



Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association
Volume XV • 2nd Issue • Spring 2000

15 Years of Alumni Association

The Lisgar Alumni Association has just completed its 15th year of operations. When a group of dedicated alumni got together in the spring of 1984 to launch this organization as part of Lisgar's 140th Anniversary, few imagined how successful and energetic an organization it would become.

Accomplishments include the establishment of a computer-generated list of over 4000 alumni members' names and addresses to whom we mail two newsletters annually. In conjunc-

tion with the school, your Association designed and produced an official coat of arms. Lisgar is the second public secondary school in Canada to receive one from the Chief Herald of Canada. We also commissioned the writing and publication of a book covering 150 years of school history. It has been extremely well received, and we must always be very grateful to Joan Finnigan MacKenzie for her fantastic contribution to all aspects of this book.

The Association has helped establish and donates funds to the Dorothy

Bishop Award, Wallace Showman Award and Walter Mann Award, which provide annual prizes to Lisgar graduates. Alumni members have also contributed generously to the Lisgar Fund in support of a wide array of school activities, ranging from athletics to the arts and sciences. The Association has set up a Web page and is slowly developing it for the benefit of improved communications with our members.

A great deal has been accomplished in the last 15 years by a group of dedicated volunteers who have

acted as your Board of Directors. It would not be fair to name a few without naming all, and that would take too much space in this issue. *Alere Flammam* salutes them!

A recent interpretation of the rules governing tax receipts for annual dues to organizations such as the Lisgar Alumni Association has convinced us to issue receipts from now on. While this is not a major incentive to pay your dues if you haven't already done so, it may encourage you not to put off



Lisgar music teacher and head of Arts Trudy Bradley was recently awarded a Certificate of Achievement for excellence in teaching, in a ceremony on Parliament Hill. Please see the article *Sound of Music Through the Halls*, page 4.

Bill Pratt: "Mr. Calgary"

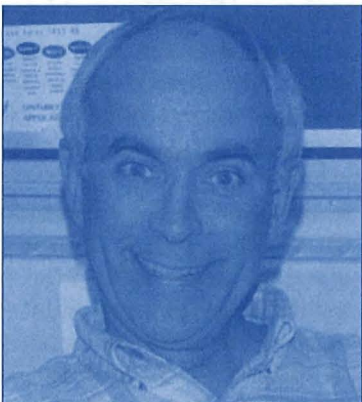
Former Lisgarite Bill Pratt ('49), tough and pragmatic builder of Calgary's Heritage Park, the Saddledome, Chinook Shopping Centre, the Stampede Park grandstand, McMahon Stadium and Covenant House in Eagle Ridge (Alberta's first condominium), president of the '88 Calgary Olympics, general manager of Canada's 125 celebration, founder of the 15,000-km Trans Canada Trail Foundation, Officer of the Order of

Canada, died 27 November 1999. Diagnosed in January 1999 with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease, he later suffered a spinal stroke which left him without the use of his legs (temporarily, he said). Claiming it was just another opportunity for him, he began campaigning for funds for ALS research, including some \$20,000 for the Bill Pratt Living Legacy for ALS Endowment Fund. Down to earth and often blunt,

he garnered tributes from Calgarians of all walks, including present and former mayors and premiers, as well as from across Canada and, indeed, from around the world.

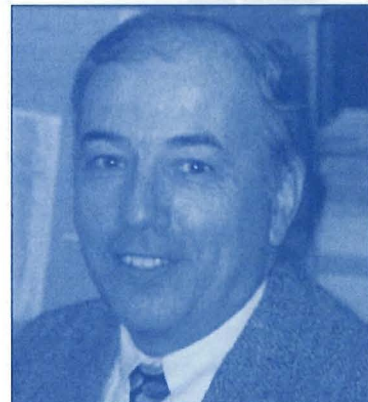
[Editor's note: thanks to Lois (Taylor, '45) and Bill Rui for phoning the Alumni office and for sending us Calgary Herald clippings (which will go into the Archives). See also letter in Members Forum.]

