



# Huskies Trails

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The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



We need you! Familiar words from that grand old man. The truth is—WE need you, your sons and daughters and your grandchildren to carry on with the traditions of our Association. Right now, we have an enthusiastic group of Trustees and volunteers who are willing to protect those traditions in the interim. But we need to know you're waiting in the wings.

Many of you – we laughingly refer to you as the “lost generation”- are at that stage in life where family and jobs take precedent over everything else; as it should be. We understand that. But, please stay informed through this Newsletter and word of mouth, etc., so you can step in when you're ready and able to take the baton. Meanwhile, if at any time you can help --if only for a few hours—let us know. You're not the lost generation—you're the NEXT GENERATION!

Ten classes have had successful reunions this summer. Several of them set time aside for a special “coffee hour” in our museum. Many returning alumni have not had the opportunity to visit here, and were pleasantly surprised to see what we've accomplished.

If the coming year will bring your class reunion, contact your class rep to offer your help. Call us if you don't know who your class rep is. We can help!

We hope you have had a pleasant summer. Be sure to put August 17, 2008, on your calendar. That's the date for our Triennial all-class alumni picnic. More details will follow in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Betty-Jo Baker, President  
RHSAA

# The First Shopping Center

Step inside the red and blue Reno High School time machine, the Re-Wa-Ne Express—careful, watch your step! Now close your eyes and enjoy the brief ride backward in time, to Reno of 1955. When you exit the machine into a chilly November day, Friday the 4<sup>rd</sup>, to be exact, you find that you are not at Reno High as you expected, but instead in a massive 7 ½-acre expanse just to the south of the school. The newly-created parking lot, with its fresh blacktop and dozen light poles, has space for 350 cars—oops, careful, you were almost struck by a '54 Chevy cruising down the wide parking lane, looking for a space! A great many of the spaces are occupied, as local residents from nearby Westfield Village, from the Riverside Drive neighborhood, and even farther away hurry to shop at the new and monumental first shopping center in Reno.

The Village Shopping Center on California Avenue is a million-dollar enterprise conceived of by builder Jack Hanson, and built by Walker Boudwin Construction. Comprised of ten different businesses, anchored by the Hanson Market which is owned by father and son Frank and Jack Hanson, it is 310 feet long, constructed of Redi-lite concrete masonry. Designed by structural engineer John Webster Brown, the building has been described as “earthquake resistant” with firewalls between each of the ten units. The building is fronted by a 14-foot walkway, covered by a 12-foot canopy. A truly innovative feature of the center is the “high fidelity” taped music provided by Art Rempel, issuing from speakers in Hanson’s Market and along the walkway.

You decide that the best way to view the Center is to start at the west end, and travel east, along the walkway, humming “Mr. Sandman” along with the Chordettes. The first thing you notice is that each business entrance has its own style and architecture. You first come to Shelly’s Village Hardware. Next is Sprouse-Reitz Variety Store, then Village Records and TV. Next is Hanson’s Market, touted as “the latest in self-service stores,” then the Village Bakery, the Village Drug, Inc., the Village Beauty Shop, the Village Restaurant, and around the corner towards the high school are Spezia Cleaners No. 2 and the Village Barber Shop. As an amazing, cinnamon-scented aroma reaches your nostrils, you backtrack to the Bakery and peek inside. You are captivated by cheerful pink and aqua walls, colorful wallpaper, white oak fixtures and a spotless pink-and-gray tile floor. The aromas of 25 varieties of bread, and Danish, Swedish and French pastries combine to make your taste buds salivate.

While the Village Center is still in operation today, it is vastly changed. But some things don’t change. When young Enzo Buonamici took over the Village Barber Shop in 1957, he likely had no idea that he would spend the next fifty years in that same shop, barbering many of the same heads once luxuriant brown and black, now sparse gray and white. And yet there he is today, expertly wielding scissors, clippers and razor as though fifty years had not passed.



The swirling red, white and blue barber pole, nearly an anachronism in today’s world, still spins, and friends still meet in classic swivel barber chairs, arguing the day’s events through frothy masks of lather. For this trip back in time, you don’t even need the machine.

*Debbie Olthoff Hinman, Class of 1970*

# 4th Triennial All-Alumni Picnic

# 2008

For all alumni, teachers, administrators and staff  
At Reno High School  
August 17, 2008  
11:00 am until 5:00 pm  
For information, call 825-2586 or go to our  
website @ [www.renohighalum.com](http://www.renohighalum.com)

RHSAA Founder  
Bud Beasley - 1937



## JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

All are welcome

The First Friday of every  
month at 11:30 a. m.  
Order from the menu – separate  
checks

**GOLD 'N SILVER ~  
West Room**

## History Questions

By Neal Cobb

1. 1960's - Who were referred to as the Mop Heads?

2. 1950's & 60's - Name at least three LOCAL Super Markets.

3. A very popular local artist designed the Chism ice cream polk-a-dot carton. Each flavor used a different color, purple for Vanilla, Brown for chocolate and so on. Name this artist.

4. 1970's - Dance craze that was named after a candy.

