THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL 40 1959-1999

The Lexington School

WHERE FUTURES BEGIN SPECIAL EDITION 2000

A GENUINE GENTLEMAN



TLS Archival Photo

Many Decembers ago, then Headmaster Bud Pritchett lifted an eager student up to the candy wreath. Can you identify the handsome and intent little boy? See page 7 for more information.

As I walked into the "new wing" for former headmaster Mr. Norton G. Pritchett's reception on December 16, 1999, I realized how much had changed *and* stayed the same at The Lexington School since my days as a student. The "new wing" was now 14 years old, but the theater looked just as it did in June 1987 at my graduation. As I continued my stroll down the fine arts wing, I took a step back in time with every pace.

In the library I found myself surrounded by familiar faculty faces: former kindergarten teacher Mrs. Claire Macfarlane, former kindergarten teacher Miss Patricia Cordy (now Mrs. Henrickson), former first grade teacher Ms. Barbara Bale, former Head of Lower School Mrs. Penny Lastinger, former second grade teacher Mrs. Lorine Trosper, history teacher Ms. Margaret Cowling '65, English teacher Ms. Jennifer Stith, former physical education teacher Mrs. Roberta Owen, science teacher Mr. Frank Hardesty, history teacher and secondary school advisor Mr. Jack Brost, former Head of Upper School Mrs. Mary Lee Nichols, and former Assistant Headmaster Mr. Donald Bortz.

Being surrounded by so many mentors from the past, particularly Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett, reinforced my belief that if one teaches at TLS, one does not age! Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett and the teachers had the same warm, affectionate smiles that they had when I was a student. I chatted with former faculty and former students alike; then Headmaster John Fixx spoke. I got the feeling he shared many of the warm and positive qualities of Mr. Pritchett.

When I think back on my first years at TLS, I was one of the little children who sat in the first row of the school bus. What I, and all small TLS children of years past, remember most of Mr. Pritchett was his colorful candy wreath that hung during the holidays. He lifted each child up to the wreath to retrieve a piece of candy. I also remember that whenever my class walked down the hall, single file and usually shortest to tallest, if we passed Mr. Pritchett, he always knew everone's name in the class! He is a truly unique *Continued on page 7*

THE MARK OF GENIUS

Donald Bortz, former Assistant Headmaster, honored Bud Pritchett at the December 16 reception by recounting some of his favorite memories and anecdotes.

It's been almost 18 years since I left TLS, and when I entered the front door today, the first thing I did was take a deep breath. Yes, sure enough, I could still smell Bud's pipe. I always loved that smell; there was something reassuring about it.

The years I spent with Bud and his wife Carolyn and many other colleagues from that era were some of my best. I have been thinking of those years recently and of the memories we all shared.

Anyone who knew Bud, knew he was a master of the pun. I once heard that the art of punning was the mark of genius. If that is true, Bud Pritchett is one of the most intelligent men I know.

There are also the memories of our many school trips to Pine Mountain, Hensley Settlement and Cumberland Gap with former science teachers Sue Orme, Tom Brown and Tom Billups, former physical education teacher Roberta Owen, former Head of Upper School Mary Lee Nichols, parents Brenda Hughes and Bob Edwards and former history and Spanish teacher John Fox. Bud was in his element on these trips. He would bring snacks for the students, particularly loads of chocolate. At night Bud would have everyone out with their compasses and flashlights, giving them coordinates, and off they would go. There would be all kinds of chatter as students and teachers would try to end up closest to Bud's target. The closest team was rewarded with the most candy, and after hot chocolate we'd head for our bunks.

Soon after, Bud would appear at each door and announce it was time to turn the lights out and go to sleep. If I had asked for a show of hands of those who followed Mr. Pritchett's instructions, the only hand up would be Bud's. Within five minutes he would be sound asleep, and everyone else, loaded with sugar, would be ready to go. This left Tom Billups, John Fox, Tom Brown or Bob Edwards trying to hold down the fort! The next morning, Bud would appear bright-eyed and chipper after a good night's sleep, while the rest of us braced for another day.

How about those hikes to Hensley Settlement with Bud leading the way at first but before long bringing up the rear as we climbed the mountain? I remember there was always snow at the top. There is at least one class that should remember the frozen apples we had for snack. Bud always seemed to have a better time descending than ascending.