Retiring Teachers Include Alum Exec



Barrie Laughton ('62)

Doug Arrand and Barrie Laughton, who have some 65 years teaching time between them, are both retiring. These two Lisgar grads returned to teach at their alma mater—Doug in September '67 and Barrie in '68. They have been the backbone and driving force of our Board of Directors and our main liaison at the school. We owe them far more than mere thanks—we owe them our continued existence as an alumni association. Keep up the good work for the betterment of our old school. *Alere Flammam!*



Doug Arrand ('61)

Alere Flammam Inside

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Members' Forum

Former teacher, Ruth (Hills) Davis writes from London, ON, on rereading the last newsletter:

The letters to the editor are interesting and fascinating and the familiar names are becoming fewer and fewer. In the letter from Sharon Wilson she mentions the spiral staircase in one of the classrooms. That really made me think back—that was Room 7, my home room from 1929 to 1954. Many a prankster had fun getting to the top step from the auditorium and making all sorts of queer noises to disturb my class, he knowing that I could not go up that staircase to catch him. I have just had my 94th birthday and think I must be the last of the staff of 1929. I shall never forget my first day at Lisgar Collegiate—what trepidation was within me! The building looked like a castle from somewhere in Europe. I was so young, only 23, and had taught two years in a small town where I thought I had learned how to handle the youth of the day. But alas! I was so green. Fortunately the principal was Mr. Fred Stuart, who came from Mitchell, and I had spent my teenage years in Dublin, five miles west of Mitchell. Mr Stuart's father had a dry

goods store there and my father a hardware store in Dublin, so Mr Stuart took me under his wing so to speak. When I look back on my first year at Lisgar, it seems certain pupils used to lie awake at night thinking of ways to try me out the next day. Certain names are still with me — Carson Cross and Ralph Jack in a 10D class, Dave Molot in a 12D class, Marsha Box in a grade 10 class and Eileen Workman in a 9D class. I kept Eileen after class one day and asked her why she was trying so hard to annoy me, and her answer was that I was the first teacher she hadn't been able to make cry. My answer was that if there was any crying to be done she would be the one. I have wonderful memories of many fine students and other teachers of 1929—Miss Muir, head of languages, Minnie Hills in the math department, Mrs. Scott in the library, Jessie Smith of the health dept., and who would ever forget "Sis" Tomkins with her sharp tongue. All except the latter were so kind and helpful to me that I did survive that first year. Isobel Brown arrived that year too and she was lucky to have had only Latin and Greek to teach, for only bright students took those subjects. I could get carried away with reminiscing, but this is enough for now. . . . If you are celebrating in the early 2000s, I may still be able to be there.

Joan Finnigan sent a tribute to Bill Pratt (Mr. Calgary):

Bill Pratt, Lisgar's class of 1947, died recently at home in Canmore Alberta. You can, or perhaps have, read some of Bill's remarkable life in the History of Lisgar, pages 184-90. In the years I was working on the book, Bill was also in Ottawa as head of the Canada 125 Committee. He used to drop in and chat. Occasionally we had lunch. At the Tercentennial Celebration we stood with Wally Mann, Bill reciting for him Shakespeare and I Tennyson and we damn near cried together. Lisgar has had so many outstanding graduates who have left permanent legacies to Canada that I hesitate to eulogize one in particular. But I

In Memoriam

Caulfield, The Venerable Arthur E.L. ('24) died 5 January 2000 in Saint John. He served in parishes in the Diocese of Ottawa from 1929 to 1957, with a leave of absence of three years to serve as Chaplain with the RCAF. In 1957, he became Rector of Trinity Church, Saint John until his retirement in 1973. Besides his wife Irene (Salmon), he is survived by his sons David (Ottawa), and Patrick (Kingston), four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Hanlon, Margaret (née Rolt, '36) passed away peacefully in Victoria, BC, on 27 January 2000 at the age of 81. Her husband of 56 years, Earl, died two days later (of a broken heart). A longtime member of St. John the Divine, she was an active supporter of the young and their music.

Hopkins, Jean Ruth (née Duncan, '40) died 15 February 2000, wife of the late R.E. Ross Hopkins, mother of Susan, Mark and Ada, and grandmother of five. She was active in the Canadian Quilters Association, Rideau Township Senior Citizens Service organization and many beekeeping organizations.

Keliher, Thomas Lawrence (physical education teacher, '58-'63) passed away at Bourget Nursing Home 16 May 2000. Brother of the late Robert, Everett and Blanche. Survived by sister-in-law Marika, niece Ann McMahon and nephews Brian and Thomas Keliher.

Masson, Robert G. (Bob) ('44) died 25 February 2000 at home in Ottawa. Beloved husband of Jean (Kilpatrick), father of Peter, Grey and Jennifer, grandfather of two, sister of Mary Lou Harris.