5. 1960's - and beyond. Name a very successful science fiction TV show.

6. From the year 1960. Give a least three hit movie's of that year.

7. 1950's - What did Ernie Primm do to change the history of Reno's gaming?



8. The movie Five Against The House, released in 1955 featured what casino.

9. Stamfli's Record on the S/W corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and West Street's was special to the kids for what reason.

10. We had two drive-in theatre's. Name them.

# *The History of Reno High School*

Students were first taught in the basement of Alhambra Hall, which was located at the corner of First Street, then known as Front Street, and Virginia Street, where the Mapes Hotel stood after 1947.

In 1868 the City Fathers decided to build a school house for the students of Reno and picked a lot on Sierra Street and First Street (Front St). The first school building was finished in 1869 and was a one room building. In 1878 it was decided that a new school should be built because the high school student population was growing and needed to be separated from the lower classes.

The property between 4th and 5th Streets and Arlington and West Streets was purchased, and plans were drawn up and construction started on the first building that would be known as a high school. In 1879 the school was finished and named Central School. The high school occupied the upper floors, and the elementary classes (grades one through eight) were on the first floor. Although the name was Central School, it was sometimes referred to in newspaper articles as Reno High School. Later, an addition was added to the existing building. After a fire in the chemistry lab, around 1910, the city fathers decided to condemn the building and rebuild another school on the same property.

Central School was torn down in 1911 and work commenced on the new high school. On December 2, 1912, the students and faculty moved into the new Reno High School, which was strictly for the high school population. Two elementary schools, Orvis Ring School and McKinley Park School, were built in 1909 and 1910.

The 1912 building was known as Reno High School until 1951 when the existing Reno High School was opened on Booth Street. The 1912 building was renamed Central Junior High, and later, Central Intermediate School. It was an intermediate school until it closed in 1966. An explosion and fire in 1967 caused the school to be torn down in 1968. The Sundowner now occupies that spot. The existing Reno High School was opened in September of 1951, and the first graduating class was the class of 1952.

In 1995 an alumni association was formed, and the planning for an alumni/museum building began immediately. The building construction was started in August 1999. The Reno High School Link Piazza Alumni Center was completed in January of 2000.



*1878 Central School*



*1912 Reno High School*

# School names

By Karl Breckenridge

Our late classmate Tom Jensen (RHS '59) once won a Silver Pen award for his letter to the editor of the *Gazoo*, regarding the naming of two new Washoe County schools. I've opined in the past that that honor should be limited to people who received a paycheck from the Reno, Sparks, Galena, Glendale, Nachez, Gerlach, Steamboat, or after June of 1956, the unified Washoe County School District. But now I have changed my position. I realize that some weight must be given to a foreseeable nickname of any named school's team mascot, worst-case example: the Echo Loder Odor-Eaters.

We could easily have been stuck with the Wooster Roosters, the Greenbrae Packers, or the Glenn Hare Cottontails. The Gerlach Holmes are elementary, Watson, as are the E. Otis (Vaughn) Elevators, the Donner (Springs) Partiers, or the Roy Gomm Bommbers, (opposed by Gomm's Momms' Club.) Or the Lemmon (Valley) Drops, the Lincoln (Park) Logs, the little Brown Jugs and the Lois Allen Wrenches.

We could have encountered the Alice Maxwell Smarts playing the Darrell C. Swope Dopes until they were all (Katherine) Dunn in; fortunately Swope inherited its "Panther" mascot from old Central Jr. High first. I was in the first Central student body, the one that chose that mascot. Our late classmate Margaret Eddleman (RHS '56) designed the Panther-head logo that's still in use at Swope even today. Then there's our coach Bud Beasley; surely the students at the elementary school honoring him might have been called the Beasley Batsmen, for Bud, until he died, boomed out *Casey at the Bat* the way sportswriter E. L. Thayer meant it to be delivered: *Strrrriiike Twoooo!!*

Pity that some of our favorite teachers and principals don't have a school named after them (yet!). David Finch's inevitable school's feathered mascot is obvious, (at least to everybody but the late Finch, a legend albeit a man not long on humor.) But how 'bout the

(Betty) Morris Chairs, a team to play against the Libby Booths? Betty was the dynamic kindergarten teacher for a score of years at Jessie Beck Elementary School, whose first principal was Jim Puryear, my nomination for a new school name in the last naming go-around. Central's vice-principal Chester Green deserves a school, surely to be the Green Hornets, as does Central's first principal - doesn't this school board realize that we could have a playoff between the Chauncy (Burger) Kings and Robert (Dairy) McQueens? Seriously, Morris, Finch, King and Green deserve their own schools. And Puryear. And Gonda and Benson and Muth. And more.

But returning to the business at hand, if you don't like those fast foods above, how about a (Ted) Hunsburger (Elementary) with fries but not French, or a Big (Effie Mona) Mack? Or the great elementary school team, the Anderson Split Peas? From southeast Reno, the (Edward L.) Pine Nuts, Potatoes (Robert) O'Brien from Stead or a slam-dunk nomination, the (Glenn) Duncan Donuts. The late Nevada historian/author/RHS teacher Effie Mona Mack never got a school name, by the way. Should have... Pet peeve of Reno High alums: It's Huskie, not Husky; sportswriters and spellcheckers take note.