Another vivid memory is one of a cold, blustery winter day when school had either been called off (most unlikely), or was on a delayed opening (much more likely). I walked over from our home about a mile away, and as I crossed Lane Allen Road I saw Bud sitting on a red tractor. Bud had on his long car coat, scarf and hat, and his signature pipe clenched in his teeth. What a sight! I wish the painter Norman Rockwell could have captured that moment. Bud was plowing snow so everyone could get into school. That was Bud; always doing something for the rest of us.

I have spent more than 30 years in private schools. Bud Pritchett is the gauge by which I measure other headmasters. He was simply the best. I never heard an angry word about a student; he never thought anything but the very best about people. Bud was a man of infinite patience, who truly was called to his work of educating young men and women. What a wonderful school he was responsible for leading. He assembled a fine faculty at The Lexington School and helped to make the institution one of excellence.

I am proud to have had Bud as a friend and mentor for over 25 years, and as he would say, "The Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise," we'll have at least another 25 years.

One last thing, and maybe the most important. No man, not even Bud, could have done what he did by himself. Always with him and helping him in so many ways with her gentleness, kindness and encouragement was his wife Carolyn. This celebration is as much in honor of her as Bud.

—Donald Bortz, Former Assistant Headmaster



TLS Archival Photo

Years ago, Bud Pritchett helped Ben Nelson '72 and DeeDee Alexander Lloyd '72, mother of Russell '00, learn about the natural world.

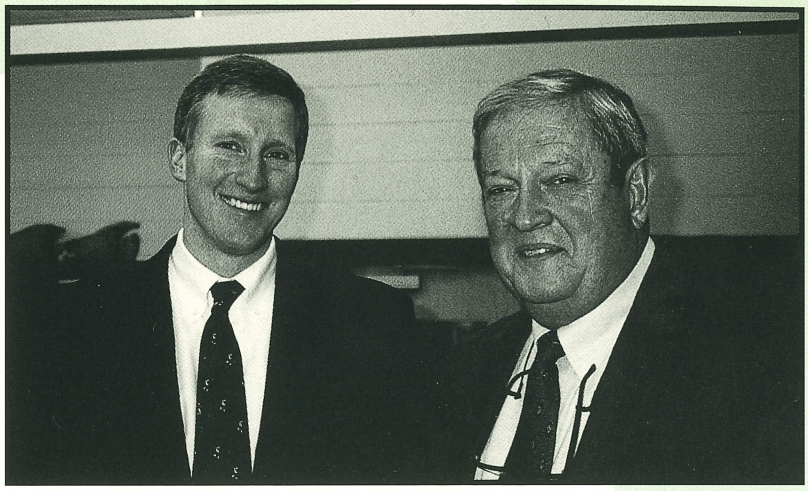


Photo By Barbara Bale

December 16, 1999

Dear Bud,

Author William James wrote, "The best use of life is to invest it in something that will outlast life." With recognition that your own children are your greatest legacy, I also suggest that what you created at The Lexington School is something of which you and Carolyn can be equally proud. You invested 20 years in something that will outlast all of us. You helped create an institution of learning that holds its own against the other great elementary schools in the United States.

Not only have you left behind an outstanding school, but you have also conferred on 20 years worth of students a timeless education—an education that has prepared them with the intellectual agility needed in this rapidly changing world.

You served those students, and today's, by hiring a group of teachers that have kept The Lexington School faithful to its mission—to be "a school worthy of national emulation." With regards to those colleagues who have retired or moved on to share their teaching gifts with others, I applaud you for hiring Martha Anderson, Judy Apple, Barbara Bale, Lanna Bell, Barbara Brogan, Jack Brost, Margaret Cowling, Ann Eames, Marijo Foster and Pam Maley. Thank you for having the wisdom to hire master teachers who could anchor The Lexington School.

Without Mrs. Josephine Abercrombie, our visionary Founder, none of us would have reason to gather here today. Josephine Abercrombie told Board of Trustees President Alex Boone and me that "a school is just an idea." Bud, you inheirited from Jospehine and Fred Luddy a small, proud "idea" of some 125 students that had remarkably doubled between the first and second year. Then you brought the school from 125 students to 420, more than tripling in one generation the number of children who had the benefit of a Lexington School education. The true measure of a leader, though, may be how well an organization fares after he or she leaves. Since your retirement, the demand for this education has continued to grow, with 510 students matriculating this year—the largest enrollment ever.

