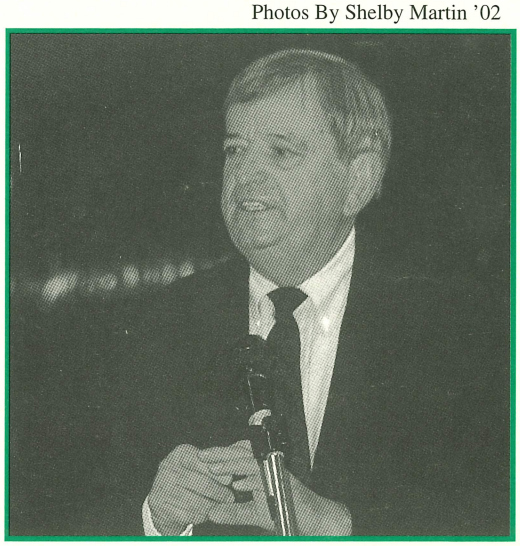
THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL 40 1959-1999

The Lexington School

WHERE FUTURES BEGIN SPECIAL EDITION 1999

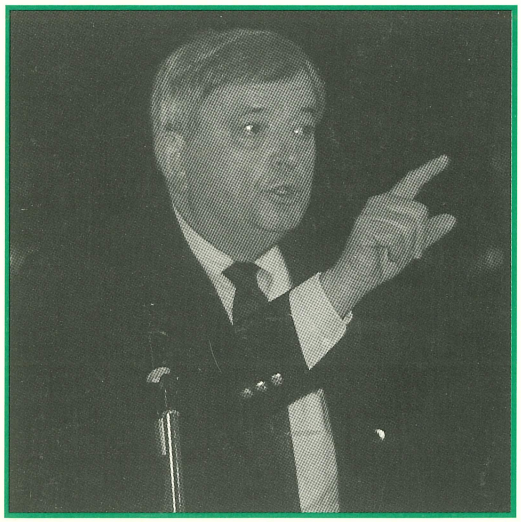
FLYING HIGH FROM THE START

Photos By Shelby Martin '02



Oh, to be the flagpole at The Lexington School! From my central position on campus, I have seen a great many things during the past 40 years, from the groundbreaking days of 1959 to this year's 40th anniversary celebrations. Recently, it seems many things have come full circle. Just this fall, Mr. Frederick L. Luddy, the first headmaster of The Lexington School, returned. With his arrival, a variety of celebrations and activities has ensued, and I have been lucky enough to see the comings and goings in his honor.

Although many may not remember the first days of The Lexington School, I certainly do, as does Frederick Luddy. When Josephine Abercrombie's vision of an exceptional school began to take form, a search began for a headmaster who would top the charts. Rumor had it that a fine, young, intelligent man living in Boston, MA, by the name of Frederick Luddy was just the man this new school was looking for. I remember the day he arrived on campus. From his solid stance, kind mannerisms and educated voice, I could tell Mr. Luddy was the correct match for the school.



While he served as headmaster, he implemented a strong curriculum, and introduced to it nonacademic subject areas, such as the fine arts and physical education. His cutting-edge philosophies have stood the test of time, much like myself, and today the school still reflects his passion and determination. Needless to say, when word of his return spread throughout the campus, everyone began to make preparations. Events scheduled in honor of Mr. Luddy and his wife, Judy, included: a library reception for current and former faculty and trustees; a convocation that included all students and teachers; a dinner at Jonabell Farm to celebrate the first student body (see page 3); an open forum with current eighth grade students (see upcoming newsletter); and a variety of other events.



The first event in Luddy's honor was a reception held in the "new" library. I watched eagerly as former faculty and old friends arrived at the front door, marching past the new *Penny Garden*, named in honor of former faculty member and Head of Lower School Penny Lastinger. What a sight to see young and old, especially the faces of those I had not seen since the first year the school was open. Just inside the entrance, the eighth grade Jazz Ensemble, which included **Rohan Dixit**, **Alex Liu**, **David Priest** and **Rajan Shukla**, provided music in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Luddy. I overheard Director of Alumni Affairs, **Lucy Johnston McKinstry '66** thank **Mary Whitt Fishel '66**

