



The Eagle's Eye

First Edition, 2018

Events

- Vote on Tues. Nov 6th
- Kannapolis Christmas Parade Dec 8th at 6 PM
Eagles will be flying in the parade
- Christmas Dance
Dec 8th at 8 PM
The Copperfield Center
Concord, NC

Dear Alumni and Friends

It is indeed an honor to serve as President and Board member of the G.W. Carver Alumni Association. The committee remains focused on activities and other ways to strengthen the Association. We meet monthly and would like you to join us as we make plans for upcoming events. If you can't find the time to join us, please pray that we carry on the good name of G.W. Carver High Blue Eagles.

Respectfully,

Georgia Harris, President

A Fond Memory

With the holidays approaching I would like for you to share one of my fondest Carver memories. It's a crisp Tuesday evening in December. For some reason Tuesday was always the day the Christmas parade was held in Kannapolis. Everyone is excited and waiting to see the Carver band and as usual, we were last. It took me years to figure out why. They did not want to be embarrassed!

We had an incredible Band Director in Mr. Van Foster. He played to his strengths. Carver had the prettiest high stepping majorettes in the area and the secret sauce was the drum major. When Carver hit the square, the magic began. The majorettes set the table with their high stepping moves. The first of many legendary drum majors, Benny "Slim" Brice stole the show with his entertaining rendition of his snake dance.

The Carver Alumni Association will be participating in this year's parade on December 8th at 6 PM. I hope you and Slim will join us.

-Leon Thompson

The Glory Years

During the sixties, under the direction of coaches: James Bridges, Ben Dupree Louis Martin, and Pete Taylor, GW Carver High School built victorious football and basketball programs. To win in basketball and football you need an outstanding quarterback and an unselfish point guard. Fortunately, Carver had all of this and more in Roddy Gaither. Moreover, he was also the Valedictorian of the 1966 graduating class. Roddy, born in 1948, is the son of the late Albert and Maude Gaither. He was a product of the Carver School neighborhood.



The Glory Years cont.

Roddy led Carver to the Western 2-A championship in 1965. Sadly, during this historical nine day stretch, the Monday night that we beat Winchester High School (Monroe, NC) for the Western District Championship, our beloved principal, William L. Reid passed. We believe that this team was the first Carver football team to play for the state championship. The team captains were Robert Barnes and James Lee Johnson. The team also received excellent blocking and running assistance from Danny Curry, Johnny Hall, and Kenneth Springs. Roddy was also captain of the basketball team that upset a great Dunbar High School (East Spencer, NC) team that went to the state tournament in 1965.

Carver was always successful and well respected in football and basketball during Roddy Gaither's tenure! Be on the lookout for more Glory Years memories!

What Was It For You? The Legacy

Webster defines the word legacy as something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. What is the legacy of George Washington Carver High School to you?

Was it the teachers who made sure your work was completed as best they could? Was it Ms. Kirk who made sure the verbs and nouns agreed on those English papers? Was it Mr. Foster who taught Math even though that was not the strongest subject for many of us? Was it the band with Benny "Swamp Fox" Hollis stopping at the square to perform in a dazzling manner or was it being caught down at Shorty's more times than you can count? Was it the queen and her court riding down Main Street? Was it Mr. Dupree ensuring that we knew how to read a map in geography and learn the most common forms of direction? Was it the gridiron plays which people still proudly talk about today?

What *Was It* for you? How has *The Legacy* impacted your life or has it? If you would like to share what it was for you and have it printed in upcoming newsletters, please leave a message at vgray6@carolina.rr.com. Please include your name, cell phone number and email address.

The GW Carver Alumni Association sincerely appreciates the assistance given by Ernest Brown in this edition of *The Eagle's Eye*.

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