What I promise you today is that today's teachers, the Board of Trustees and I will continue to honor you by continually looking inward at what can be strengthened and looking outward with our long-range plan to avoid insularity or self-satisfaction. We plan to improve constantly The Lexington School by meshing the latest, most sensible pedagogy with what has worked so successfully in the past.

Just as we require our students to stretch constantly, so too will The Lexington School. It is only by stretching that we can continue to serve our students as well as you and your faculty served them for 20 years. In everything we do, Bud, we will keep The Lexington School "worthy of national emulation." That is our promise to you.

—John D. Fixx, Headmaster

HEAD TO HEAD

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Two Decades of Nurturing

Graphic By Shelby Martin '02

Dear Bud, December, 1999

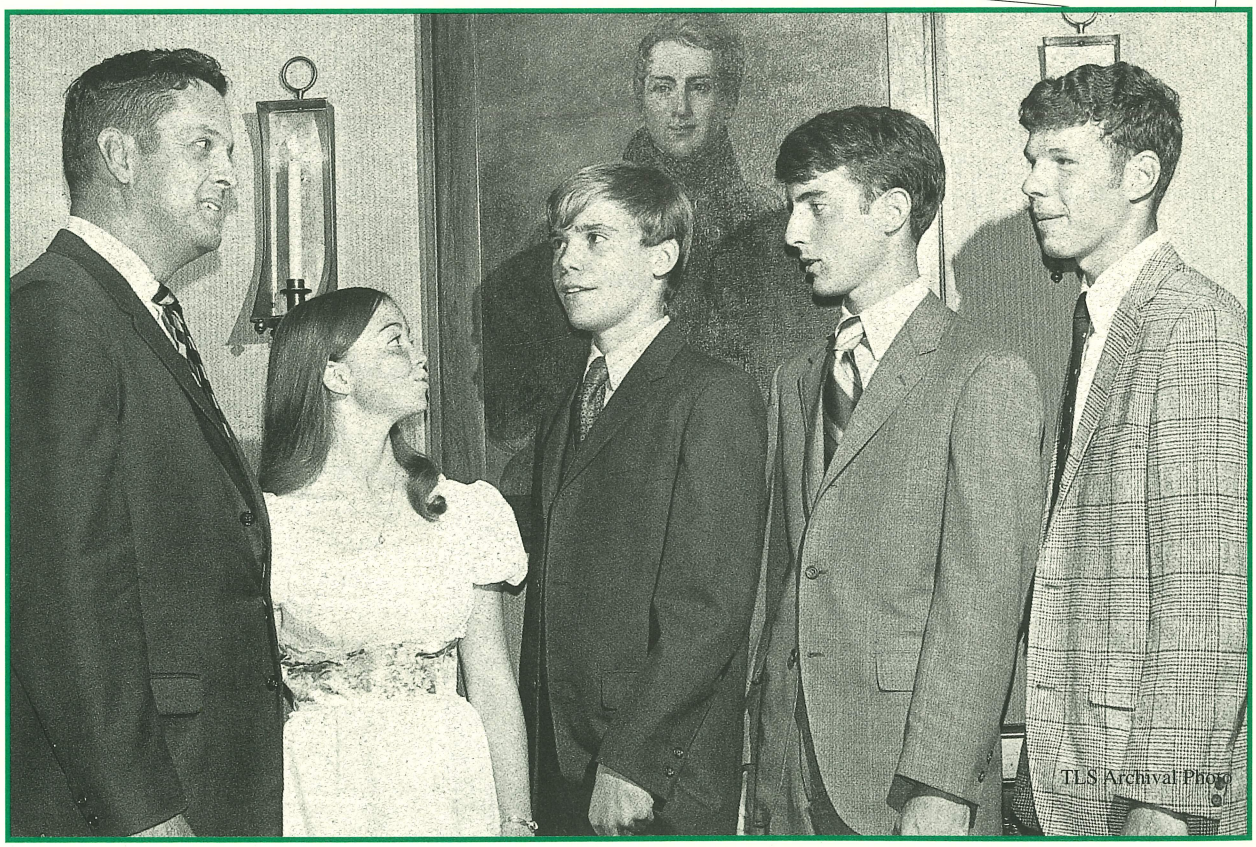
On the eve of your visit to the Bluegrass, I want to reach across the miles, and the years, to wish you and Carolyn a return as meaningful as that enjoyed by Judy and me in mid-autumn. I had not realized how strong the ties of my Lexington School days had been until I was welcomed back to remember and celebrate them. During the course of several events, I was filled to the emotional brim.

