

**Tonight's 1993 BIPPUS BANQUET
has been sponsored by the**

Sports Bellaire High School Inc. **Foundation**

Remembering the past while building for the future

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Dave Liberati
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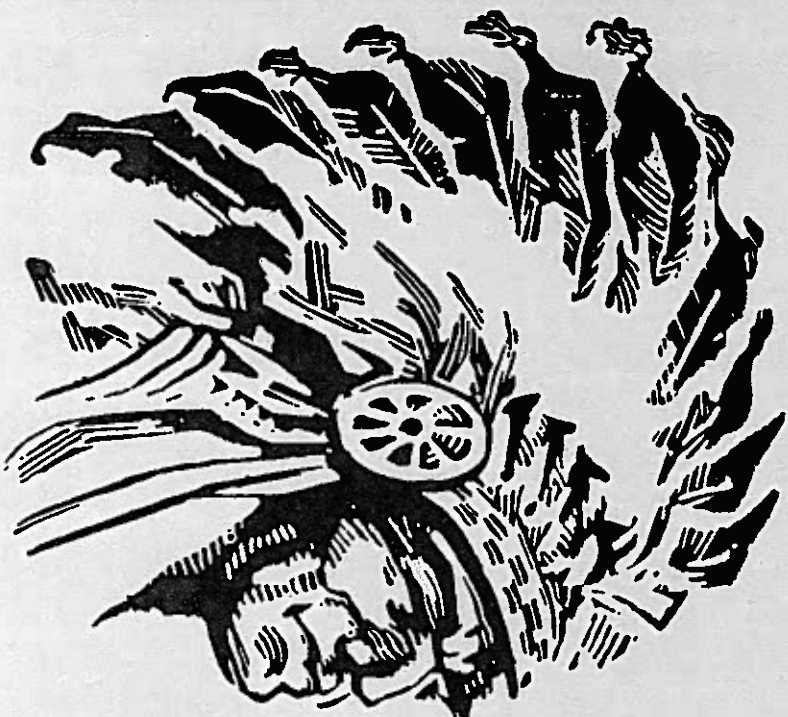
The Football Memorial Scholarship Fund

Bellaire High School's 54th Annual

BIPPUS BANQUET

**In memory of
Jefferson T. Bippus
and Howard Bippus**

**Wednesday, November 10, 1993
Bellaire High School Cafeteria**



1993 Big Reds Football

Sept. 4	St. Clairsville 6-0	Home
Sept. 10	River 21-0	Away
Sept. 17	Edison 23-21	Away
Sept. 25	Wheeling Central 14-10	Home
Oct. 1	Cambridge 44-13	Away
Oct. 9	Stuebenville Central 23-25	Away
Oct. 16	Linsly 30-13	Home
Oct. 23	Tyler Consolidated 28-6	Home
Oct. 30	Newark Catholic 12-18	Away
Nov. 6	Martins Ferry 30-6	Home

FINAL RECORD: 8-2

The History of the Bippus Banquet

The following letter was written by Kelley Archer on October 24, 1984, to Jimmy Mountain, the Bellaire editor of the Times Leader. Although it never appeared in print, it did an outstanding job of chronicling the history of the Bippus Banquet, and, therefore, is reproduced in its entirety.

Dear Jimmy,

Some considerable time ago, I promised you a brief history of the Bippus Memorial Football Banquet, which has been given for many years for the Bellaire Football Squad. I present that history to you herewith.

I believe that the story of the Bippus Banquet is a very interesting one. Jess (Jefferson T.) and Howard Bippus, brothers, were old friends of my father, St. Clair Archer, and were very rabid sports fans, attending all of the Bellaire High football games and contests in other sports as well. Jess and Howard once attended a banquet honoring a Bellaire football squad at which ice cream was served as dessert. The ice cream supply ran out before all the boys were served, and consequently some received no dessert. Jess then started the practice of giving, at his own expense, a banquet for the football squad in any year in which they defeated both Martins Ferry and Wheeling, and he always made certain that there was plenty of ice cream.

