



First Quarter Issue - 2009

Huskies Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

PRESIDENT'S 2 CENTS WORTH

Obviously, the RHSAA is in full cooperation with being environmentally involved. The Trustees have recycled "Old Man Pelizzari" for another term as President (no other takers). However, we do have some fresh faces on the Board. James D. Schnabel was elected Vice President of Operations, and Nettie Wong as Vice President of Membership. The returnees to office are Virginia Zorio as Treasurer and Maurine Tuckett as Secretary.

As a whole, things are progressing well at our museum, however we are still in need of volunteers in the areas of bookkeeping, office management and museum coordination. Volunteering four or five hours a month is all that is ordinarily required and the opportunity of reconnecting with old friends and meeting new faces is worth the time. Call me for details on volunteering or if you have suggestions, comments, complaints or whatever, 972-1443.

Be sure to check out our new website at renohighalum.com.

P.S. If you feel ambitious, why not apply for one of our Trustee positions?

Grazie, ciao

2009 CLASS REUNIONS

This isn't the year for an all-school reunion picnic—but lots of opportunities for class reunions. Starting with the class of 1939 and progressing every five years, there are the classes of 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

Final details are being developed for the September 11 and 12, 2009 50th reunion of the RHS class of 1959. The 30th reunion of the class of 1979 has their plans in place for July 25, 26, and 27, 2009.

I've been in contact with the class reps of all the other classes—some are beginning to make plans, and others are "still thinking about it". All have promised to let me know what they decide to do. We often receive inquiries from former graduates asking for information about possible reunions and who to contact. All are referred to their specific class rep. We're always happy to provide the information we have and provide any help we can. That's what we're here for! There are three classes—1989, 1994 and 1999 that don't have class reps. If you are a member of any of these and would like to volunteer your help or know someone who would, please contact Betty Jo Baker at 851-3203 or Daryl Pelizzari at 825-2586.

1970's graduates of Reno High School, who would like to organize a reunion for this summer, may contact Cindy Baker, cjbb@att.net or Moni Krebs, monidrebs@sbcglobal.net.

This is the current list of the Reno High Alumni Class Representatives. You will notice there are no representatives for the years 1970, 1971, 1981, 1983, 1990, 1993, 1994, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 & 2007. If anyone from one of these classes would like to be a class representative, please contact Betty Jo Baker at (775) 825-2586 or (775) 851-3203, or e-mail us at rhsaa@renohighalum.com.

