

El Tee

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS
THAT SHAPED LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



HOMEcoming PEP RALLY 1966

This image from the 1966 yearbook shows a homecoming pep rally on Emmond Field. The Vaughan Building now stands in the place of Emmond Field.



ESTABLISHMENT

LT was established as a high school on April 4, 1888, by a slight margin, with 380 votes cast in favor and 328 against.

FIRST PRINCIPAL

On June 30, 1888, Professor H.W. Thurston was appointed LT's first principal at a salary of \$1,700 per year.

FIRST DESKS

The Board of Education purchased the first student desks for \$159.40. The first teacher's desk was purchased at the same time for \$33.75.

1888



OFFICIAL DEDICATION

On September 9, 1889, LT was officially dedicated.

SEPT. 9, 1889



SEPTEMBER 1890
FEMALE FACULTY
 In the fall of 1890, LT welcomed its first female teacher. At the time, there was only one other teacher at LT.

FIRST GRADS

Lyons Township holds its first commencement with seven students, all women.

JUNE 1891

LAND PURCHASE

The Board of Education purchased just over three acres adjacent to the school for \$5,500. This land was to be used for athletic purposes and became known as Emmond Field.



OCT. 10, 1905



1908

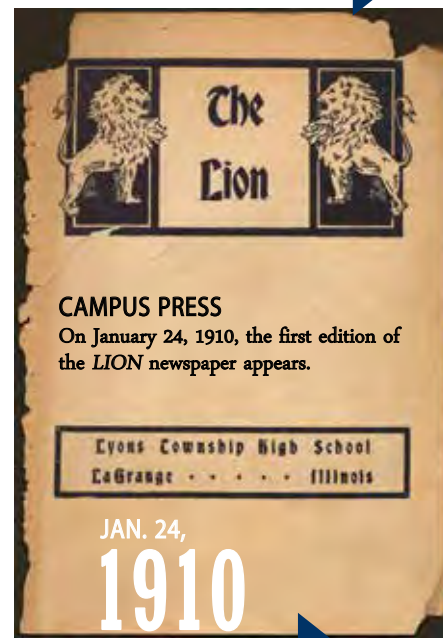
EL TEE HI
 The Senior Annual was named "El Tee Hi Tabulae" by the class of 1908.



LTHS! LTHS!

The LTHS school song was first sung in 1908 at the Junior Dramatics. The chorus was composed by Weller Kimball (Class of 1909) and sung to the tune of *My Illinois*.

1908



CAMPUS PRESS

On January 24, 1910, the first edition of the *LION* newspaper appears.

JAN. 24, 1910

SCHOOL COLORS

When LT first opened, the original school colors were pink and blue, voted for mostly by the girls, who made up a majority of the class. These colors were ousted and exchanged for the current gold and blue when LT was a few years old.



1911

ICE CREAM LUNCH

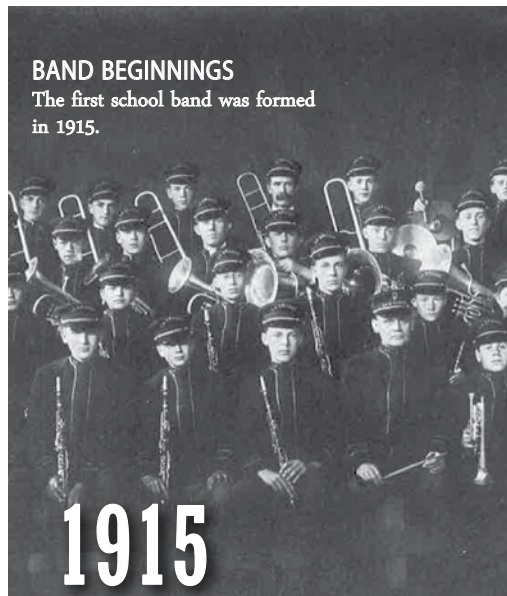
Chocolate ice cream first appears in the lunch room.



NOV. 2, 1914

BAND BEGINNINGS

The first school band was formed in 1915.



1915

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

In 1918, spring vacation was cancelled due to the influenza epidemic, causing the school year to be extended an extra week to make up for lost time.

SPRING 1918

DANCE RULES

In 1919, the rules for dancing were: "There shall be no cheek to cheek dancing; dancers must remain six inches apart and the girl's left hand may be placed on the boy's right shoulder, but not around his neck."