Jess died in 1939, and in his will he left a bequest of \$1,000.00 in trust, said fund to be used to defray the expenses of an annual banquet for the Bellaire team. The exact provision in the will is as follows:

"ITEM II. I give and bequeath to my Executor hereinafter named, the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) in Trust for the following uses and purposes:

To use the income therefrom and so much of the principal thereof as, in his uncontrolled discretion, shall be necessary for the purpose of defraying the expenses of an annual banquet for the members of the Football Squad of Bellaire High School, situated in Bellaire, Belmont County, in the State of Ohio. . . It is my desire that the principal of this fund be preserved for as long a time as possible, the income only being used unless the use of the principal is, in the opinion of said Executor, necessary. Should the laws of the State of Ohio affect the validity of this Trust, either because of the uncertainty in the time of its duration, unlimited restraint in the disposition of the Trust property, or for any other reason, then I direct my Executor to make such disposition of said Fund, or any accretions thereto in his hands, as he shall find proper in order to carry out my desire to provide for an annual banquet for the Football Squad of said Bellaire High School for as long a period as possible."

Howard Bippus, the brother of Jess, was named as Executor of the estate, but the Trust was not formally created in the Probate Court of Belmont County until a later date. Initially, Howard Bippus, my father and the then current Bellaire High School football coach served informally as Trustee to administer the fund. There were some lean years during which the income did not pay for the Banquet, and Howard Bippus made up out of his own pocket many such deficits. I think that Jess had no expectation that the \$1,000.00 would last very long because it would be necessary to make continual use of the principal as well as the income. However, at Dad's suggestion, the money was finally invested in corporate stock and the resultant income did carry the Banquet through many years.

Dad and Howard Bippus are both now deceased, and I took over as Trustee of the fund some years ago, at which time the Trust was formally created in the Probate Court of Belmont County.

The Banquet did last those forty-four years through the affair held in 1982, but football squads continued to increase in size, and the inflation-ary trend fell throughout the whole economy made it necessary to invade principal more and more as the years went by. The Banquet really was the victim of inflation. When I took over as Trustee along about 1959, we were still paying John and Andy Lambros, at the old Belmont Restaurant, \$1.00 per plate for the banquet meals! You will be fully aware of how these costs have increased in recent years. However, much, much mileage was obtained from the original One Thousand Dollars of Jess Bippus and, as indicated above, Jess would no doubt be very much surprised that the Banquet Fund lasted until 1982.

The first Banquet was held in 1939, and my file as to the early years is somewhat fragmentary. At the beginning there was no principal speaker for the affair, and, this being strictly for The Bellaire Football squad, there were no outsiders present, except for Dad and Howard Bippus and a few of their close friends. The Banquets were informal, and the football boys themselves were called upon to recount some of their experiences during the season just past. As the years rolled on, more and more interest was generated in the Banquet, and every year Dad would receive telephone calls from fans asking that they be permitted to attend, and of course he was glad to have them do so. Over the years this list of fans interested in attending grew, and this was the origin of the system still followed today, that is, each year I contact, at Banquet time, those fans on the list from past years (and so many have passed on), and extend an invitation to the current year's Banquet.

In the early years various fans served as Toastmaster at the Banquet. The first Banquet, of which I have any notes, was held in 1942, and the Toastmaster that year was Emil O. Meder. The custom of having a principal speaker at the Banquet apparently started in 1950 with Matt Davidson, Freshman football coach at Princeton University.

I took over as Trustee of the Banquet Fund in 1959, and after we had had, in successive years, former Big Red greats, Mac Cara, Elwood Kabaugh and Katz Kadlic, Andy Lambros suggested that it would be a great idea to have a former Bellaire football star each year as speaker at the Banquet. Andy said this would be easy and popular with the team and fans, and, in his words, "You will never run out!" This is the policy followed ever since that time, and Andy Lambros was certainly correct. I think that Bellaire can be very proud of the long and distinguished list of Bellaire football players who have had great success in later life, as exemplified by the outstanding list of speakers we have had at the Banquet.

Don Ault, former Bellaire star and football coach and then coach at Bethany College, was scheduled to appear in 1980, but his Bethany team became involved in the small college football playoffs, and he was unable to attend. In his place he sent John Cunningham, the Bethany Dean of Students and soccer coach. 1980 actually was the first break since the beginning, with Mac Cara in 1958, in our long and uninterrupted series of former Bellaire football stars as principal speakers.