Matthews, Paul Deacon ('46) died 27 February 2000, at home in Toronto. Beloved husband of Kathleen Joanna Cooper, father of

Ian, Catharine Ann and Sarah Carolyn, and brother of Joan Matthews Khan (Alumni Executive member) and David of Wilmington, NC.

Pratt, William "Bill" Donald ('49) died 27 November 1999, in Calgary. [Editor's note: See story in this newsletter and letter from Joan Finnigan in "Members' Forum."]

Shepertycki, Shirley (née Drolet, '55) died 2 December 1999 (at age 63), survived by brothers Richard and John who also attended Lisgar. (Her brother reports that Wally Mann was a favourite teacher, among many.)

Smith, Colin H. ('39) died July 14, 1999 in Vancouver.

Speer, Richard (Dick) ('40) died 8 February 2000, brother of Marjorie (Speer '40) McDowall, in Atlanta GA, at age 78. [Editor's note: see letter in Members Forum from his brother-in-law, Bob McDowall, '40.]

Westwick, Rita Helen (née Edge, '30) died 23 October 1999 in Ottawa. She was the widow of William (Bill) Westwick; mother of Patricia Keers, Marilyn Adams, Bill, Joan Broome and Vince; grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of two.

Webb, Jean E. (née Dempsey, '49) died 24 February 2000, a Life Member of the Alumni Association, sister of Bruce and the late Tom Dempsey.

Winter, Frances (née Gurland, '31) died 18 May 1999 in Ottawa, eldest sister of Ruth (Gurland '45) Wolochow.

Retraction: The report of his demise was greatly exaggerated! Alan S. Hundevad ('48) was listed in the In Memoriam section of the last newsletter (Fall 1999). Joan Quain phoned to tell us of our mistake. In fact, the Post Office had returned last spring's newsletter to us marked "deceased." We do apologize for the error.

would like to mention here, because I don't think very many people are aware, that Bill was an idea producer and that among his many creations was the Trans-Canada Walking Trail. I was privileged to listen to him wax

enthusiastic about it when it was just in "the talking stage" around 1991-92. I am so glad he lived to see that millennium project become a reality. An ecological treasure and a unique heritage for all Canadians.

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Attention Lisgar Graduates!!!

Graduates of '88 and '89 are long overdue for a reunion. I am looking for any graduates that are interested in having a reunion soon (preferably in June, although the timeline is tight). If you are interested, even if you graduated in other years, please let me know as soon as possible. You can call me, Gloria (613) 724-4899 or e-mail at choteeah@hotmail.com. Thank you for your interest!

Gloria Gyorgy

You know—it might be rather nice to think of having a reunion of those good people who graduated in the 30s and 40s. The last "BIG" reunion Marjorie and I went to was extremely nice but we did come away somewhat saddened that we were not able to get together with the people we went through Lisgar with! There were just too many people and we sort of got lost in noise and din of "living today"—if you know what I mean. Anyhow—God Bless—just a thought!

Greetings to all.

Bob McDowall ('40)

Mavis Clark (Bain, '49), of New Westminster BC, notes that she would like to hear about a reunion of "late 1940s" alums. How about that?

I was delighted to read my article on "Lisgar and the Five Lathes" and to find that you had not changed anything—not even an exclamation mark.

In a recent *Alere Flammam* there was a story about the Lisgar Cheer; the two lines AEI PROTASIS, PROTASIS AEI are not Latin but Greek. They mean Always Forward, Forward Always. (Yes, I studied Greek for three years at Lisgar under George Mabee!)

May S. (Latbe) Hambly ('28), Toronto

In your last issue I was so pleased to see the article and picture entitled "The Anonymisses Then and Now." My sister Audrey Brady (née McCann) was in that picture and I knew all the other girls of course through Audrey.

It certainly brought back great memories. I had not remembered the name "The Anonymisses" but I recollect that they chummed around together a great deal.

Thanks so much for printing that picture and article. I have made copies to give to Audrey's children.

M. June (McCann) Bayne ('37)

In his letter asking for alumni membership information, Robert Haslett ('93) writes in part:

I am currently living in Vancouver working for Air Canada as a Flight Attendant and attending UBC full time. I finished a degree at Dalhousie in Kinesiology in 1997 and then moved out here. I have applied to Dal for med school for this fall. . . . If all goes well, I will find myself back on the East Coast for at least four years and then who knows. Chris [brother] is living in Toronto and is doing extremely well for himself. He is the Director of Operations for a large company which owns several restaurants and is well on his way.