1935----- Beverly Ruddock, 9485 Fleetwood Dr., Lemmon Valley, NV 89506, (775) 972-7509
1936 & 1937--- Chester & Lena Green, 1660 Marla Dr., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 323-7275
1938----- Rita Daniels, 1476 Gaucho Lane, Reno, NV 89521, (775) 851-6050, danielsrita@sbcglobal.net
1939----- Charlotte Wilcox, 25 Coleman Dr., Reno, NV 89503, (775) 746-1004
1940----- Barbara Rabenstine, 1061 Whitaker Dr., Reno, NV 89503, (775) 323-7829, grammabarbie@prodigy.net
1941----- Dorothy McKaig, 670 Hunter Lake Dr., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 322-7287
1942----- Bill Grundy, 1685 Palisades Dr., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 3225936
1943----- Len & Lois Crocker, 4255 Palomino Circle, Reno, NV 89519, (775) 747-2774, lencrocker@sbcglobal.net
1944----- Marge Olsen, 565 Urban Road, Reno, NV 89509, (775) 826-4706, olsen4706@aol.com
1945----- Guenther Brueckner, 1665 Plymouth Way, Sparks, NV 89431, (775) 358-1494, pmbrueckner@gbis.com
1946----- Frank & Jane Marfisi, 2110 Driscoll Dr., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 322-0023
1946----- Jodie Wagner, 1945 Fourth St. Apt. 3, Sparks, NV 89431, (775) 331-9467
1947----- Gerry Atwood, 1685 California Ave., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 323-1192
1948----- Jacquelyn Rossow, 70 Robin Pl., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 323-0520, lrossow@charter.net
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1950----- Jean Binns, 1720 Allen St., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 322-6856, jbinns@aies.net
1951----- Betty Jo Baker, 2060 Rockhaven Dr., Reno, NV 89511, (775) 851-3203
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1966----- Anita Giossi, 2755 Monterey Dr., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 826-7175
1967----- Earlene Forsythe, 2660 W. Lake Ridge Shores, Reno, NV 89519, (775) 827-2630
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 1984----- Jim Walther, 13970 Dogleg Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020, (303) 905-5254, jim@jimwalther.com
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 1986----- Scott & Rochelle Kozell, 425 Grant St., Healdsburg, CA 95448, (707) 431-7918
 1987----- Honoree Wilson, 23295 Gardenia Dr. Corona, CA 92883, (909) 277-3505, hmw33@aol.com
 1988----- Leslie Smith, 4289 Waterhole Road, Reno, NV 89519, (775) 746-1696
 1989----- Angela Jacobs, 32404 Crown Valley Pkwy, Dana Pt., CA 92629, akevatz@hotmail.com
 1991----- Kristi Van Gorder, 1540 Clough Road, Reno, NV 89509, (775) 329-0508
 1992----- Nicole Ribeiro, 1920 Viewcrest Dr., Reno, NV 89511, (775) 851-3904, (916) 276-2979
 1995----- Jennifer Grundy, 2245 Pennswood Way, Reno, NV 89509, (775) 827-6314
 1996----- Danielle Harsh, 1046 W.57th St., San Bernardino, CA 92407, (909) 844-2028
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 1997----- Tara O'Brien, 11122 Morrison St. #105, North Hollywood, CA 91601, (310) 985-8272,
97rhsreunion@gmail.com
 1998----- Julie Tomkins, 1885 San Pablo Dr., Reno, NV 89521, (775) 852-9351, (775) 327-3422
 1999----- Ashley Lawton, PO Box 1026, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, (775) 772-8306, aannelawton@aol.com
 2001----- Sarah Bear, 1025 Sumac St., Reno, NV 89509, (775) 786-7424, sbear@unr.nevada.edu



NOW AND THEN AT RENO HIGH

NOW: If you have driven by Reno High lately, you may have noticed a new brick “R” planter on the front lawn. This planter is slightly larger than the original and has rounded tiles on top for seating and upward facing spotlights that will enhance future plantings. Generous donations from Link Piazza made this improvement possible. Thank you so much Link Piazza.

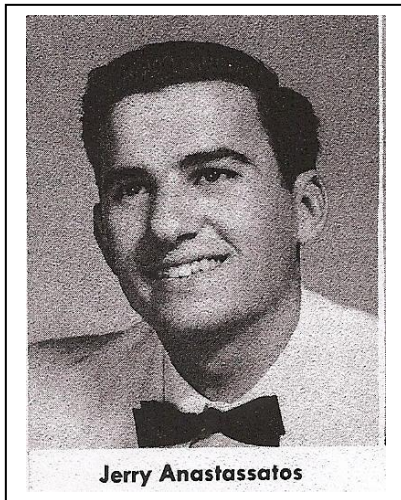
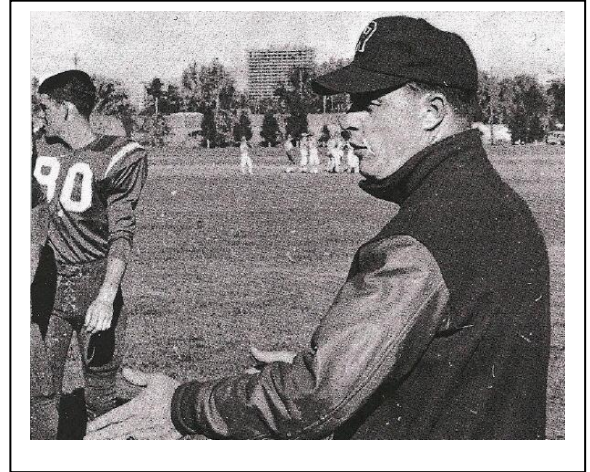
THEN: The original planter, built in the late 1960’s, was financed by large amount of green stamps that were found when Mr. Robert Benson, the Vice Principal at the time, was cleaning out the walk-in office safe.