My good friend Pete Schramm served as Toastmaster at the first Banquet I handled in 1959, and he very kindly continued to serve as Toastmaster every year after that until his final appearance in 1976. Pete died the following year, and beginning in 1977, my good friend Charles "Bud"

Fry, former Bellaire football star, member of the Bellaire Board of Education, and local insurance man, took over for me as Toastmaster and has handled the Banquet ever since. Both Pete and Bud have done a marvelous job in presenting the program at the Banquet each year. And Pete became so much interested in and devoted to the Banquet that he provided, in his will, a modest bequest to be added to the Bippus Banquet Fund.

The first Banquets were held at the Belmont Restaurant in Bellaire, where we were always very well treated by the brothers Lambros. After the Belmont was reduced in size after the death of John Lambros, the restaurant was no longer big enough for the Banquet, and we moved to the banquet room of the City Restaurant where Paul Economos and Nicky Diacotis were also very good to us. When the City lost its banquet room, we went to the High School Cafeteria, where the Banquet has been held ever since, catered by Mrs. Katie Dodds. High School Principal Steve Kish and other school officials and Mrs. Dodds have also been very kind and cooperative, where the Banquet was concerned.

The Banquet funds ran out with the 1982 Banquet, and the trust was formally closed in the Probate Court that year. I am able to present a Banquet in 1984 because of a very generous contribution I have received from the widow and daughter-in-law of Elmer F. Kratz, Sr., who died in 1982. Elmer was a long time official at the old Union Savings Bank in Bellaire. He was a good friend of both Howard and Jess Bippus and knew the entire Bippus family. He was a Bellaire football fan and took a keen interest in the Bippus Banquet almost from its inception. He was very faithful in his attendance at these annual affairs. Whenever I called on Elmer, I could be almost certain that he would be present at the current Banquet.

Elmer's widow, Mrs. Edith A. Kratz, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frances W. Kratz, widow of Elmer F. Kratz, Jr., who died in 1975, knowing of Elmer's long friendship with the Bippus family and having interest in and long attendance at the Bippus Banquet, have recently made a contribution in Elmer's name to continue the Bippus Banquet for a little while longer. I think that it is a very nice thing they are doing for the Bellaire football squad. I trust, Jimmy, that I have not bored you with this long recital. Because of the fine coverage the Banquet has always received from The Times Leader, all of the information hereinbefore set forth is in your newspaper files, but it might take a bit of digging on your part to assemble it all. You may make whatever use you wish of this history of the Bippus Banquet, and, if there is any more information I can supply, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Before closing I would like to add a personal note, and that is that the Banquet has been for me an extremely interesting and rewarding experience. I am, after all, a pretty fair supporter of The Red and The Black myself. Bellaire is Home Town and Bellaire High is Alma Mater, and being associated over the years, with coaches and school administrators, Big Red athletes and fans and, in particular, the guest speakers, who were "coming home," some perhaps for one last time, is something I am glad I did not miss.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes always, I am
Sincerely,



Kelley Archer

PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 10, 1993
Bellaire High School Cafeteria

SENIORS

Toastmaster.....David K. Liberati '75
Guest Speaker.....Jack Cera '74

Welcome

Invocation.....Rev. Steve Sparling
First United Methodist Church

Dinner.....by DeFelice Brothers Pizza, Inc.

