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The Lee County Legend

K E E P I N G T H E M E M O R I E S A L I V E

1952

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

The Lee County Legend has in this issue focused on the 1952 start of the Pennington Gap Little League Baseball and the 1952 Jonesville Girls and Boys Basketball Programs.

You will re-live your youth as you read about these 1952 boys and the season they had in Pennington Gap. What an exciting venture for all who participated!

In addition, 1952 holds a special place in the minds of true Jonesville Bulldog fans of yesteryear. The Legend has not uncovered any other high school that has accomplished this feat. The boys and girls won the Lee County Basketball Championship in 1952 to complete a three year run of Basketball Championships for both programs. Wow!

JONESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL





Memories of Little League

Dave Audia

To an 8 year old boy, Little League Baseball has one meaning and to a 64 year old boy it has another.

In 1955, when I was 8, Pennington Little League baseball was my favorite activity. Memories of those years of joy are so etched in my mind.

- My brother, Louis, played in 1954. Legion 33 team with Uncles Danny and Smokey McElyea.
- Mom let me try on Louis' uniform and I still have the picture. Putting on a baseball uniform was pure delight for us then.
- The League Champs Legion 33 team of 1954 were given a wiener roast celebration at the American Legion Post across the river near Stone Creek. I ate like I belonged on the team.
- I proudly played right field when I was 8.
- There was no pressure at our games, because we had already rehearsed many times by playing in the yard as Mickey, Yogi, Pee Wee, Willie and the Duke.
- My favorite memory: "Me and Louis" got new gloves from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Even today, the smell of new leather takes me back to those nights of sleeping with my new glove.

Now in 2011, when I am 64, I realize that for me and all the other 8-12 year olds in 1955, somebody had to set all this up. Below are those who started the Pennington Little League Program.

- Glen Daugherty—1st Little League President,
- Lawrence Fletcher—Vice President,
- E.S. Vaughn—Secretary -Cowles Kelly, Treasurer
- Flournoy Gaujot, Uniforms - Buford Rhea, Field
- Riley Shanks-Bylaws - Leonard Hays-Finance
- Frank Smalley-Umpire in Chief
- Umpires: E Dixon, B H Hampton, Fred Quinley, F S Vaughn, Charles Flanary, Fred Green, Martin Halstead, A N Smalley
- Roy Maness-2nd President.

Although this is a little late, I want to personally thank all those who volunteered to make this experience happen for me. I have 5 children who played little league ball too, so now I know what all you did! You are my heroes!



Lowell Lawson

1952...Has It Been Sixty Years?

They say that time flies when you are having fun. Based on current evidence Lee County has been having fun for the past sixty years!!

Lots happened in 1952. King George VI of England died and his daughter, Elizabeth, became Queen Elizabeth. Harry Truman was our president. The world population was 2.6 billion. (Now it is 7 billion.)

The federal debt was \$259 billion, the unemployment rate was 3% and a first-class postage stamp cost three cents.

The New York Yankees defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers in the world series. The Minneapolis Lakers were the NBA champions and the Detroit Red Wings won the Stanley Cup.

The Kansas Jayhawks wore the NCAA basketball crown. Michigan State and Georgia Tech shared college football's top spot.

The *Today Show* with Dave Garroway debuted on NBC. Jackie Gleason and *The Honeymooners* began a twenty year run. Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* was published.

The Shelburne Hotel was the place to stay when you visited Pennington Gap; Saturday afternoons were Double-Feature Days. A cartoon, a news reel, a western, and a war movie for ten cents, popcorn and candy bars and pop for a nickel each.

Do you? Do you remember this?

1952 LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS

American Legion 33—Coach Mitchell Carroll

Players: George Crowell, Eddie Oaks, Larry Hartley, Jackie Clusen, Donald Payne, Rufus Williams, Lee Crowell, Ernest Willis, Charles Carroll, Delmer Province, James Green, Bennie Wyatt, Larry Bailey, Ronnie Wyatt, Robert Hines

Civitan—Coach Joe Robinson

Players: Phillip Garrett, David Garrett, Mikie Robinson, Don Strong, Larry Martin, Tommy Snodgrass, Wendal Kirk, Ray Smith, Jack Conyer, Wayne Jenkins, Keith Johnson, Howard Melzonias, Charles Newman, Bennie Cox, Clyde Baker

Lions—Coach Wayne Livesay

Players: Mickey Nelms, Pat Tritt, Danny Culbertson, Arthur Akers, Billy Minton, Don Meyers, Charles Terry, John Ed Rhea, Wayne Jessee, Jerry Moore, Willie Bailey, Tommy McElyea, Bobby Arney, Larry Beverley, Jimmie Tritt, Gerald Creech

Sluggers—Coach Fred King

Players: Jackie Goins, Paul Oaks, Jr, Wayne Wilder, Kenneth Pridemore, Charles Pearce, Jerry Pridemore, Jerry Parsons, Bobby Vaughan, Franklin Tabor, Jimmie Perkins, Jack Woodard, Tommy Tiller,, Bobby Flanary, Jack Nickodam, Jimmie Ray Wilson

FINAL STANDINGS

CIVITANS	_____	15 - 3
LIONS	_____	9 - 9
LEGION 33	_____	7 - 11
SLUGGERS	_____	5 - 13

May 22, 1952 Powell Valley News LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE SET FOR SATURDAY, 2:00 P.M.