John Fixx is to be commended for all that he is doing to recall, and to attempt to make whole, the history of The Lexington School. His energy, decency and intelligence are certain to bring further lustre to the school.

While in Lexington, I took occasion to identify myself as the "obstetrician" of what became real between 1959 and 1961, and to pay my resepct to you as the "pediatrician" who, through two decades of nurture, helped the robust infant to grow and prosper.

Your reunions with ever so many alumni and former colleagues will surely be special gifts in this special season. Judy joins me in wishing you and Carolyn a bountiful and joyful Christmas.

—Frederick L. Luddy, Former Headmaster



In September 1969, Headmaster Bud Pritchett enjoyed gathering with students Susan Griffin Phillips '68; Chris Green '69, a grandson of Hal Price Headley; John Irvin '67; and Henry West '66, father of Maureen '02, Lindsay '04 and Kathryn '06. Mr. Headley owned Beaumont Farm, a portion of which became The Lexington School campus.



Photo By Claire Macfarlane

KING AND QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAIN

For those of you who might be interested in what Bud Pritchett is doing now, Alumni Council member Mrs. Claire Macfarlane, former Lexington School kindergarten teacher, parent and grandparent, has sent this recent update. She and her husband Dr. Noble T. Macfarlane correspond with and frequently visit Bud and his wife Carolyn in North Carolina.

Graphic By Shelby Martin '02

Did you ever hear a grown man purr? If not, just listen quietly and you will hear the ever so happy, contented voice of "N.G.P." Yes, Norton Goodier Pritchett has come "home," and that is Lexington's loss and Brevard, NC's gain. High on a mountain top sitting in spruce green rocking chairs and savoring the Blue Ridge Mountains are where you can find Carolyn and Bud Pritchett in *active* retirement!

If you want to know the circumference of Deer Lake, ask the chairman of the committee—Bud. If you want to know how the architectural review board feels about the addition that doubled the size of the Pritchett's house, ask the subcontractor—Bud. If you want to know who designed the unique garden, fence and gate at the Presbyterian church, ask the creator—Carolyn. Or, ask the craftsman—Bud, again!

You can also pull up one of the spruce green rocking chairs (there are nine across their welcoming porch) or find a warm spot by the fireplace. Enjoy the stories of the days when "Cap" Pritchett, Bud's father, brought his family to his summer job as director of Camp Carolina on this beloved land.

Listen closely—the purring gets very loud!

IMPRESSED FOREVER

Graphic By Shelby Martin '02

To me, Bud Pritchett was a true Southern gentleman. I remember him carrying my television set to my third floor apartment and then asking what else he could do to help me with my move. He and his wife Carolyn established an aura of great warmth, civility and graciousness for the entire school community.

Bud was an outstanding educator who had high academic standards for himself, the faculty and students. He was my math teacher when I was a student at TLS. The fact that years later he hired me to teach drama and history shows that he was not only a man of great insight, but also of enormous forgiveness as well!

—Margaret Cowling, History Teacher



Claire Macfarlane, Rod Bussey, Helen Bussey, Marge Marcum, Lorine Trosper, Libby Geddes, Roberta Owen, Bertha Hoover, Carolyn Pritchett, Bud Pritchett, Betty Cox, Penny Lastinger, Mary Lee Nichols, Frances Marcum, Tom Billups, Sue Orme, Sandy Ireland, Barbara Bale, Pat Cordy.

"A school is only the lengthened shadow of its leader." Whoever coined this phrase could have been thinking of Bud Pritchett and his 20 years of service to The Lexington School. Bud's "shadow" combined his scholarly attributes, his leadership qualities, his administrative skills and a caring attitude to mold numerous constituencies into a "family" which succeeded in achieving the mission of the school.