Greetings: I am deeply saddened by the loss of a wonderful human being, my brother-in-law, Dick Speer, who passed away this past Feb 8th in Atlanta, Georgia. Dick and I attended Lisgar from 1935 to 1940 and I write today to let all those who knew him know that he has left us.

Dick joined the RCAF upon leaving Lisgar and proceeded overseas with bomber command. He survived the crash of his returning Whitley aircraft from a raid over enemy territory. Several members of his crew were killed and Dick himself was injured. Later he was shot down in a Halifax bomber over Essen and spent several years as a prisoner of war in the notorious Stalag Luft 111 camp. He was liberated by the advancing allied armies as the war came to an end.

After the war Dick attended Queen's University and graduated in 1950 in Mining and Metallurgy. He had an illustrious career in his chosen field with several major corporations, both in Canada and the United States. Dick retired in 1978 and lived most

recently in Alpharetta, GA with his dear wife May. She's an Ottawa girl too. They have been married for over 53 years.

He is survived by his wife and seven children. They have 15 grandchildren who mourn him—he was wonderful with kids!

There was a memorial service for Dick on Feb 25, his birth date (he would have been 79), on Hilton Head Island, SC, an area he loved so much.

Bob McDowall ('40), Guelph ON

Memories of a Favourite Teacher

It is now 2000 AD and recalling the days when I was a student at Lisgar back in the years 1947 to 1950 can be somewhat vague and hazy.

Of the numerous teachers under whom I had the privilege of studying, one who stood out in my mind was Stuart S. Felker who was my physics and chemistry teacher from September 1947 to June 1949.

Although prematurely grey, he cut an impressive figure with his swept back hair, firm jaw and a gravely commanding voice.

What really impressed me about him was his emphasis on understanding and taking a delight in the subjects he taught—physics and chemistry. Memorization and learning by rote he said was of no value to a graduating student if he or she wanted to have a truly fulfilling career.

"You have to think on making a contribution to society when you leave here and just memorizing for an exam is of no use to you in the long run," he would say, or words to that effect.

In a sense you could say he was idealistic and for many of us students including myself his hopes would be difficult to attain, since some of us would resort to "cramming" and memorization to pass the many tests which he gave.

Still, the relationship between Mr Felker and the students was on the whole quite easy-going and friendly. He would be quite patient as we carried out the various experiments associated with physics and chemistry. He always told us not to be afraid to ask questions even if it did reveal a certain

ignorance on our part. Also that we should think for ourselves and not be spoon-fed.

However, there were times when he felt exasperated with the class when he thought we were not living up to his expectations. On even rarer occasions he lost his temper and assailed us in colourful language (no, no four-letter words!) but he never resorted to corporal punishment (still an option in the 1940s and early '50s). A short detention after school and writing "lines" was to him the punishment of last resort.

Even after being irate he would become almost apologetic, exhorting us to "please do better next time"—and it would often work.

He played no favourites and could lash out at the brighter students when they failed to maintain the standards he thought they should.

One thing I can thank him for was stimulating an interest in meteorology: for much of my life I was a weather briefer and observer and even now still have a keen interest in the subject. He showed us the ultimate relationship between the dynamics of weather and physics.

Yes, there were (and are) many great teachers at Lisgar, but in my mind he stands out and I still miss him on occasion. I'll close by quoting some of his favourite exhortive adages: "A wish is as good as a blind horse" and "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." In real life how true these expressions are.

Richard H. Prinsep ('50), Vancouver, BC

Your Board of Directors is seeking talented (all Lisgar Alumni are talented) volunteers to join the Board. Many current members have served for up to 15 years. We especially need members to help in publishing our newsletter and to assist with the development and management of our Web page, but we also need you to bring your interest and talents to share as a member of the Board. Please contact the alumni office at 29 Lisgar St., Ottawa ON, K2P 0B9, or by telephone at 239-2478.

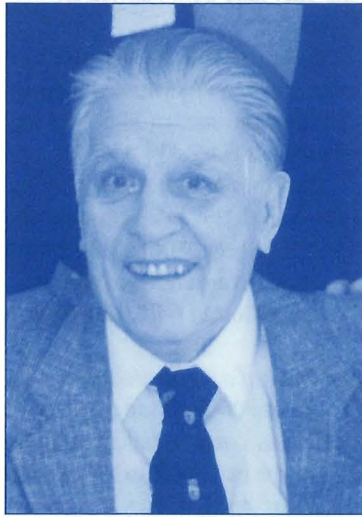
75 Years Young

By Bob Hursti

Kal Hokkinen, science and physics teacher at Lisgar from 1949 to 1958 and from 1961 to 1963 celebrated his 75th birthday at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in Ottawa on the afternoon of April 25.