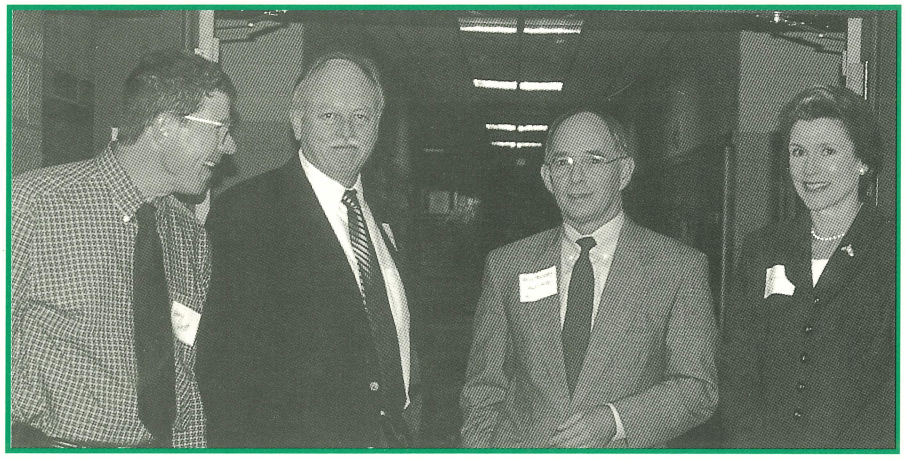
Continued on page 2



for organizing this special event. While the guests gathered, talked and enjoyed refreshments, **Sarah Kendrick '99**, former president of the TLS Student Council and currently a student at Lexington Catholic High School, treated the guests to her talents on the harp.

I know it must have been an important event because founder **Mrs. Josephine Abercrombie** was present and seemed to be pleased and honored to hear readings given by Speech Team members, **Rachel Leep '01** and **Leah Martin '02**, pictured at lower left. **Alex Boone '75**, president of the Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone and talked about the strong state of The Lexington School. He also discussed the long-range Strategic Vision and the recently completed Campus Master Plan.

Don Robinson '63 and **Reynolds Bell '67** named Mr. Luddy an Honorary Alumnus of The Lexington School, adding his name to the handsome plaque that hangs in the school. Reynolds and Don spoke of what the school meant to them and described what Mr. Luddy had done to give the school its strong foundation. Mrs. Judy Luddy enjoyed talking with Mrs. Patricia Headley Green (pictured above left) whose father, Mr. Hal Price Headley, owned Beaumont Farm, a portion of which became the school's campus. Mary Whitt Fishel and her husband Ken chatted with **Henry West '66** and Rod Bussey (pictured at right), former faculty member and Assistant Headmaster under Norton G. Pritchett.



Headmaster John Fixx greeted those in the audience and thanked them for attending this special occasion. He spoke of Mr. Luddy's thoughtful writing and the careful curriculum that he had planned and implemented in 1959. Mr. Fixx also recognized Mrs. Abercrombie's strong hand in the school's success, remarking that she had insisted on excellence for the school right from the beginning. The evening continued long past what was planned, with the guests talking, trading stories and laughing at times past.

The next morning, I had an excellent view of all the excitement. School opened as usual with all the students arriving in carline, then took an extraordinary turn as everyone proceeded to the gym for Mr. Luddy's convocation. First, the former headmaster was introduced by Student Council President **John Gilbert '00**, then Frederick Luddy addressed the school. What a surprise it must have been to face 509 students, unlike the 59 he originally welcomed 40 years ago! His words were both inspirational and timeless, and he entertained everyone with his rendition of *You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby.* As the convocation came to a close, I realized that in 40 years, the things of truth have endured: *close friendships, solid education, and the initial vision of Frederick Luddy*. I, too, will endure as an emblem to both The Lexington School's strong past and promising future.



—Flagg Pole

Photos By Linda MacKellar

JOURNEY TO 1959 AT JONABELL FARM



Billy Cox '63, former second grade teacher Marilyn Turner, Anne Wheeler Hollingsworth '65, Todd Trimble Graddy '64

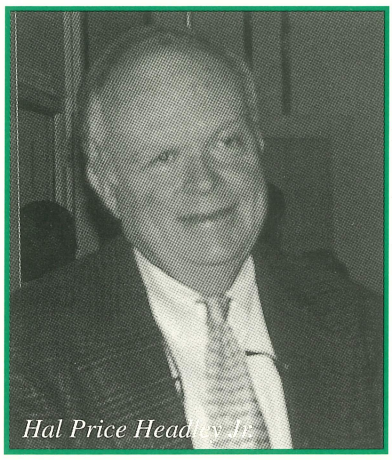
Last year during an Alumni Council meeting, I discovered an old, framed list in John Fixx's office. It was a list of the first student body from 1959, and I found my own name above my brother's. The list reminded me of times I had long forgotten. At the last alumni meeting of the school year, I copied the names from the list.

