



# The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association

VOL. V NUMBER 3 MAY, 2004

## **John Hubert Liverman, Sr.**

John Hubert Liverman, Sr., 90, of Hendersonville, NC died Wednesday, March 31, 2004.

Mr. Liverman attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the New York School of Music and Columbia University. He was a concert pianist, composer and educator, having taught 35 years at Auburn University, where he was a founding member of the music department and served as its head from 1951 – 1967. He composed the original marching band arrangement of “War Eagle” for the Auburn University Marching Band and was a composer of numerous classical compositions. After his retirement he remained active with the Hendersonville music community, being a principal organizer of the Blue Ridge Community College music program.

He was a charter member of the Alabama Music Teachers

Association and a charter member of the Southeastern Composers League in the Alabama Composers League.

A memorial scholarship fund has been set up in his name. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send donations (made out to the *John Hubert Liverman, Sr. Memorial Fund*) to Vic Atkins, 22 Berkeley Road, Selma, AL 36701-6805.

## **A Few Words from Hubert Liverman, Jr.**

Dad's friendship with the Auburn Knights dates from 1945 when he first came to Auburn. For the next 35 years, he had fond regards and respect for the band. He felt that the musicians were top notch and their dedication was to be highly commended.

At the reunions, he relished reacquainting himself with old friends and meeting many new ones — it was the highlight of his year — and he was very proud to be an Honorary Member of the Auburn

Knights Alumni Association.

A very dapper, urbane and civilized person, I suspect he would say, “When we meet again, the first Manhattan is on me. After that, you're on your own, kids. So now, let's talk about music and friends.”

CHEERS, POP!

Hubert, Jr.

## **Herman “Hank” Kockritz**

Herman “Hank” Kockritz, 81, jazz tenor player and known as “Butch” to the early 1940's Auburn Knights, died February 17, 2004 in Erie, PA after a short illness. He was also the Auburn Knights' business manager in 1943. After getting his mechanical engineering degree he served as a U.S. Army counter-intelligence officer on the Manhattan Project during World War II. He is remembered by all who knew him with great affection and admiration.

A memorial scholarship fund has

been set up in his name. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send donations (made out to the *Herman Kockritz Memorial Fund*) to Vic Atkins, 22 Berkeley Road, Selma, AL 36701-6805.

Need a great band for your club or organization's next dance? Contact now:

**Auburn Knights Orchestra**  
**P.O. Box 1024**  
**Auburn, AL 36830**  
[www.auburnknights.com](http://www.auburnknights.com)

Dorsey Tippet  
(334) 524-9801  
[tippesd@auburn.edu](mailto:tippesd@auburn.edu)

## **My Most Memorable Job While Playing With the Auburn Knights**

I feel sure that the most outstanding job that the Auburn Knights ever played was the summer that the band played in Virginia Beach and cavorted with the likes of Tommy Dorsey, Buddy Rich, Frank Sinatra and many others in sessions, etc., but somewhere up there this would have to be quite an outstanding job. The event left a lasting impression as I remember it vividly.

The Knights had been booked into the Vestavia Country Club in Birmingham, Alabama. We were to play for Gage Bush, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Birmingham. Mr. Bush was a steel tycoon and the affair was for Gage's coming-out party (debutante ball). This engagement (or gig) was sometime between December 26 and December 30, 1951.

The first thing that got my attention was while setting up that afternoon in walks D.O. Looney with a date. I don't think D.O. had ever had a date before, and the girl was every bit sixteen years old.

On to the setting of the event we were to play. The event was called a "Marie Antoinette Ball", and

what a ball it was. The invitations stated that the invitees were to wear clothes or costumes in keeping with that period in history. The attire was frilly, elaborate and expensive. The ladies wore spun glass wigs that were one to two feet high on their heads. Vestavia at that time had two ballrooms. One one stage was a stringed group made up of musicians from the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. They played period minute waltzes, etc. On the other stage was the swingin' Auburn Knights. Behind our bandstand was a humongous pincushion made out of silk, and in it were stuck many orchids and other flowers.

Now, for some of the events that took place: Gage was brought in by way of a litter carried by four very large black men in clothes that looked like they could have been from India. They set the litter down and Gage greeted all of the guests one at a time in a reception line.

The band had a very special person to come and visit us that night, none other than Marion Evans. Marion had just returned from New York City for the holidays and he brought back charts just for us.

