting for, and I waited for 74 years for this.

William E. Mayo

Bill is now 92 years of age and lives in San Juan Capo, California.

Articles from the Past

Tourtellotte Snares 13th Victory

In a decisive display of first semester ability, the Tourtellotte Charter League today with their 13th victory when they defeated the Middletown Hawks in the 1955 game. Final score was 40-0 with the Hawks making a wild run in the 13th inning. The defeat ended a five-game winning streak for the visitors. Highest score was by the Hawks. Co-Captain Steve Hennessey led 13 points to the team.




In the 14, scored by Steve Hennessey who scored a total of 25 points in the game. Captain Hennessey with excellent teamwork.

Support received on a three score game in the course of the week.

GIFT Flowers

For your Valentine! Whether she's young or old, sophisticated or sweet, a gift of flowers is always welcome, always in good taste.

Persons for a bouquet:

- Formal Plants, Cut Roses
- Carnations, Sweet Peas
- Orchids, Iris
- Mixed Bouquets

Special This Week

SWEET PEA BOUQUET \$1.00 up

MINUETS and HOLIDAYS CALL NORMAN COLLECT 12:00-1:30 PM

McKENNA THE FLORIST

NORWICH & DANFELDEN
71 Main St. Norwich, Conn. 06250
PE 4-6495

Have Women handle decorations in a variety of...
In behalf of entire staff, this can be done through in person flowers. If you see, and we couldn't have done it without you. How nice you.

Left: An article from *The Neighbor* newspaper dated February 10, 1955. Right: Another page from *The Neighbor*. Joe Mathieu and Mathieu Ford was a big part of the Northeast Connecticut community for many years. Joe sold many Tourtellotte grads their first car. Joe's son Joe Jr. is a renowned artist, working many years with *Sesame Street*. Does anyone remember what a 1955 "Ultra New Fairlane" might have cost? Articles compliments of Jim Sali.

NEVER So Distinguished



AND NEVER

So Much Value In FORD

SEE THE Ultra New FAIRLANE SERIES AT

MATHIEU FORD SALES

Every Deal Is Ideal With Any Of Our  USED CAR[®]

Putnam

325 Woodstock Ave.

This year, FORD is the best buy ever... and never was so much NEW pride, Power and Performance packed into a car with the results achieved in the Stately Crown Victoria. You've got to see it, and drive it, to believe you can get so much for so little! DO IT TODAY.

TMHSAA is Seeking Honorary TMHS Diplomas and Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

The TMHSAA is seeking nominations for the TMHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2011 and 2011 honorary TMHS diplomas.

Athletic Hall of Fame Application and by-laws can be found at: www.thompsonpublicschools.org/TMHSAA/index.html.

Those making HOF nominations must submit as much information as possible as there is no repository of athletic records at the school making information and statistic verification challenging.

Also, the TMHSAA is seeking candidates for honorary high school diplomas for the TMHS 2011 graduation. Applicants must have been TMHS students in good standing before leaving TMHS and then left TMHS due to extenuating circumstances. They must have then moved on with their lives distinguishing themselves as exemplary citizens.

Honorary diploma applications will be investigated and verified by the TMHSAA. Final candidates will be submitted to the Thompson Board of Education for final consideration and approval.

REMEMBER: This process starts with YOU! Any questions contact us at: TMHSAA@Charter.net.

Welcome to Our Newest Members: The Class of 2010

Dear Class of 2010:

We would like to be the first to welcome you to the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association. Upon your graduation from Tourtellotte you became a part of a proud tradition that dates back 100 years and began in 1909 with Dr. and Mrs. Tourtellotte.

The TMHS Alumni Association will be thinking about you this September when you don't make that trip up the "hill" to Tourtellotte. Good luck in whatever path you choose. Please keep in touch by sending us your college, military, or any other new address or email you may come by in the upcoming months, so that we can stay in touch and connected.

We would love to hear how you are doing. Drop us a line in a few months and let us know how things are going. Your story just may be published in an upcoming Hilltopper newsletter or website.

Visit us at:

www.thompsonpublicschools.org/TMHSAA/index.html. If you have any questions contact us at TMHSAA@Charter.net.