Mr. Benson was Reno High’s head football coach from 1959 until 1967. He assumed the office of Vice Principal the following fall semester.

THEN: (CONTINUED)

The 1966-67 ReWaNe staff dedicated that year's book to Robert Benson. This is the article.

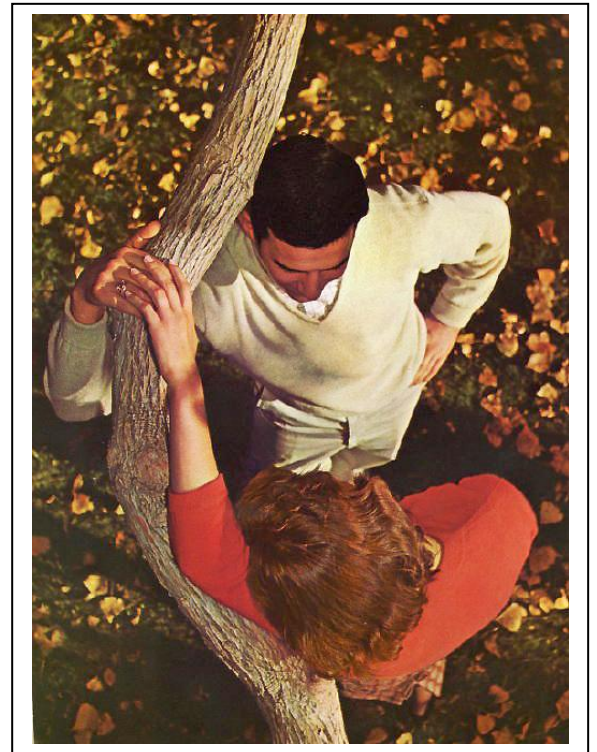
The 1966-67 yearbook staff is dedicating this year's book to Mr. Robert Benson. Mr. Benson was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he received his high school diploma. His college years began at Colorado State University where he played football and worked toward his physical education degree. Mr. Benson received his teaching certificate in physical education at Wyoming State University and achieved his Masters Degree in school administration at the University of Nevada. Mr. Benson's teaching career began in Ranchero, Wyoming, fourteen years ago. After teaching there for two years, he came to Reno High School. He has been head football coach at Reno High School since 1959. He has coached the Reno High School varsity football team to a State Championship in 1963, and to Northern Conference titles in 1961, 1962, and 1965. This year, 1966, is Mr. Benson's final year as head football coach. In the 1967-68 school year Mr. Benson will concentrate his efforts on student citizenship as a vice principal of Reno High School. We, the yearbook staff, are proud to dedicate our annual to one who has done so much for Reno High.



Jerry Anastassatos



Sharon Cassidy



Fifty years ago, in 1959, the ReWaNe published its first color photo. I know you cannot see the color in this newsletter, but the picture at the left is the one in question. We believe the girl is Sharon Cassidy and the boy is Jerry Anastassatos

The photograph was taken across the street from Reno High on Foster Drive. We are assuming that the photographer chose Jerry Anastassatos because he was student body president and Sharon Cassidy because of her colorful (red) sweater.

In any case, if you think we have incorrect information about the identity of this couple, please let us know.

A crowd gathers: the RHSAA supports all our class reunions (By Karl Breckenridge)

Three hundred twelve souls gathered late one night by the bygone pool of the Riverside Hotel. It was June 9, 1959; earlier in the evening John Tellaisha's Reno High band had beaten Elgar's "Pomp & Circumstance" to death, the graduates received their diplomas from School Board Trustee Ed Reed, somebody said something about the wonder of life in general and the group stopped by the Riverside for a Luau on the way to complete the commencement ceremony at Windy Hill.

One among them, possibly Clark Santini for Clark was prone to such forethought, said, "This was so much fun we ought to get together in 50 years and do it again." And the crowd heeded his words, and shall indeed gather two blocks and 50 years from the Riverside at the Siena, then Newt Crumley's Holiday Hotel, on this Sept. 12th. And we'll do it all over again. Sadly, we'll miss Clark. And Patsy and Lana. And Tommy J. and Mort and Terri Lee and Becky, Marilyn (Blakely) and Marilyn (Lewis). In all, we'll miss 16 per cent of that Riverside Hotel Luau crew.

