

Thorndale ISD Ex-Students News  
Reported by Charlene Olbrich  
Ex-Student Association Advisory Committee Member  
November 8, 2009

What a great milestone for our "Fightin Band from Bulldog Land". They took 9th in state out of over 300 1A schools which is really, really good and we are so proud of them. Congratulations go out to our band.

Our condolences to the family of exes mom, Imogene Fisher, who passed away November 2, 2009. She fought the good fight but gave it all up about 2 am Monday morning. She will be missed by many loved ones including exes, children, grandchildren, great grand children and friends.

We need to keep Loy Edmondson, Class of 1974 in our prayers. He had heart surgery and just a few days later attended Imogene's funeral and collapsed at the cemetery. We surely hope he is doing well, but was in the hospital for a time. We send him get well soon wishes.

We received a really nice donation to our organization from Bobby and Carlene Stewart Evans, Classes of 1960 and 1961, respectively of Caldwell. Our thanks go out to them. We operate strictly from donations, so this means a lot to us and we do appreciate it.

Our condolences go out to the family of Larry Niemtschk, Class of 1971 on the loss of his son, Kelly on November 6, 2009. He will surely be missed my many. We are always told that children aren't supposed to die before their parents and Kelly was only 30 years old.

Exes wife and mom, Evelyn Wuensche, broke her hip a month ago and has been in rehab ever since. She should be home from a Temple hospital by the time you read this. We're late getting this information and we sure need to keep Evelyn in our prayers. Thanks to her husband, Earl Wuensche, Class of 1942 for calling us to let us know.

We received a nice donation to our scholarship fund in memory of Bob Mathis from Nettie Dee Beard Harper, Class of 1942. Many thanks to Nettie Dee.

There was a photo in the newspaper and in the group was our Freddie Wuensche, Class of 1959. He is on the board of the Johns Community Hospital Development Foundation and was among the 5 board members in the photo.

Now for Facebook: This week we heard from:

Exes mom, Vanissa McCoy; Amanda Hines, Class of 1997 of Taylor (she received the Estelle Smith Beard Memorial Scholarship); Nancy Roberts Hines, Class of 1977 (address unknown); exes mom, Debra Fisher of Rockdale; and Holli Biehle Van West, Class of 2001 who sent in her new address in Thorndale. Our thanks to Holli for the address update and the others for just checking in.

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK: (on the School's 100th Anniversary)

Eloise Laurence, 76, graduated from Thorndale's school in 1927 with plans to follow in her father's footsteps and become a doctor. But, after completing almost all of the requirements for a science degree, she changed her major to English because of ill health and the Great Depression, and wound up in newspaper work.

She retired from the Thorndale Champion newspaper in 1975, after 30 years of work, but continues to write her "Roving Eye" column, in which she occasionally looks at the town's history. (Remember this

article was written in 1983 by Chris Amante.) (I received the "Bouquet of the Week" which was another part of Eloise's newspaper writing. When I worked at the Thorndale Bank in the early 1960s, she wrote a very nice "bouquet" which I really appreciated.)

Her cropped hair and salty tongue are clues that she may have been something of a tomboy as a youngster. She admitted being "pretty rambunctious," and once received 120 demerits from an "old maid teacher" for saying "dirty words," she said. (Eloise used to come to the school when working on one of her stories and when she would close my office door behind her, I knew I was in for one of her very funny, very dirty jokes. She was a "hoot".)

The religious upbringing she and her fellow students received at Thorndale stands out in her mind, she said. Every morning, during one superintendent's tenure, students assembled to sing and listen to readings from the Bible. (Eloise passed away December 8, 2002.)

Buddy Locklin, a 1938 Thorndale graduate, and his wife, Isabelle, live on a small farm between Thrall and Thorndale, where they house a menagerie, including more than 500 zebra finches.

Both worked for the City of Thorndale, he as a water works superintendent and she as the city secretary and tax assessor-collector, and have retired.

Locklin pointed out that when he and his wife went to school, they finished in 11 years --- seven of grade school and four of high school.

"We were smarter back then," he said and laughed. (Buddy died June 4, 1987. Exes mom and wife, Isabelle Locklin diligently worked with our organization for many years. I saw her the other day and she looked so lovely. She still resides on their little farm between Thrall and Thorndale.)

TO BE CONTINUED.

We can be found on the web at [www.thorndale.txed.net](http://www.thorndale.txed.net) or you can e-mail [locojo@austin.rr.com](mailto:locojo@austin.rr.com). You can call 512-898-2072 or write to Thorndale Ex-Students Assn., P. O. Box 393, Thorndale, TX. We love to hear from our exes.