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LINTON HALL SCHOOL

# SPOTLIGHT

AND OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS IN

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Manassas Journal Messenger

## Introducing

**Name:** William Farquhar

**Occupation:** Athletic Director

**Q:** You are an institution at the Linton Hall School. How long have you been there and what are your fondest memories?

**A:** I've been at the school for 62 years, both as a teacher and athletic director. At my age — 87 — I'm probably the oldest athletic director in the state, and even the United States. I enjoy being around young people. They help to keep me feeling young and I still learn a lot from them. It's been a pleasure working for the Benedictine Sisters through the years. They have really treated me well.

**Q:** What are your primary functions in your position?

**A:** To work with the coaches and set up the schedules for our basketball and soccer teams. I also secure the referees and I also line up the field for the soccer games. I show up at the school at 6 a.m. each day to greet all the students coming in and work with them during recess.

**Q:** I understand the gymnasium at the school has been named in your honor. How do you feel about that?

**A:** I feel honored that they named it the Bill Farquhar Sports Center. I guess Dean Smith, former basketball coach at the University of North Carolina, and myself are probably among the few people who have had a gym named for them while still living. It's great to have something in common with Smith.

**Q:** Did you expect when you started at the school that you would still be there 62 years later?



Bennie Scarton Jr./News & Messenger

**William Farquhar of Bristow has been an instructor, coach and athletic director at Linton Hall School for the past 62 years.**

**A:** Never in my dreams did I think I would live this long, let alone still be working.

**Q:** Do the students have a pet name for you?

**A:** Most call me "Mr. Bill." Another name that has stuck with me through the years is "Pops" which I picked up while serving for 39 months in the Pacific during World War II. At our annual reunions, all of the soldiers from

Battery B of the 237th AAA still call me by that name.

**Q:** I believe you were instrumental in starting up the Leo Club at the school some 28 years ago. What role do you play in that organization?

**A:** As a member of the Manassas Host Lions Club, I serve as an adviser for the club, working with the students in their many community projects.

Send news and photos to:  
Manassas Journal Messenger  
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## MANASSAS & MANASSAS PARK

Friday, May 2, 2003 **A3**

**Q: What did you do prior to coming to the school?**

A: I was selling sporting goods to high schools in Northern Virginia. I supplied the first football uniforms to many of the schools. I was also helping with summer camps at the school and that led me to become a coach, teacher and athletic director. I graduated from Gonzaga High School and won a football scholarship to DeBitt Prep School and had plans to play for VPI, but I broke my wrist wrestling and that ended that ambition.

**Q: You have probably seen many changes at the campus during your tenure. Didn't it start out as a boarding military school for young men?**

A: Yes, and at one time half of the enrollment were boys sent up by rich families from Mexico for their sons to learn the English language and discipline. We are now a co-op day school with about 185 students from kindergarten to eighth grade.

**Q: What is the one most important thing you stress to your students?**

A: To get along with people. You can be as smart as you want to be, but if you don't get along, you may struggle in life.

**Q: You always seem so calm and easy going. Is there anything that you have done out of the ordinary?**

A: Yeah, we have a couple of people in my Lions club that work for funeral homes. I told one of them I didn't want to pay the going rate of \$5,000 or more for a coffin. I wanted as cheap a one as possible. I finally got one for \$200 and have it stored away. I picked it up in a pickup truck, covered with a tarpaulin, but several times the coffin came uncovered and people asked me if there was a body in it. I just laughed.

**Q: Do you have any particular hobbies or something you enjoy doing away from the school?**

A: I like to read historic biographies and watch old television shows like "Sanford and Son" and "Seinfeld."

**Q: I understand you have been a charter member of the Lions Club and the George Brent Knights of Columbus. What role have the clubs played in your life?**

A: They have allowed me to stay in touch with the community, make new friends and given me many opportunities to give back through many community-betterment projects.

**Q: If you could invited three famous people to come and have dinner with you, whom would you choose?**

A: Former England prime minister Margaret Thatcher, former U. S. Senator Bob Dole who ran for president, and Washington Redskins Darrell Green who freely gives of time to the community.

**Q: If you won an all-paid vacation to anywhere in the world, where would you like to go?**

A: To Scotland, where my clan came from.

**Q: I understand you are regular visitor to the Manassas Farmers Market. What are some of the favorite things you pick out**

A: I like all the fresh vegetables, particularly squash, peas and green beans in season.

**Q: Do you have any plans to ever retire?**

A: Nope, coming to work each day keeps me alive. I try to watch my eating habits and walk a couple of miles each day to keep in shape.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing in the summer when school is not in session?**

A: Serving as the liaison between the school and those running the soccer and basketball camps at our facilities.