Rev. Glen Daugherty, Little League Baseball president, announced today that plans have been made for a Little League parade in Pennington Saturday, May 24, 2 p.m. All Little Leaguers, wearing their new uniforms, will take part.

Following the parade at 2:00 p.m., the players, managers and umpires will go to Leeman Field where two exhibition games of three innings each will be played. The public is invited and there will be no admission charge to this or other Little League games.

All uniforms and playing equipment, including bases, catchers' mitts, leg guards, bats and balls, were purchased by the sponsoring organizations: The Town of Pennington Gap, Civitan Club, Legion Post 33 and the Lions Club. The teams are named the Sluggers, Civitan, Legion 33 and Lions.

Official season opens Monday, May 26, at Leeman Field. All games will be played starting at 6:30 p.m. The season's schedule was published in last week's issue of the News.

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Or, you may read all issues and more free online at our Website: www.leecountylegend.com
Let us hear from you with your stories, articles and pictures!!

31, 1952 Powell Valley News

CIVITANS 1ST IN LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON PLAY

**REGION TOURNAMENT STARTS AT
NORTON ON MONDAY (All Star Team listed
below will represent Lee County)**

Pennington Gap Little League Baseball, playing its first year under a Little League charter, ended the 1952 thirty-six games schedule Tuesday evening. This final encounter matched the Civitans and Sluggers, and resulted in another victory for the Civitans. Monday, the Lions defeated Legion 33.

The final season results give the Civitans top place in the League, with 15 wins and 3 losses; Lions are 2nd with 9 wins and 9 losses; Legion 33 has 7 wins, 11 losses; Sluggers won 5 and lost 13.

ALL STAR COMPETITION

Managers of the 4 Little League Teams, Joe Robinson of the Civitans, Fred King-Sluggers, Wayne Livesay-Lions, and Mitchell Carroll-Legion 33 have selected their All Star Team with Joe Robinson as manager. They will compete in the Regional Little League Tournament at Norton. Members are:

Civitans: Bernie Cox, Charles Newman, Jack Conyer, Clyde Baker, Ray Smith

Lions: Ellis Terry, Willie Bailey, Tommy McElyea, Jerry Moore.

Legion 33: Chubby Carroll, Larry Bailey, Donald Payne, Vinson Livingston.

Sluggers: Bobby Flanary, Jerry Parsons.

The team will play Monday, August 4 in an elimination bracket with Norton, Abingdon and Big Stone. As a climax to Monday's play, the town of Norton will entertain members of the four teams with a wiener roast and swimming party.

July 17, 1952 Powell Valley News

1952 LEADING HITTERS

Below are listed Little League players who have been at bat 20 or more times with a batting average of .300 or better to July 7.

Player	Club	AB	H	Pct.
J Conyer	Civitan	40	23	.575
B Cox	Civitan	48	24	.500
T McElyea	Lions	36	18	.500
Newman	Civitan	44	19	.432
Johnson	Civitan	32	13	.406
Flanary	Sluggers	37	15	.405
J Green	Legion	44	16	.363
J Moore	Lions	25	9	.360
C Carroll	Legion	40	13	.325
L Crowell	Legion	25	8	.320
W Bailey	Lions	32	10	.313
B Minton	Lions	26	8	.308
T Tiller	Sluggers	26	8	.308

LEEMAN FIELD

Leeman Field is a unique place. It was purposely built to be a very big baseball field. It has been listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest baseball field in the world.

Leeman Field's use outgrew the dreams of the originators by a long shot. It blossomed into the center of important social and recreational activity for Pennington Gap, Lee County and the region.

Professional Baseball Teams in the 30s, 40s and 50s, amateur baseball leagues, the Lee County Fair, a swimming pool since the late 50s, and Little league baseball have called Leeman Field home.

Other sports and social events are served well by Leeman Field. Tennis and horseshoes, family gatherings and civic events find Leeman.

As exhaustive as the above list is, you can see that there are gaps. If you can help us fill in these gaps, please contact us. More has happened at Leeman. Where did the name Leeman originate? And, what are the good stories that need to be told about Leeman Field? Help!!
dave.audia@gmail.com.

A JONESVILLE THREE-PEAT!