In the company of his wife Lindy, Kal was feted by family and friends, including former teaching colleagues from Lisgar and from Germany. Ex-Lisgar staff present at this surprise occasion included Bernie Black, Larry Wade, Joe Leggett, Dave MacGougan and Bob Hursti, who played the violin. It was a memorable afternoon, especially for Kal, as he was toasted by the assembled well-wishers.

An afternoon of congenial conversation and refreshments culminated in the singing of "Happy Birthday" and the devouring of two delicious cakes



Kal Hokkinen at his birthday celebration

made by Gunilla Wade and Ritva Joki.

[Editor's note: Former students may write to Kal Hokkinen at the Health Centre at 1750 Russell Road, K1G 5Z6.]

The Alumni Association is getting connected to the Internet! Development is in progress on a web site as a new forum for alumni to share thoughts and contact information. As well, we hope to be able to provide alumni with permanent e-mail forwarding through addresses @alumni.lisgar.net. Please come and visit www.lisgar.net this summer to see our progress. Comments, suggestions, and offers of help should be directed to alumniweb@lisgar.net.

Sound of Music Through the Halls

By Trudy Bradley

In April the hills of Lisgar were very much alive with the sound of music. Another very successful production was made possible through the generosity and hard work of staff and students.

Connie McLeese (History teacher) devoted many hours as artistic director. She worked with Lisgar grad Mari Lynn Kelly (Midgely, '71) daily at Lisgar from January to opening night. Of course, all three music teachers were involved, as were many others in the teaching staff. As in previous years, it could not have been possible had not the Lisgar teachers given so freely of their time.

Disaster struck on the first night—Maria lost her voice after her first solo! We all huddled while the performance was going on and adjusted songs so they were still performed but by different singers. For example, the

love duet between the Captain and Maria became a solo for the Captain. These abrupt changes were only possible because the leads knew the songs so well and the orchestra, under the very capable hands of Terry Porter, could jump bars and follow cues.

Next night, we used a body microphone, to which the stage crew adjusted miraculously. We all worked together to do our best. The performances went so smoothly and so well that few in the audience were aware of changes. This was truly an unforgettable musical in many ways.

[Editor's note: Alumni should be aware, and very proud, that Trudy Bradley, who teaches vocal and instrumental music at Lisgar, was awarded a Certificate of Achievement recently on Parliament Hill while our Alma Mater's string ensemble and singers provided music.]



The Sound of Music: Cast members are the few seen by the audience. With orchestra, backstage (sets, makeup, AV, etc.) and marketing, between 100 and 150 Lisgarites were involved in the production

Trip to Bryson House

By Rod Hagglund

On November 13th 1999, a number of alumni and their family and friends had the opportunity of an encounter with a major part of Ottawa's rich and colourful past. George Toller, long-time member of the Alumni executive, led us on a guided tour "up the valley" beyond Shawville on the Quebec side, to the site of the estates of the Bryson family, which for generations was one of the leading forces in the development of the area as a source of lumber and a financial centre in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The tour began with a visit to the first Bryson family home and business offices, now preserved as a meeting centre, museum and library for the

municipality of Fort Coulonge. It was here that the founder of the dynasty, George Bryson, arrived in the early 1800s as a near-penniless Scottish immigrant and began the business that would later become a lumber empire. From there we journeyed across the fabled covered bridge to a dinner at Spruceholm, the last family centre of the clan, now a hotel and restaurant in Fort Coulonge, where the family's turn-of-the century furnishings and the atmosphere of the day are maintained with loving care by the current proprietors. The day was capped off by a trip upriver to the Chutes Coulonge, where some of the mill-works and the lumber sluice first built by Mr. Bryson in the 1840s are maintained for visitors to get a sense of the tough, hard-working life of that era.

Throughout the day, George Toller brought the past alive with stories of the bitter rivalries, the harsh conditions, triumphs like the creation of the Bank of Ottawa, visits by such notables as Prime Minister Laurier, and a long-vanished lifestyle in which leading families like the Booths and the Brysons could commute regularly to town by private train. Among the most interesting highlights were George's personal reminiscences of his early childhood at Spruceholm.