Bud's ability to build relationships with those who cared about TLS was a significant factor in the institution's successful effort in creating a distinct role in the academic community. He approached his challenge with confidence and established the highest of standards which stemmed from his deep personal commitment to a student-centered educational program.

My wife Helen and I are grateful to Bud and Carolyn for many things, particularly their loving friendship.

—Rod Bussey, Former Assistant Headmaster

Photo By Barbara Bale

There are many memories for me from the Bud Pritchett era. I will always remember him chiding me for painting on the floor with the children. Mr. Pritchett thought that a true lady would refrain from being on the floor with the students! Those were interesting days for an art teacher!

In all, Mr. Pritchett was one of the most respectful people with whom I have ever worked. He always wrote notes in appreciation of whatever one did. During the holidays he wrote individual notes which accompanied each teacher's contract. I saw this as a mark of a true professional.

—Judy Apple, Art Teacher

The term headmaster once meant "head teacher," and Bud Pritchett was one who never missed an opportunity to teach. At faculty meetings I learned how to drive on ice, what kind of outdoor grill was best, how to prevent germs from spreading in the classroom, and how to write and sign a thank-you note. All of his teaching was received with appreciation and understanding of his concern for the whole person. Personal growth was as important to Bud as professional growth.

He was fatherly, gentlemanly and always took time to inquire about one's family. Even today, whenever Bud returns to TLS, he is quick to ask about my children, Meg and Scott, and my husband Tom, even remembering that Tom was a fellow Rotarian.

When the school was much smaller, he knew whose cousin was whose, and at carline, he would announce each car, recognizing every vehicle before he saw the driver's face. He also knew which students belonged in each carpool, and the students knew they needed to know, too. Waiting for strays was not Bud's favorite pasttime.

Under Bud, students became quite "line oriented," going places in organized, quiet rows. Weekly assemblies involved students carrying their chairs to the gym for a gathering that promoted bonding in the community. And last, but not least, Bud Pritchett dismissed school *early* every Friday afternoon, right after the lower school movie in the gym!

—Marijo Foster,
Director of Professional Growth and Development

Continued from page 1

person, with many gifts to offer his students and colleagues. How many of us who work with over 400 people daily can honestly say that we know every name and face? Mr. Pritchett could with no problem.

I am sure that all of us who were at TLS during the Bud Pritchett era are aware of how lucky we were to have him in our lives, whether it was as a fellow faculty member, administrator, headmaster or friend.

As I listened to the speeches in the library, I was reminded of the wonderful qualities of my former headmaster. Mr. Bortz mentioned the fact that he never heard Mr. Pritchett say a negative word about any student. And, when Mr. Pritchett got up to speak, I felt like I was a first grader sitting in the old lunchroom listening to him. The voice sent me back 20 years! At the end of the evening, as I filed out of the library, I looked above the door, expecting to see a clock. But the clock had been replaced—with what?

Why, with a candy wreath, of course!

— Kathleen Eastland '87

Were you able to identify the handsome and intent little boy in the photo on page one? If so, send your answer, name and address to: tlsyearbook1@yahoo.com. In return, you will receive an assortment of Lexington School memorabilia.

❖ A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER ❖

Reunion Celebration 2000

in honor of

The Lexington School's 40th Anniversary

alumni, spouses and parents from all class years are invited

Friday, May 12—9:00 a.m.	***Grandparents' Day***	*TLS Theatre*
Friday, May 12—6:30 p.m.	***REUNION 2000***	*TLS Library*
Saturday, May 13—8:00 a.m.	***Reunion Golf Classic***	*Widow's Watch Golf Club*
Saturday, May 13—noon	***Family Picnic***	*TLS Campus*
Saturday, May 13—6:00 p.m.	***CELEBRATION 2000***	*Keeneland Entertainment Center*

Special Guests

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Luddy
Mr. and Mrs. Norton G. Pritchett
Dr. and Mrs. David M. Lowry

Make Your Travel Plans Now!

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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TLS Archival Photo

In the fall of 1959, students in the first kindergarten class enjoyed painting in their large room. From left to right, Polly Hilliard, Tommy Hardesty, Lewis Bosworth, Sandy Macfarlane, Headley Bell, father of Gardner '03, Alice '00 and Price '97, Susan Andrews, Bob Massie, Leslie Trapp.

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