1919

FIRST HOMECOMING

The first LT Homecoming was held in October of 1926 and featured a banquet and a dance.



OCT. 30,
1926



HAPPY HOBO DAY!

On December 18, 1925, students and teachers celebrated the first-ever hobo day, where they dressed in "novel" costumes. The school day ended at 1:30pm for a dance and costume contest.

DEC. 18,
1925

BUILDING ADDITION

Work on the 1926 addition to North Campus began with a groundbreaking ceremony led by Dr. Willett, with Board President C.K. Vial excavating the first shovel of dirt. The addition added roughly 35 new classrooms, an auditorium with seating for 1,800, a community room with a small stage, and a gymnasium created for girls' athletics.



OCT. 12,
1926

EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST RADIO

WLTL Radio 88.1 at 15 watts was built.



1927

THE BELLS ARE RINGING

In March of 1928, the Bell Tower was up and running for the first time. The clock with five bells was donated by the Grand Masons. The face of the large bell is adorned with the words of Howell: "As call so fly the irrevocable hours, Utile as air or strong as fate, Make your lives of sand or granite; awful powers; Men as man choose, they either give or take."



MARCH
1928



SEPTEMBER
1928

GIRLS' ATHLETICS
In September of 1928, LT began its mission to develop girls' athletics.

PEN & INK

Back in 1930s, ink filling stations were placed in the libraries in order for students to fill up inkwells and quills.

1930s



JUNIOR COLLEGE

The LT Junior College opened in September of 1930. The original class had 72 freshmen and 57 sophomores. The college was located on the third floor of North Campus by the Clock Tower.

SEPTEMBER
1930

RENOWNED PAINTER

1931 graduate Charles Vickery's oil paintings and prints are in private collections and galleries across the world. Having studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and Chicago's American Academy of Art, he is well renowned and was inducted into the LT Hall of Fame.



JUNE
1931

CAPS & GOWNS

The class of 1932 became the first class to wear caps and gowns for commencement. The decision to wear caps and gowns was based off of their \$2.50 rental price; due to the financial climate, many students did not have the money to purchase new graduation clothing and this was a more economical option.

JUNE
1932



NUCLEAR PHYSICIST

Leona Woods Marshall Libby graduated from LT in 1934 when she was only 14 years of age. Dr. Libby was the first and only female member of the group that built the first nuclear reactor and the atomic bomb. She was inducted into the LT Hall of Fame.

JUNE
1934

HOT DOG!

Sandwiches and hot dogs were sold for a nickel in the cafeteria in 1935.



1935



THE FLYIN' LION

FLYIN' LION

Through the sale of War Bonds, LT students raised more than \$85,000 to aid the war efforts. With the money, LT purchased a North American P-51 Mustang fighter plane, which was named "The Flyin' Lion."

JAN. 26,
1944



THE CORRAL

The Corral opened for the first time on May 30, 1944.



MAY 30,
1944



WWII GRADS

After graduation, nearly 320 members of the class of 1944 went off to go fight in World War II.



JUNE
1944



NEW BUILDING VOTE

On October 12, 1949, voters went to the polls to decide whether or not to issue the bonds needed to erect the Leonard H. Vaughan building.



OCT. 12,
1949

NORTH CAMPUS GROWS

By the early 1950s, seven additions had been added to the original North Campus, adding an auditorium, bell tower, library, etc.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

In 1950, girls' skirts had to touch the floor when they kneeled. If a girl's skirt did not touch the floor, she would be sent home.

1950



BONFIRE UNDER FIRE

1952 was the last year the Village Board permitted LT to have its homecoming bonfire. As the school grew and as the bonfires became more popular, the Village Board feared for the safety of the students/school and would no longer allow it.

OCTOBER
1952



ACCOMPLISHED ARCHITECT

In June of 1954, Laurence O. Booth graduated from LT. Booth went on to be named one of the 100 World's Foremost Architects by *Architectural Digest* and won more than 50 local and national awards. Booth is a member of the LT Hall of Fame.



JUNE
1954



DECEMBER
1955

RIFLE CLUB

In December of 1955, the Rifle Club became one of the largest clubs at the time with a total of 175 members.



A NEW CAMPUS

South Campus was opened for the 1956-1957 school year and was occupied by the freshmen class for the first time. While the school was not fully completed at the time, the main academic wings were ready; however, the gym, biology classrooms, etc. were not finished until the start of the second semester.