The class list prompted me to reflect on the first few years of The Lexington School. I remember taking my entrance test in the old Picadome School. It must have taken considerable courage for parents to place their one, two, or even three children in a newly formed school with "Yankee" teachers and only six classrooms! How did the founders, faculty, and parents know the school would grow to be so strong?

On Thursday, October 28, 1999, these questions were answered, as was my dream of having members from the 1959 list reunited. We met at the lovely Jonabell Farm, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. John Bell, who had three children, as well as three nephews, who had started that 14th day of September in 1959. The focus of the evening was tri-fold: to honor the presence of our first headmaster, Frederick Luddy, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the school, and to bring together students, faculty and parents.

Twenty-two students were in attendance, as were two of the original teachers, Mr. Amos Lawrence and Mrs. Marilyn Turner, and four sets of parents. As guests entered, name tags were quickly attached, stories started to follow and questions about the school's first years were posed. As one father put it, "Lexington had to start a school in order to fill the need that existed at the time." In the 1950s, there was a demand for an independent school that prepared students for prep school and college.

Mr. Luddy began to "connect the dots" for all of us that evening at Jonabell Farm. He was originally brought to The Lexington School by Mrs. Abercrombie, who was married to **Don Robinson's, '63**, father. Mr. Luddy, in turn, recruited his former boss, Mr. Amos Lawrence, who lived in Oregon. Patricia Green recalled walking about Beaumont Farm with her father, Hal Price Headley, and marking off the land. Don Robinson told me that he and his father used to drive by the construction site every night before the school opened to check on its status. Out of the 59 students who started as the first student body in 1959, there are five who have had children graduate from their alma mater: **Reynolds Bell '67**, **Todd Graddy '64, Bill Hilliard '68**, **Jessica Nicholson '64** and **Don Robinson '63**. That first day of school, 59 students and their teachers raised the American flag and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*.



Hal Price Headley, Jr.

Photos By Whitney Martin '88

As the evening progressed, Mr. Luddy related interesting facts, such as the enrollment had doubled the second year TLS was in session and that when he married, the wedding was held next door to the school at the Lansill home. Mr. Luddy told us that we were much like the families on the Mayflower. Little did we know the new vistas we sought in 1959 would continue to be paramount today. Our evening at Jonabell Farm was a way to reconnect and reminisce, and above all else, celebrate the school's first graduating class and Headmaster Frederick L. Luddy.

—Todd Trimble Graddy '64

Lexington, Kentucky
The 31st. of May, 1961

To Frederick L. Luddy

We, the Parents Committee of The Lexington School, wish to express on behalf of all our parents our deep appreciation of your inspiring leadership during the School's formative years of 1959-1961. Our scholastic goals that were so quickly achieved are due to your tireless efforts and uncompromising insistence on high educational standards at every grade level.

We wish you well deserved success in the new challenges in education you are about to face, and we are confident that we will hear often in the years to come of your continuing accomplishments for the youth of our country.

Appreciatively and sincerely,

Rufus Teele, Chm.

Reynolds W. Bell W. Chm.
Charles D. Mitchell
E. S. Jarboe, MD
O. J. Bartlett
Sydney S. Combs
Jarrohitt, Jr.
Jessica Bell

Anne Walton Leavell
Sybil C. Mason
Gloria L. Bronson
Ann Gahlon
Jo's Don Beard
Leigh Cox
Don Hardesty
Claire Macfarlane

The Parents Committee of
The Lexington School



Dr. and Mrs. Noble T. Macfarlane

Photo By Barbara Bale

GIVING THANKS FOR BOUNTIFUL MEMORIES

To The Lexington School Campus Family,

I am at home in Massachusetts once again, not very far from Plymouth Rock and the site of the first Thanksgiving. But because so many of my Thanksgiving thoughts this year are of all of you, there on Lane Allen Road, I want to share them with you before you leave for the holiday time just ahead.

Let me tell you how very special the first Thanksgiving was—no not that of the Pilgrims (I am not quite that old!)—but the first Thanksgiving of The Lexington School. In that November of 1959, there was so much to be thankful for: a fine, new building, bright and fresh, with green grass all around; the love and care of parents, teachers and staff; and the brave and good company of one another. Our first journey in time—from mid-September to late November—was not a great deal longer than that of the Pilgrims themselves. And by our first Thanksgiving, like the Pilgrims, we were discovering day by day that as a special place, The Lexington School would live on. We were indeed a thankful people of learners and believers.