Just before the band took a break, I noticed that a beautiful girl had

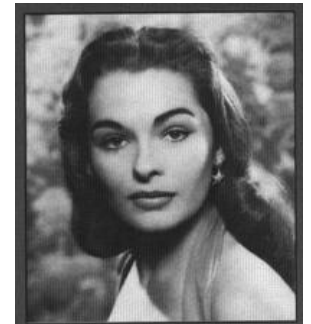
arrived. The guys especially had gathered around her, but she was not dressed for the occasion. She was in a short skirt, and certainly not in what was appropriate for the ball. I asked myself who was she, and what was she doing here? Well, by then the band was taking an intermission. A few musicians and Marion and I were standing near the bandstand when this girl broke through the crowd and came running up to Marion and put a big hug and kiss on him. It turned out to be Miss Alabama (Miss America of 1951), Yolande Betbeze from Mobile. I couldn't figure out why she didn't kiss me (eat your heart out, Charlie). It seems that Marion had done some arrangements for her and had helped her with the talent part of the contest.

Well, the waiters were passing around and pouring champagne like it was water. No sooner had you taken a sip and they were there to fill your glass again and again. In those days our business manager, Don Culley (the General) had sent out into the lands a decree that anyone taking a drink on the job would be heavily fined. I think everyone in the band was hiding drinks and were all having a great time, and I believe Don

himself was participating, but no one was sure.

At our next business meeting back in Auburn, everyone was uptight, expecting the worst, but can you believe not one word was mentioned about the champagne?

*Charlie Lyle*



Yolande Betbeze  
Miss America, 1951

*The Bridge* is the official newsletter of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association. Letters and articles are welcome. Lyle Johnson, Editor, 108 Millsford Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758.

**2004 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion  
July 29-31, 2004**

**Rehearsal Schedule**

<i>Era</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
30's	1-3 PM Ballroom	12-2 PM Ballroom	1-3 PM Pub
40's	6-8 PM Ballroom	10-12 AM Pub	
48/49	8-10 PM Ballroom	12-2 PM Pub	
50's	4-6 PM Ballroom	4-5:30 PM Pub	1-2:30 PM Ballroom
60's		2-4 PM Pub	2:30-4 PM Ballroom
70/80		2-4 PM Ballroom	
90's		4-6 PM Ballroom	
Current	1-10 PM Pub	10-12 AM Ballroom	3-4:30 PM Pub

**Band Coordinators**

<i>Era</i>	<i>Coordinator(s)</i>	<i>Phone</i>
30's	Charlie Higgins (haubtiger@aol.com)	(334) 288-5001
30's	Terry Mosley	(828) 697-8604
40's	Lyman Mitchell	(256) 764-8655
48/49	Don Irvine (knight4849@aol.com)	(251) 666-4720
48/49	Bob Hurston (bhhurston@aol.com)	(901) 755-4567
50's	Don Culley (dculley@gulfel.net)	(251) 980-1362
50's	Al Norman (almarnorman@mindspring.com)	(404) 237-5916
60's	Steve Means (auknights@hotmail.com)	(256) 549-4646
70/80	Lisa Ray (lisahray@charter.net)	(334) 887-1544
70/80	Fritz Siler (dogsiler@aol.com)	(770) 978-1287
70/80	Tim Chambliss (tchambliss@mindspring.com)	(334) 821-5300
90's	Jebb Long	(205) 324-4056
90's	Craig Lunsford	(919) 870-1906

**Performance Schedule**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
7:30 PM	70/80	30's
8:30 PM	40's	60's
9:30 PM	90's	50's
10:30 PM	48/49	Current

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359 Ft. Washington Ave. Suite 1G  
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**LIBRARY ARCHIVIST**  
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**REUNION COORDINATOR**  
Charlie Higgins, (334) 288-5001

**EDITOR, AKAA NEWSLETTER**  
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(256) 837-5540 or lyle@knology.net

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**Auburn Knights Alumni Association**  
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Number	Event or Item	Cost	Total
_____	2004-2005 Dues (Members & Associates)	\$ 10.00	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:30pm, Friday, July 30th	\$ 6.00 @ Door	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:30pm, Friday, July 31st	\$ 6.00 @ Door	_____
_____	Saturday Jazz Brunch, 11:00am		
_____	BBQ Beef or chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink	\$ 6.00	_____
_____	Hamburger or Hotdog, Baked Beans, Slaw & Drink	\$ 4.00	_____
_____	Hamburger or Hotdog, Chips, & Drink	\$ 3.00	_____
Total			_____

Contribution to the AKA Scholarship Fund

Total Amount Enclosed

If you have reserved a room and have not received a Room Confirmation or to check availability, please contact Jennifer @ 1 800-AUBURN-3

Send form & Payment to:  
 T Craig Lunsford, AKA Treasurer  
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