75 YEARS YOUNG!
LT celebrates its 75th anniversary!

1963



TOUR DE LT

On October 9, 1965, 350 students took part in a 45-minute bike ride to Hinsdale Central for the football game. The 350 bikers took up four solid blocks and displayed only a small portion of the spirit LT had for its own Homecoming.



OCT. 9,
1965

SMART SENIORS

In April of 1966, *Chicago Daily News* ran a headline, "Lyons High Tops in Top Scholars." The article reported on both the academic and athletic accomplishments. At this time, LT had 36 National Merit Scholarship finalists, which represented the largest concentration of bright seniors in Illinois.



APRIL
1966

1969

SURPASSING 5,000

In 1969, for the first time in LT's history, enrollment surpassed 5,000 students.

NEW PROM VENUE

For the first time, Senior Class Board moved from out of the SC track and into a larger venue, McCormick Place. While the room itself was donated, after all expenses—catering, band, etc.—were added, "As Time Goes By" had a price tag of \$10,000.

JUNE 1,
1974

RECORD SETTING ENROLLMENT

LT saw its highest enrollment during the 1971-1972 school year, with a record-setting 5,220 students.

1972

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

Dr. Ben Roy Mottelson, LT Class of '44, was awarded the Nobel Physics Prize for his contributions to the development of a theory on the structure of the atomic nucleus. Mottelson worked as a theoretical physicist at NORDITA, an international atomic energy organization in Copenhagen, Denmark. Before working at NORDITA, Mottelson was also a professor at both the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Atomic Physics and the University of California at Berkeley.



DEC. 10,
1975



STATE CHAMPIONS

In the fall of 1976, the girls' volleyball team became the first girls team in LT history to win the state title.



FALL
1976

LTTV

In April of 1977, the NC TV studio was completed and opened. The studio cost roughly \$20,000 to build.



APRIL
1977



BASKETBALL STAR

1981 graduate Jeffrey Hornacek was drafted by the Phoenix Suns and went on to be a leader in scoring, free throws, shooting percentage, steals, three point shots and assists. He was head coach of the Suns 2013-2016 and the current head coach for New York Knicks.

JUNE
1981

1981

HEALTH CLASS

In 1981, the state legislature required Health class be taken in high school.

LT TECH

The district purchased its first main frame computer and 200 micro computers to promote teaching with technology in 1981.



1981

CENTENNIAL YEAR

LT celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1988.



A Year in the Century

100TH ANNIVERSARY
TABULAE 1988

1988

POST PROM

The Parent Teacher Council hosted its first-ever safe post prom senior celebration in June of 1989, held in the Corral from 11:30pm-4:30am and featured a live band and casino games.

JUNE
1989

1992

DISCOVERY CENTER

The North Campus Discovery Center with its 60 computers opened.



THE LIONESS OF LTHS
Nessie the mascot debuted.

1992

HOLIDAY MAGIC

The first ever Write Night was launched. Young children send an email to Santa at the North Pole, with LT elves helping to respond.



WINTER
1992



EXTRAORDINARY LIONS
 The Hall of Fame began inducting notable alumni, who have gone on to do extraordinary things.

1993



PACK THE PLACE
 Pack the Place, a mini winter Homecoming when both the boys and girls varsity basketball games play at home, was held. More than 3,200 students, fans and alumni attended.



BELL RINGING TRADITION
 A tradition of retirees and first year teachers ceremoniously ringing the clock tower bells begins.



1998

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 The LTHS Alumni Association began.



2002

ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSION
 1996 graduate Eamon Shannon was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Eamon was the first special needs student in Illinois to graduate from high school without attending any special education classes. Shannon was born with Down Syndrome but was enrolled exclusively in regular education classes at LT. He worked with elected officials to make policy changes that support people with disabilities. His use of an inclusion facilitator, something almost unheard of when he was in school, is now standard in schools statewide.



JUNE 2007

STATE CHAMPIONS
 Girls' water polo team takes first in state for the first time.



2010



WEBSITE A HIT
 The LT website exceeds 100,000 visits, after just weeks of being up and running.



2012

FIGHTING CANCER
 The Relay for Life collects a cumulative total of more than \$1 million in donations to help combat cancer.



2013



BEST STATION IN THE NATION
 WLTL Radio celebrates its 50th anniversary.



2017



WE ARE LT!