Headmaster John D. Fixx

Photo By Whitney Martin '88

Although Mrs. Luddy and I cannot be with you as you get ready for this, the 40th Thanksgiving of The Lexington School, we want you to know that your hospitality during our recent visit has given us a bountiful harvest of memories to warm our New England winter and to sustain us until we can see you again. For me, the morning assembly moment of standing before you was one I shall never forget.

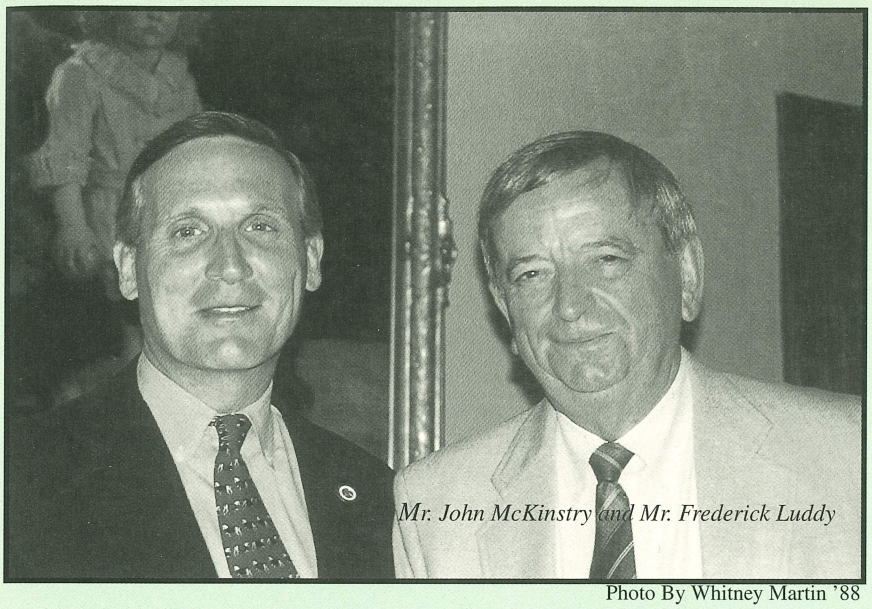
Thank you for being The Lexington School and for preparing the way, each and every day, for many other pilgrims and many Lexington School Thanksgivings yet to come.

May God bless you all.

Fred L. Luddy

Frederick L. Luddy
Amherst, Massachusetts
November 21, 1999

OUT AND ABOUT WITH FREDERICK LUDDY



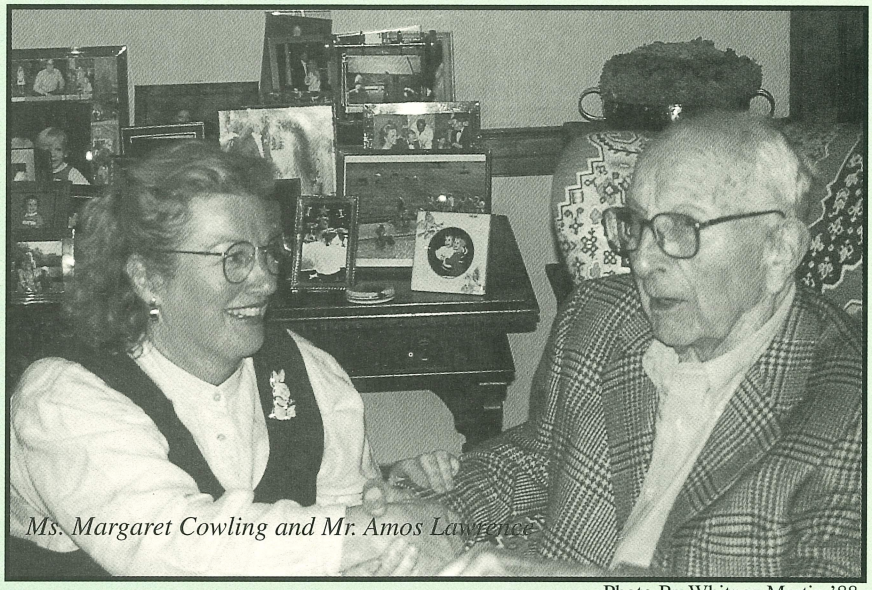
Mr. John McKinstry and Mr. Frederick Luddy