Welcome aboard from all of us at the TMHSAA!

The Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association

Photos from the HOF Ceremony

The following are photos from the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. To see the rest of the HOF photos and those from the TMHS Alumni Banquet and the 2010 TMHS graduation go to Atlantic Expressions found at: www.gcbphotos.com/tmhs/. (Below photos compliments of Atlantic Expressions)



Left: Alan Coombs offering a few words about his father, John Dexter Coombs, the 1927 boys' State Champion basketball coach. Below middle (L-R): Dan Pisaturo, TMHS Vice Principal, Tasi Vriga '51, Nick Angelo '51, Jim Naum '50. Below: Jim Naum addressing the audience after receiving his HOF award.



2010 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

Brian Murphy '75, Jim Naum '50, Ted Vriga '54, 1927 Boys Basketball, 1949, 50, 51 Boys Basketball Team, Jim Canty '29, George Dargati '50, Jerry Ryscavage '55, Eva Houle '87, Alan Lebeouf '79,

Curator Selected

BY: Staff Writer

During their July monthly meeting, the Thompson Board of Education unanimously voted to appoint Joe Lindley '74 to the position of Tourtellotte Memorial Room Curator. "I hope to continue the work of all the previous curators in preserving the wishes of Mrs. And Mr. Tourtellotte and working with the Tourtellotte Committee to preserve the artwork and artifacts," states Lindley.

The position has been open for several years with the resignation of Joe lamartino. "This allows us to move forward and tackle some of the projects we have been discussing for months. Lis Burton, Tourtellotte Committee chairperson, has been working diligently to have the artwork registered with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.. This gives us a focal point from which to work," added Lindley.

Previous curators included Alice Ramsdell, Ruth Deamicis, and Joe lamartino.

Court Appearance required at TMHS in 1948: Were Dargati, Karapanos, Langlois and Dudley Guilty?

We found the following among Jim Sali's '51 collection of TMHS student council notes from 1948. We thought it would get you smiling. Enjoy!

November 22, 1948

A meeting of the Student Council was called on November 22, 1948, during the fourth period.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

A discussion was held concerning individuals who persist in going against a monitor's request. Those having been accused of such action are George Dargati, James Karapanos, and Irene Langlois. They are to be asked to appear in court on November 23, at 8:30 a.m.

Walter Dudley has been accused of making disturbances in the gymnasium during lunch period. He will be required to appear in court at a later date.

A discussion was held concerning the idea of having a "quiz show" as entertainment for the Christmas Party.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

*Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Joslin,
Secretary*

continued from page 5

TMHS Class of 2010

Ashley Marie Anderson	Alexandra Marie Keefe
Jena Elizabeth Audette	Amanda Rose Kenefick
Amanda Lee Barthelet	Brett M. Kenneson
Kyle Raymond Benoit	Michael Ronald Kingsbury
Chelsea R. Bentley	Brittany Mae Kruzal
Dorothy Paige Biron	Kyle James Kusek
Misty Lynn Bishop	Nikole Renae Laberge
Sarah Margaret Bordua	Mikayla Marie LaBonte
John Miller Brown	Brett LaCerte-Morin
Kelsey Lyn Carpenter	Cody Lavallee
Emily Rose Carr	Patrick Lee LeClerc
Alisha Marie Champagne	Stephanie Burke Lewis
Sarah SangMee Corrado	Charles Carter Lonchiadis
Kenzie Rose Cournoyer	Brett S. Lovett
John S. Darcy	Liam G. Masters
Katlyn Marie Deslauriers	Amanda Lee Mathieu
Danielle Amelia Dion	Kyle James McDonald
Garrett DiPilato	J. Petre Jr.
John Anthony DiRuscio	Kayla Marie Pope
Nicole Elizabeth Duquette	Stephanie Marie Pratt
Matthew D. Durand	Nicholas A. Provost
Dylan T. Duval	Jacob Ronald Pudsey
Taylor Aaron Duval	Katelynn J. Rogers
Samantha Dawn Eddy	Seth E. Santerre
Jacob Lance Farland	John Joseph Sullivan III
Adam Fasshauer	Camden Evzen Svec
Nicholas Scot Fierro	Jacob Tanson
Nicole Marie Fitzgerald	Alexandria Elizabeth
Shana Lee Gaboury	Tetreault
Justin James Girouard	Charles J. Thorstenson III
Abby Marie Gould	Ricardo Torres
Nolan Hoyt Grant	Jolene Marie Tripp
Megan S. Greene	Caitlin R. Trudell
Derek Steven Grudzien	Kelly L. Violette
Harley David Hachey	Katie Lyn Wahlstrom
Perry J. Houle	Samantha Lynn Weiss
Travis Howell	Riley Marie Williams
Seria Marie Hunter	Nicole Anne Withers
Andrew Michael Johnson	Rebecca Anne Witkowski
Andrew Michael Jourdan	Matthew T. Wolak
	Parker Alan Woodis.