Your Reno High Alumni Association has played a vital part of the plans and preps for our upcoming Class of '59 Reunion, as it has for all reunions for a score of years – from the five-year Class of '97 reunion to all the "Golden Huskies" – 50-year reunions – for those of us a bit longer in the tooth. And, every three years for four cycles now, it has hosted the All-Class Reno High Reunion, a gathering for everyone who ever went to Reno High in either location on West Street or Booth.

The Alumni Association has dynamite records of all of us (and our teachers and the school staff and faculty). And photographs and "stuff" of all ilk – wanna see an old Block R jacket or a mid-1950s cheerleader costume, or the group photo of the 1953 ROTC Cadet Corps or your classes' forensic/debate team, or buy an old Re-Wa-Ne? The Alumni Museum's probably got them. This column's intent is to offer gratitude from our class to the RHSAA, and excite some of you with Golden Huskie reunions on the horizon to take advantage of this great – and somewhat unique – facility (few high schools in America have such a cool alumni organization!).

And, the research we've done – and one who hasn't yet put on a full-blown, 50-year reunion can't even imagine it – gets handed over to the alumni center for its database for classes that follow. Ferreting out a classmate who's changed surnames three times following her maiden name or a guy who's lived in seven homes due to military transfers, employment relocations and the caprice of life – we'll find them in the next few months. And it ain't always easy: We can get a classmate's street address and send them a flyer, only to have it come back stamped "*no mailbox*" by our friendly neighborhood post office. We later learn that if one has a P.O. Box he can't get mail at his house and good ol' Mr. Zip will haul a letter 2,500 miles back to Reno from New York before he'll put it in a street mailbox across town in Schenectady. Rules are rules. And, there's other little

idiosyncrasies to getting mail and information moved around; we've a few with "blocked" e-mail and as September approaches they're falling lower and lower on our priority.

We're in an interesting cusp of time: So many classmates have e-mail and internet capability, yet, so many don't. My younger son, RHS Class of '88, (the older one's '84) orchestrated their 20-year reunion last summer virtually paperless, if that's an adverb – MySpace or Facelift or some Web group I've never heard of. No U.S. Mail. And they had a ball. We 67-year-olds, on the other hand, have had so far seven reports of classmates fatally injured when the instructions on our reunion website read simply: *"find the reunion document to your desktop, put the little arrow on it and click "print" with your mousie then fill in what comes out of the printer with your Crayola and mail it back to us with some money..."* Five classmates so far were found with USB cables throttling their windpipes or lightning bolt strikes on their kitchen tables, and two vanished completely. All will be honored at our reunion gathering. Such are the fortunes of trying to move the Class of '59 into the 21st Century. (In some truth, our web-to-mail acceptance has been about 25% web/75% snail-mail.)

The Reno High Alumni Center has provided us safe haven for our five, so far, monthly organizational meetings, with a wonderful atmosphere to work in, table space, creature comforts like a refrigerator, a copy machine and basic office "stuff" – stamp pads, staplers, hole punches – the stuff one takes for granted until one (or twenty) starts to put eight documents into each of 260 envelopes then stamp and label them for a class-mass mailing. Each year's "Golden Huskies" class – those celebrating their 50th reunion – is allotted a glass cabinet, with copious wall space surrounding it for pictures – to enshrine and display the treasures and ephemera unique to their class, lockable in case someone wants to loan something really priceless like a pressed corsage from a favored date for a Junior Assembly dance. (Cue in the Statler Brothers: He's now married for 47 years to the Huskiettes' former laundress, but those memories are why we put ourselves through the whole reunion ritual.) Our Class of '59 website, sophomoric as it may be, has some interior pictures of the alumni museum if you haven't visited it yet at www.karlbreckenridge.com/reunion.htm . As has now become traditional with most class reunions, we'll gather there the Sunday morning following our dinner/dance for coffee and doughnuts. C'mon down, September 13th and join us – we're all in this together.