Photo By Whitney Martin '88



Mrs. Amos Lawrence and Mr. Charles Schubert

Photo By Whitney Martin '88



Ms. Margaret Cowling and Mr. Amos Lawrence

Photo By Whitney Martin '88



Mr. and Mrs. King Richeson, Mrs. Judy Luddy and Mrs. Judy Burris

Photo By Linda MacKellar

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In Memoriam

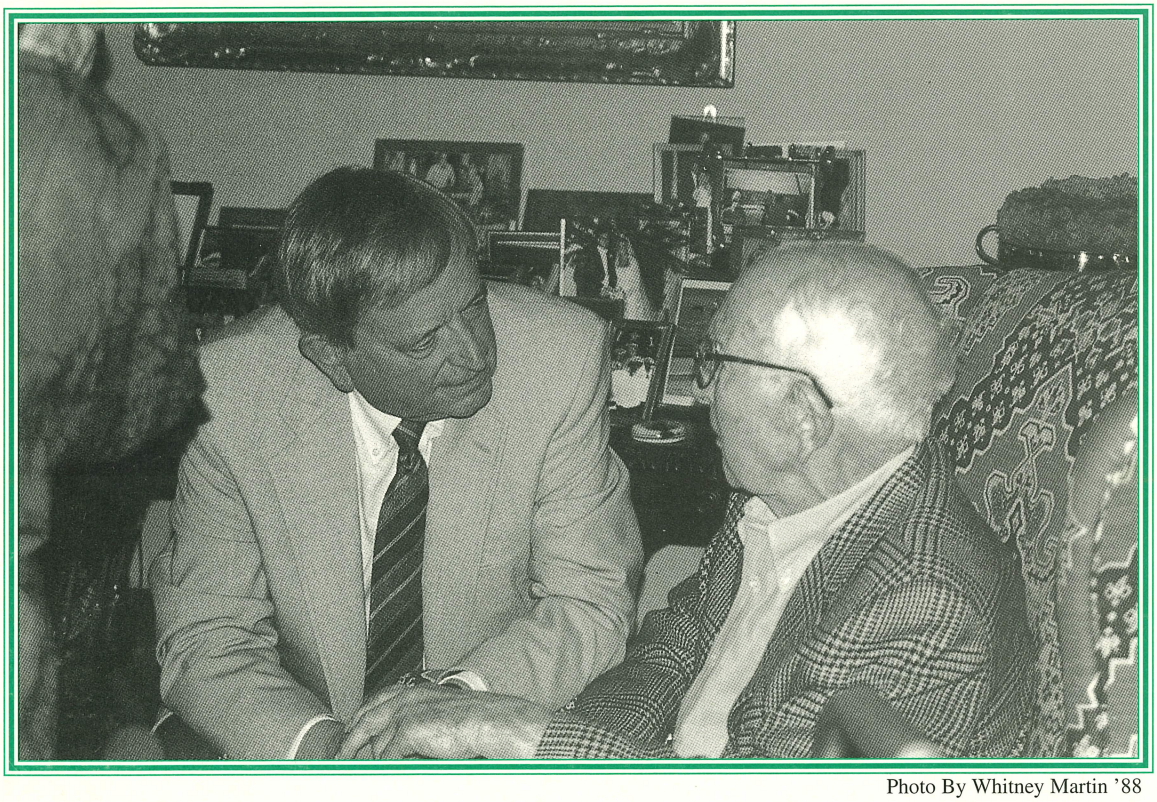


Photo By Whitney Martin '88

Former Headmaster Frederick L. Luddy, at left, and former fourth grade teacher Amos M. Lawrence reconnected at Jonabell Farm where this photo was taken. Soon after reuniting, Mr. Lawrence passed away. He is fondly remembered below by friend and colleague, Mr. Luddy.

Mr. Lawrence was a teacher of the child before the subject. He was a great "noticer" of children, able to bring students back out of whatever was troubling them. He was critical to the early success of The Lexington School, bringing substantial day school experience with him when he sat with the rest of the original teachers to plan the curriculum and the extra-curricular program. Acting as assistant headmaster when I had to be away from campus, Mr. Lawrence was invaluable in establishing the school's early commitment to regular physical education and sports, both unusual for that time. We knew each other for 48 or 49 years. I will miss him very much.

—Frederick L. Luddy

The Lexington School admits students of any race, religion, color, sex, national or ethnic origin.