A Graduation Party for One of Our Oldest Graduates

One final note about the 2010 Honorary Diplomas... A high school graduation would not be complete without a graduation party. After the 2010 TMHS graduation, Dave Negip '85 and his mom Bev Negip '59, surprised TMHS' second oldest ever graduate, Maurice Negip '44, with a graduation party.

Among those in attendance were nephew Dave, sister-in-law, Bev, Joe Lindley '74, John "Yosh" Lesniewski '87, Louis Thomas '85, Donna (Baron) Thomas '86, Jim Sali '51, Jean Sali, Maurice's son Mark, wife Linda, daughter Michelle, Bev's grandchildren Charlie, Katherine, and Nate and son-in-law Chuck.

continued from page 1

Jim Canty's (Class of 1929) award was accepted by his son Jim Canty Jr. Jim also shared a few words about his dad and his time at Tourtellotte Memorial. Several of the speeches became quite moving and a quick scan of the crowd showed that more than a few tears were shed.

After the award ceremony, Induction Ceremony attendees were treated to a school tour, which included a stop by the 1909 gymnasium where the 1927 team began their run to a State Championship and the Tourtellotte Memorial Room. The guests then made their way to the Thompson Speedway for the alumni banquet.

To see a complete set of photos from the HOF Induction Ceremony and the Alumni Banquet go to Geoff Bolte's Atlantic Expressions found at: <http://www.gcbphotos.com/tmhs>

TMHSAA Working With the Smithsonian Institute

Over the past few months Lis Burton, chairperson of the Tourtellotte Committee has been diligently researching the details of the artwork located in the Tourtellotte Memorial Room. Once these details are determined the information is sent to the Smithsonian Institute, located in Washington, D.C., to be logged in their extensive art data base. The information will then be made available to art researchers from all over the world. This in turn will help us gain access to experts who can assist us to better understand the paintings and their artists.

The TMHSAA Tourtellotte Committee is charged with cataloguing, inventorying, and preserving the art and artifacts in the Memorial Room. The committee is also searching for ways in which to better use the room and its contents for educational purposes. During this past school year TMHSAA gave presentations to Thompson 2nd graders, 6th graders, high school history students, and high school Civil War students. The Committee also gave several lectures and tours to organizations outside of the school to include students from Woodstock Academy and the Thompson Lions Club.

If you would like to become a part of the Tourtellotte Committee contact Lis Burton at lizzie_b@msn.com or TMHSAA at TMHSAA@Charter.net.

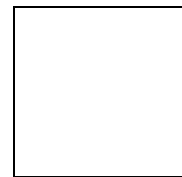
MEMORIAL ROOM VISITS

If you are planning a visit to the Thompson area or have a group that would like to visit the Tourtellotte Memorial Room contact the Tourtellotte Committee at TMHSAA@Charter.net. We can customize a presentation for any purpose.

CLASS OF 1985 REUNION PLANNED

The Class of 1985 is holding its 25-year reunion on September 25, 2010. Anyone interested in attending contact Dave Ware '85 at 860-377-4707 or Jackie (Levesque) Benoit '85 at 508-272-3612 or email Dave and Jackie at: TMHS85@yahoo.com.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Office
PO Box 437
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
TMHSAA@charter.net