Salad
Rotini with meatball
Iced Tea
Coffee

Dessert **ICE CREAM!!!!**

Recognition of Special Guests

Remarks on the 1993 Season.....Coach John Magistro

Main Address.....Jack Cera

Benediction.....Rev. Sparling

JASON TUTTLE,

Captain

SCOTT COYNE,

Captain

JOHN FARRIER

NICOLAJ JOHANSEN

J. R. HALL

KEVIN BAILEY

NICK MARINELLI

SHAWN VALLORIC,

Captain

DAVID BOHUS,

Captain

JAY BELLVILLE

CHAD FARMER,

Captain

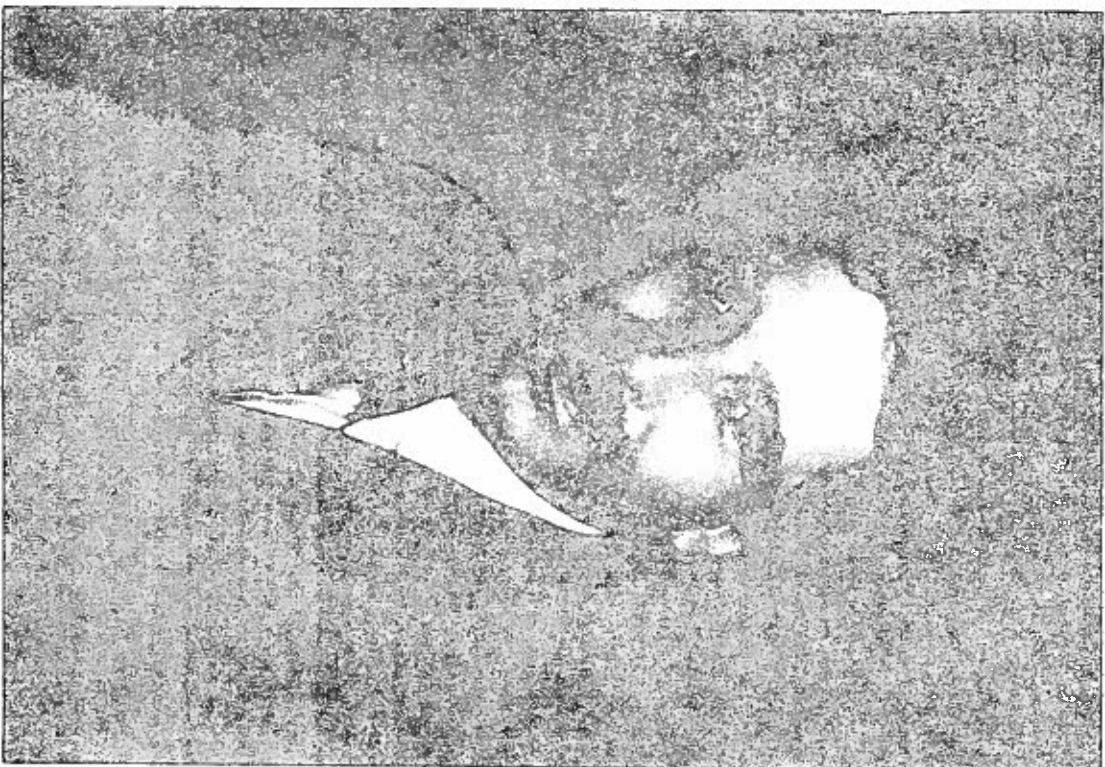
JOSH OSTRANDER

Program Courtesy of
The Bellaire Print Shop, Inc.

**Best Wishes,
Class of 1994**

JACK CERA

Ohio State Representative
Defensive Halfback/Running Back
1973 Football Squad



Our guest speaker for this year's Bippus Banquet is Jack Cera, Class of 1974.

Jack was a two-year letterwinner in football at Bellaire High School, leading the Big Reds defensive backfield in 1972 and 1973. In 1972, Cera had 24 solo tackles, 17 assists, and 1 interception. In 1973, he recorded 27 solo tackles, 14 assists, and three interceptions, including a 97-yard interception return for a touchdown, still a Bellaire High School record after 20 seasons. Cera was selected as the Most Underrated Player his senior year and was a First Team All-Region selection in 1973 as well as a UPI Honorable Mention All-State selection.

Cera was a four-year member of Student Council, serving as president his senior year. He was the sports editor of both the newspaper and the Belujan his senior year and was freshman class president. Cera also lettered in baseball his senior year.

Cera's football career continued in 1974 at Brown University where he received a degree in political science.

He ran for the Ohio House of Representatives in 1982 and was elected in his first bid for public office. He has been re-elected by comfortable margins five times since then. In the House, Representative Cera chairs the House Finance Development Subcommittee where he continues to strive to attract jobs to the Ohio Valley.

Representative Cera and his wife, Becky, live in Bellaire with their daughters, Jaclyn, 8, and Bethany, 11 months.