As with Lisgar itself, it was a delight to know that in the increasing sameness of present years, it is still possible to find traces of our bygone Bytown roots. We need to remember and honour the men and women who struggled in their day, as we do in ours, to build a nation.

Here and There

Honours

Col (ret'd) Benjamin Shapiro, CM, OSJ, CD, Lisgar graduate of 1941, was awarded the Order of Canada by the Governor General (also a graduate of Lisgar) 26 April 2000.

Lisgar students raise money

A cheque for \$960 was presented to the Boys and Girls Club on behalf of the staff and students of Lisgar. The money, raised at an activity day this spring, will go to help support the Club's many special programs.

Annotated Bibliography coming

The Annotated Bibliography and Critique of Joan Finigan's published body of work 1936 to 1999 has recently been completed by Catherina Carroll for her M.A. thesis, Carleton University English Literature. The 135-page document is to be published in 2000. Research was done in the National Archives of Canada, the main branch of the Ottawa Public Library and in Kingston at Queens's University archives.

More Books

In February, *THERE I WAS . . . A Collection of Reminiscences by Members of the Ottawa Jewish Community who served in World War II* was published by the Ottawa Branch of the Jewish War Veterans and the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society. Lisgar grad Mort Baslaw ('42), retired from the graphic arts business and now teaching at the Ottawa School of Art, looked after design and layout. He was an LAC in the RCAF, and along with Elliot Gluck (a lieutenant in the RCA Service Corps), Cy Torontow (RCAF W/C, retired) and Morrie Konick (RCAF S/L, ret'd) formed the nucleus of the group that produced the 96-page book. More than 50 veterans responded to their appeal for first-person stories, Mort Baslaw reports. The book also records the names of the 417 Ottawa Jews served in the armed forces, of whom 52 gave their lives.



Front row: Janet Arrand, Joan Quaim, Connie Brabazon, Steve Brabazon. Second row: Marg Pippy, Betty Jane Marsh, Catherine Donnelly. Back row: Doug Arrand, Rod Hagglund, George Toller (host for the day)

Lisgar Archives

From Dave MacGougan

In the archives is a collection of about 250 book titles dating from 1836 to 1997. Some are reference texts kept by former teachers. Others, written by alumni, range from a book of poetry by teacher H.M. Tennant to three geometry texts by principal Dr. A.H. McDougall. The largest collection

is in history (73 titles) followed by science (46). The oldest is a two-volume French grammar set, *Grammaire des grammaires, ou, analyse raisonnée des meilleurs traités sur la langue française*, published in 1836 by Janet et Cotelte, and the newest is alumni John Dunfield's *Memoirs, 1937-1947, Lest We Forget*, published in 1997.

One book of notable interest published before 1900 is *Scripture Readings for high and public*

schools, published by the Department of Education in 1887. Selections were read daily during assemblies.

Other Lisgar authors represented in the collection include Adrienne Clarkson, Joan Finnigan, Eugene Forsey, N.M. Guiou, Anthony Hyde, John Kobal, R.J. Law, W. Lynch, H. Rubin, H. Shaffer and D.J. Thom.

We also have many editions of the *Vox Lycei*, some of which were hand written.

Donors List

Report from the Treasurer

We continue to use funds from dues to publish the newsletters and we continue to send out about 4,000 newsletters with the support of only slightly more than 15 percent of those receiving the newsletter.

Mini Statement:	
Balance in bank, 1 June 99:	\$ 6,157
Income:	\$12,918
Expense:	\$11,922
(profit)	\$ 996
Balance in bank, 30 Apr 00:	\$ 7,153

Life Membership Fund at 1 May 99:	
Funds required (355 @ \$100):	\$35,500
less 10%:	\$31,450
Amount invested:	\$32,533

Projected Life Members at 31 May 00:	
Funds required (425 @ \$100):	\$42,500
less 10%:	\$37,800

The difference is \$4,700 which we must find from dues. We must also find the money to publish two newsletters @ \$3,100 each. Simple arithmetic (which we all learned at Mr. Rentner's will-covered knee) suggests that we need about \$10,500 to meet our obligations. As you can see, our bank balance is somewhat short of the required amount.

If you are one of the 530 or so members of the Association who hold a current membership, relax. For the other 3,500 of you who are reading this "blurb," please get off your duffs and mail in your dues ASAP. The annual fee is \$15.00, a "Life" membership is \$100.00. Your co-operation is absolutely essential. Thank you.

John Barclay ('52) Treasurer

1999 Donors List

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