Galena High beat out Agnes Risley Elementary for the Risley Grizzlies. But Galena is a school that could easily merge with another school, as could Mount Rose Bullis Elementary, Florence Hunter Drake Lake, and Ga-Lena Juniper, whose mascot could be the Juniper Berries if the late Peavine elementary schoolmarm Bernice Berry doesn't get her own school named after her. Bea was a dear lady, a family friend for 50 years, who passed away just months after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Rose Bullis is the reliable archivist for the school district - if Rose doesn't know about it, it hasn't happened yet. And Rosie don' know 'bout this column...

A few notes are left over, of our late favorites Marvin Picollo, P. E. teacher Ed Van

Gorder, and Nancy Gomes. They got their names on schools – Van Gorder Elementary’s mascots should probably be the Sweat Sox. Everyone remembers Marv Picollo as a fine administrator, and those of us who had him as an RHS English teacher recall that he could also ski our asses off come the weekend. This piece started in fun but I now realize that there are scores of dedicated educators – many who don’t have schools named after them – who deserve some RHS alumni attention, like our late contemporaries Neil Fockler, Becky Rose and Kenny Vaughn, who left us, too young.

I was going to wrap this up by throwing in the (Mamie) Towles – a boxing expression, and pointing out that it’s a (Rita) Cannan – a premium brand of towel – but I won’t ensnare these two fine old principals who both had elementary schools named after them with that sort of hi-jinx. (Miss Cannan was normally a warm lady – a Mrs. See’s Candy-box look-alike – but I can still feel her icy stare when she cracked the whip at Mary S. Doten in 1948.)

This probably isn’t over yet....

## History Answers

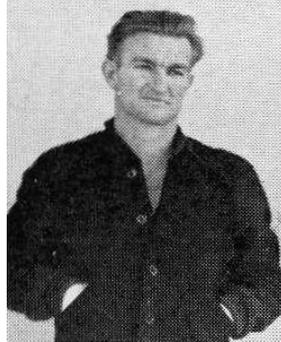
- 1. The Beatles.**
- 2. Eagle Thrifty, Sewell’s, Nevada Food King, Washoe Market’s , Ring Lee.**
- 3. Roy Powers.**
- 4. Chubby Checker’s Peppermint Twist.**
- 5. Star Trek.**
- 6. Please Don’t Eat the Daisies and Pillow Talk (D. Day) , Moby Dick (Gregory Peck). The Unforgiving (Lancaster&Hepburn). PSYCHO, Elmer Gantry (Lancaster) . Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Taylor)...**
- 7. He was able to break the unrestricted allowed gaming line known as the Red Line, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1955. Taking unrestricted gaming to the Westside of Virginia St, and in 1961 to Sierra St.**
- 8. The robbing of Harolds Club.**
- 9. Allowed to use private listening rooms, to sample records.**
- 10. The El Rancho, Midway Drive-in.**

**William A. Harrigan**  
Class of 1938

In early September, 1935, having graduated from Northside and Billingshurst Junior High School, our class trooped up for enrollment in RHS, at that time located on West Street (between West 4<sup>th</sup> and West 5<sup>th</sup>).

As sophomores, we were welcomed by Principal E. Otis Vaughn. During the year, Mr. Vaughn was made Superintendent of Schools and was replaced by Earl Wooster (known as “Curly” when out of eardrop).

Herb Foster was boys coach, and the arrival of Bud Beasley in the 1936-37 school year as Herb’s assistant, proved to be quite memorable. There was no doubt that the two were the forerunners to Oscar Madison and Felix Unger as the “Odd Couple”. Herb was taciturn and introverted, while Bud was quite outgoing, joining in on all activities with unparalleled enthusiasm.



In my three years at RHS, I don’t recall Herb uttering more than 200 words. Fortunately, Bud filled this void with friendly chatter, stories, anecdotes, and sometimes pure nonsense. He was an extremely gregarious and outgoing individual—a “man for all seasons” who adapted easily to any situation at hand.

The RHS football practice field in 1935 was located on 9th street and was barren clay that retained the cleat marks for the entire season. One strange feature of the soil was after several days of practice, pebbles the size of walnuts would appear. The problem was solved by having the team pick up the stones after practice and toss them into a pile in the Northwest corner of the field. This phenomenon occurred for sometime as the gravel pile grew to 3 to 4 cubic yards. In 1936 a grass field was put down to everyone’s delight.

Walking to and from RHS and the field for practice meant just that. Anyone caught bumming a ride was in big trouble with Herb, even a possible end of an athletic career.

Our 1936 season opened with Herb lugging big pile of miscellaneous uniform pieces he’d stacked in the locker room. Team members would rummage through to find pants, hip and shoulder pads, helmets and jerseys that came closest to the fitting. My hip pads had a tag dated 1926.



The 1937 season improved, not only getting a few new uniforms, but we ended up winning the State Championship after an undefeated season.

***This will be an ongoing article from William A. Harrigan’s stories***



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