On the score of reunion preparation, we've learned and prospered from the organizational experience of classes preceding us, in our case from the Class of '56-on for we knew them as the vaunted "older classmates" when we started RHS in 1956. The Class of '58 had an incredible "yearbook" put together by Jerry Gribble and Georgia (Teskey) Tachaires, one I hope we can emulate – it's a dandy. Kay (Ducker) Galbraith won't admit it but she's our chairman (we didn't have *chairpersons* in 1959!) We'll have a few favorite teachers – Miss Menu, (OK, now Mrs. Kimball and still foxy 50 years later), Mr. Marean, Mr. Benson and a maybe a few more are interested in cutting the rug at the Siena in September. Hey, this might work yet!!

We'll have a ball. And, we thank the RHSAA for playing a huge role in making it happen...

Article from Red & Blue – October 26, 1978

Alumni from Class of '04 and '07 recall days as students

What is the most impressive change In Reno High School over the last decade?

"The hugeness" says Edna Folsom Evans, Class of 1904. Her sister, Ethel Folsom Curnow, . Class of 1907, agrees. "The size of the school, naturally would be the biggest difference. The cafeteria itself is as big as our school was."

Mrs. Evans also points out that plumbing and heating are not the same as when she attended the high school. "There used to be a well out in the middle of the South gate and everybody in town got well water from that well."

As for subjects taught at that time — "Reading, writing and 'rithmetic." But Mrs. Evans says she really didn't favor one subject above the other. "I was into everything."

Basketball took up a lot of her time, especially since she was captain of the team, as well as playing center. The 5' 4" star recalls, "I could Jump, I'm telling you." One game, an opposition member went up with the ball to make a basket and Mrs. Evans leaped up and took the ball from her. I remember, she yelled, "you little squirt!"

It's a memory Oat makes her laugh, and she also chuckles about the yearbook prophecy for her. "They said I was going to be a fortune teller,"

But the prediction didn't come true. "I married the best looking guy in the class and did housekeeping on a ranch out in Northern Plumas."

As for Mrs. Curnow's prediction, "I haven't thought about it in years." But she is happy with the outcome of her career. "I taught at the old Brown school here. That was my first teaching job, and then I went into teaching at Reno. In 1913 I got married and moved away, and I've been teaching here, there and everywhere."

It's obvious from her face that she loved the work. "I like to see a youngster not knowing anything, and then see him when he wakes up and learns," she said. "I love It."

AND SHE has equally fond feelings about being a student at Reno High School, though she can't chose which class she liked best.

"I don't know. English, languages were all my favorites. I was best in mathematics. I won a prize for elocution on Ben Hur's chariot race." said Mrs. Curnow who added that she has an equally difficult time choosing a favorite piece of literature.

Like her sister, she was active in basketball and she has good memories of being raised in Reno with her two sisters and three brothers.

"There were six of us. but we always had a good dress that we went to school and church in.

Mrs. Curnow said she wore "just anything," but said It was quite different from the dress style of today.

"There's a lot in the dress," she said, noting that current styles help to make the students seem older than they did in her day.

"They look older and they act older. Maybe it's because so much is expected of them.

She obviously enjoyed talking to the many students that came up to her during Reno High School's Centennial open house, and both sisters said of the celebration, "It's magnificent!"

Ethel Curnow





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Return Service Requested

Huskies trails is published by the Board of Trustees of the
Reno High School Alumni Association

And distributed to members and selected friends of the Association.

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|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| PRESIDENT..... | Daryl Pelizzari | 1952 |
| VP/OPERATIONS..... | J D Schnabel | Retired Staff |
| VP/MEMBERSHIP..... | Nettie Wong | 1956 |
| SECRETARY..... | Maurine Tuckett | 1952 |
| TREASURER..... | Virginia Zorio | 1955 |
| TRUSTEES: | | |
| | Betty Jo Baker..... | 1952 |
| | Neal Cobb..... | 1958 |
| | Jerry Fenwick..... | 1953 |
| | Gloria Garaventa... | 1951 |
| | Betty Munley..... | 1951 |
| | Larry Pizorno..... | 1956 |

Counsel - Matt Gray