Every team, coach, and player begins each season with the goal of winning the championship. Holding the trophy aloft is an unforgettable moment. For many it will happen only once in a lifetime. Occasionally, some will remember back-to-back celebrations. The Jonesville High School 1949-50, 1950-51, and 1951-52 boys and girls basketball teams hold a record that may never be broken in Lee County. Both the boys and girls won the county basketball titles for three consecutive years..

1949-1950

Powell Valley News, March 2, 1950:

Jonesville Wins Both Titles In Lee Tourney

Jonesville High School is the proud holder of both basketball titles of the Lee County Cage Tournament for 1950. The Jonesville boys defeated Pennington Gap in the deciding game of the tournament Saturday night by a score of 57-26. Jonesville girls made victory complete by taking the final game in the feminine department, 61-58, from the hard fighting Dryden lassies.

Named to the All-County boys first team were: Jim Henderson, Reed Barrett, and C. D. Livesay from Jonesville; Bud Chadwell and Billy Hoskins of Thomas Walker; St. Charles' Bobby Harber and Charles Pendleton of Flatwoods. Girls All-County: Phylis Williams and Peggy Orr of Jonesville; Billy Jean Wheeler of Thomas Walker; and Dryden's Mary Ellen Edens, Fearl Crabtree, and Dorothy Critt.

1950-1951

Powell Valley News, March 1 1951:

Jonesville Teams Win Titles In Lee Tourney

Jonesville High School proudly added two more championship trophies to their display case last Saturday night, after winning both titles in the Lee County Basketball Tournament finals at Flatwoods High School gym. The girls defeated St. Charles 36-19 and the boys upset Pennington Tomcats 42 to 26.

1951-1952

Powell Valley News, February 28, 1952:

Jonesville Hi School Retains Lee County Cage Crowns

Once again the Lee County Basketball Tournament has been played and for the third straight year both Jonesville teams have come out victorious. The tourney play this year was close, hard fought and cleanly played, with all teams demonstrating good sportsmanship. The Jonesville girls won 52-38 over Thomas Walker. The boys won 61-45 over Thomas Walker.

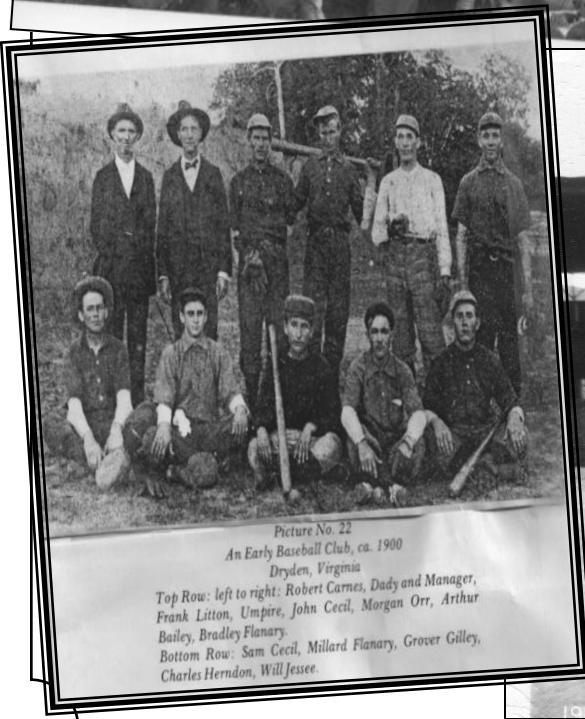
All-Conference Teams: (BOYS): Bud Chadwell, Virgil Huff, J. B. Payne (Thomas Walker); David Couk and B. D. Diffenderfer (Jonesville); B. J. Daugherty and Charlie Province (Pennington); Dale Hyatt (Flatwoods); Lewis Kirk (Blackwater); Eddie Neff (Keokee); Tommy Tiller and Bill Wallen (St. Charles).

(GIRLS) Olivie Johnson Betty Moore, June Johnson (Thomas Walker); Joan Johnston and Marcella Rasnic (Pennington); Louise Myers and Cowood (Flatwoods); Sue Tackett and Joan Wade (Dryden); Patsy Cody (St. Charles).



1954 Pennington Legion 33 Team. Back Row L-R, Mike Olinger, Smokey McElyea, Tommy Smith, Jim Tomlinson, John J Livingston, Bill Minton, Danny McElyea, Louis Audia, Front Row L-R: Millard Smith, Benny Wyatt, Eddie Oakes, Pat Tritt, and Glen Phillips.

PICTURE TAKEN IN FRONT OF GRANDSTANDS AT LEEMAN FIELD WHERE THE PENNINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES WERE PLAYED!



Picture No. 22
 An Early Baseball Club, ca. 1900
 Dryden, Virginia
 Top Row: left to right: Robert Carnes, Dady and Manager, Frank Litton, Umpire, John Cecil, Morgan Orr, Arthur Bailey, Bradley Flanary
 Bottom Row: Sam Cecil, Millard Flanary, Grover Gilley, Charles Herndon, Will Jesse



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TO:

KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE