



Huskies

Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

THE PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

It certainly has been a busy quarter for us. To start with, some vandals spray-painted graffiti on the side of our museum building. Reno High School and the school district came to the rescue with a high pressure hose that took off the unsightly markings.

With the heavy rains during the last couple of months we developed a leaking roof that mainly targeted our office. On May 18th a crew from Falcon Roofing repaired the roof and hopefully took care of the problem.

There are new attractive window decals on the entrance to the museum. The pictures and design was supplied by board member Jerry Fenwick.

I would like to welcome the newest member of the Board of Trustees - Lorrie Madlock from the Class of 1967. She will be a great addition to the board.

I was honored to present scholarships to four outstanding seniors at the RHS Scholarship Convocation that was held at the Peppermill on May 19th. These scholarships would not have been possible without your continued support of the association. Former association president, Betty Jo Baker, Class of 1951, presented the Westover Family Trust Scholarship at the event.

We are trying a new program to attract new members by offering to the Class of 2010a free association membership for one year; then in a year, the new members will be asked to renew their membership. Of the 370 graduates, 130 have signed up so far.

Please read the article by Karl Breckenridge, Class of '59. There is more information about RHS than you will believe.....we will be having a quiz over it at the end of the period (kidding).

Remember sitting on those hard wooden bleachers in the gym? Well, they will soon be no more as there are plans to replace them with new hard bleachers starting in June.

We will be forming a committee to plan the All-Class Reunion to be held next summer. If you have any ideas or would like to serve on the committee, let us know. I hope everyone has a great summer!

J.D. Schnabel

President, RHSAA

STORIES FROM THE PAST

Virginia City by Helene Stark ("Peaches") Aldaz, Reno High School faculty 1949-1972

From *Inside Nevada Schools: A Challenge for the Future* by Nevada State Retired Teachers Association.

Jobs were scarce in 1935 - especially in the field of teaching. The country was just recovering from the Great Depression . But I was fortunate in getting a job in the old Fourth Ward School in Virginia City. It was the last year it was to be used and had been declared a "fire hazard" and a new school was in the process of being built. The principal was Mr. John Gilmartin and the science and math teacher was Jake Lawlor. I was the other member of the faculty! We taught in the second and third stories, while the elementary school was in the basement and first floor. There were less than 80 students in the high school but they were offered quite a curriculum. Does it sound like a busy day when I tell that I taught six different classes and had one study hall, taught Girls' Physical Education after school and directed three class plays plus many other activities? Jake and John were just as busy as I was. My contract was for thirteen hundred dollars (\$1,300).

Virginia City was not an artist colony, nor a tourist center, nor had anyone ever heard of Lucius Beebe. The people were all native "hot-water-plugs" and they supported the school in every way. They all came to every meeting, play, game or any activity we had. And how nice they were to the teachers!

The three of us lived at a boarding house run by Mrs. Wyman Sexsmith. Alan Bible was the young District Attorney then, and he boarded with Mrs. Sexsmith also. Evelyn Evans also lived there and she later became Mrs. Jake Lawlor. She was the best cook and so good to all of us. We played bridge with her and the 1935 Basketball Team.



Jake was one of the best bridge players I have ever known. I certainly was not in their league. It was a lovely old house and all the furniture had come around the "Horn." It was really a job to dust the furniture!

Because the school had been declared a fire hazard, we had frequent fire drills. I was not prepared for any of this and was surely surprised when we had the first one. I went to the door expecting the students to get into a line and march past me, when they all disappeared out the window.

They had been drilled before and in that room we were to use an outside ladder that just came down when weight was put on it. It was over two stories in length and I never did get the courage to climb down it. The kids just loved it though.

Every one of those students has gone on to successful lives and businesses. We must have done something right but many times I have thought how poorly trained they were compared to what is offered to them now, and had great guilt feelings about that first year. I learned so much more than they did.

This & That

Link Piazza, Class of 1937, was given the “Distinguished Nevadan” award by the Nevada Board of Regents because of his significant contributions to the state.

Ricci Kilgore, Class of 1999, participated in U.S. Paralympics Ski Team this year. She was paralyzed from the waist down due to a car accident during her freshman year of college. Ricci was a top athlete while at RHS.

Peggy Solomon Grove, Class of 1960, donated full tuition scholarships (Solomon Rosenberg Scholarship) to 10 graduating seniors who will be attending UNR or TMCC.

The Class of 1959 presented two scholarships to deserving seniors at the RHS scholarship ceremony.

Justice James Hardesty, Class of 1966, is the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. His daughter, Robin Johnson, is a teacher at RHS.

John Etchemendy, Class of 1970, is the Provost at Stanford University. His father, Captain Leon Etchemendy was the Senior JROTC Instructor at RHS from 1950 to 1952.

SGT Geoffrey Adams, JROTC Instructor in 1963, took his pregnant wife to St. Mary’s emergency room but the doors were locked. He ended up delivering his son himself in the back seat of the car.

Six RHS graduates died during the Vietnam war and one died in the Iraq.

CLASS REUNIONS

The following classes will be having their reunions sometime this summer.

Check with your class representatives for further information.

For your class representatives go to www.renohighalum.com/ReunionContacts.html

- **1950** - 60 years August 14th
- **1960** - 50 years September 10, 11, and 12.
 - **1970** - 40 years July 30 and 31.
 - **1980** - 30 years August 13 and 14.
 - **1985** - 25 years August 6 and 7.
 - **2000** - 10 years August 6 and 7.

If you know of other class reunions, please notify us.

Once we had two newspapers

The original topic of this Huskies' Trails piece was to be of the consolidation of a bunch of local area school districts – Reno, Sparks, Galena, Franktown, Verdi, Brown, Glendale, Huffaker, Natchez (the Pyramid Lake tribal school), Roop (the Black Springs north valleys area) and probably a few others I can't think of, into the Washoe County School District, which I think was in 1955 but went to the Nevada Historical Society to find out for sure. And write this piece. But alas, like most other matters relating to the history and heritage of the local schools, much of it has been lost by the District save for what District historian Rose Bullis had recorded so wonderfully for us. I didn't find anything Rosie wrote about this consolidation, at least anything in the NHS' files, so I'm still not clear on the year it happened. In my research I did find a rich trove of other stuff that might be of some interest to RHS alums about our school, and about some others. This all follows, in no particular chronological sequence, and if you enjoy reading it there's a lot more where it came from for future Huskie's Trails issues. Now, from the yellowing, crumbling pages of the Nevada State Journal and the Reno Evening Gazette(REG), stored deep in the dank dungeon below the Historical Society, in staccato form we learn that...

...On 1/20/12: Mary S. Doten and Mount Rose Elementary Schools were almost finished (REG)...3/15/57: Otis Vaughn opens (NSJ)... 5/15/62: the cornerstone was laid for Wooster (REG)...12/6/67: demolition begins on old Reno High/Central Jr. High (NSJ) following an 11/23 fire; contents of its cornerstone laid in new Hug High's cornerstone (REG)...a 1944 VFW plaque to alumni veterans was lost during the demolition
...1/14/1916: Reno Fire Department's Southside station was converted to a school (REG); the annex to the northeast [which remains] was built in 1935, and I suppose that I ought to include that it was a Frederic Delongchamps design (George Ferris did the Spanish Quartette – Mount Rose, McKinley Park, Orvis Ring and Mary S. Doten – and the old Reno High on West Street. Ferris' son Monk did the new Reno High with George Erskine)...3/14/60: Southside School was razed...10/13/17: Reno High elects its first cheerleaders (REG)...9/22/60: First game under this lights at Foster Field! (NSJ)

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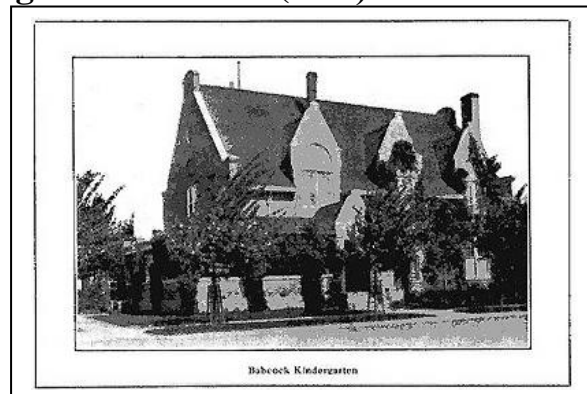
5/25/48: new RHS groundbreaking (REG), opens to students 9/8/51 (NSJ)...10/19/49: Roop School District chartered (NSJ)...4/22/51: Nevada Legislature enacts a rule prohibiting the passing of stopped school buses ((NSJ)...1/8/54: Reno School District adopts "English for Foreign Born Students," a precursor to ESL (NSJ)...3/14/54: a REG story bylined Harry Spencer tells of the upcoming tenth anniversary of the Huskies Haven at 303 South Center Street – the Reno Recreation Center building across Ryland from old Winkel Motors. The piece speaks of dancing, pool billiards, a library, card games and varied entertainment for high school students. The second story of the building was declared unsafe, so dancing was moved to the California Building in

Idlewild Park...5/7/55: Reno High School's flagpole was dedicated to longtime coach Herb Foster, in a ceremony hosted by the Reno 20-30 Club (NSJ)...on that topic, I've been unable to verify, that the flagpole in front of Wooster was relocated from old Reno High/Central Jr. High on West Street...9/3/54: RHS mascot Togar the Huskie was kidnapped, er, dognapped; but happily, returned, escaped, released, ransomed, broke loose – whatever – the following day (NSJ)...

5/16/56: the site for a future unnamed high school – (ultimately named Wooster) – was purchased in Academy Manor (NSJ) and you wondered why the surrounding streets are Vassar, Villanova, Harvard, Miami, Auburn, Columbia and so on? 8/18/62: an index line at the Nevada Historical Society clip file reads “*nuns arr Little Flower School.*” I took this for “arrested;” was gratified to learn it was shorthand for “arrived.” Praise be. (NSJ)...9/8/65: the new Vocational Arts building opens west of the main RHS building (NSJ)...1/12/68: a drug education program is inaugurated at Reno High (NSJ) pity; we got by just fine on Colt .45 in 1959...11/5/31: the RHS Pep Club was organized...

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11/16/12: the cornerstone for (old) Reno High School/Central Jr. High on West Street was laid with great civic ado (NSJ)...5/29/01: with less ado, the cornerstone of the Babcock Memorial Kindergarten was laid (NSJ) the Babcock's 11/21/61 sale to a group



of doctors and ultimate demolition was mentioned earlier; we should note that the Babcock, following the end of the building's private kindergarten use, and until the new Washoe County School District's new building – (the “Greenhouse”) – was built on East Ninth Street, was used by the Reno School District as its central office...(Mrs. Lehnert and Miss Bulmer would probably not approve of the construction of that last run-on sentence, but moving along)...on 4/14/13 the Reno High PTA was formed (REG) ... 9/26/18: Nevada high schools to adopt military training this school year (REG) and it's unclear without more research than I'm paid to undertake if this was ROTC as we know it, or some earlier form of military training.

And that's the way it was. I now bid you a fond adieu, or adieu, possibly to return in the next Huskies Trails quarterly...

karlbreckenridge@live.com

2010 RHSAA Scholarship Winners



**Jacob
Lucas**

**Elizabeth
Messick**

**J.D.
Schnabel**

**Melissa
Seiffert**

**Demerey
Kirsch**

JACOB LUCAS – Plans to attend UNR and major in Computer and Informational Engineering

ELIZABETH MESSICK – Plans to attend Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA and study medicine to become an Orthopedic Surgeon.

MELISSA SIEFFERT – 4.0 GPA and will attend Harvard and major in Political Science and Economics with a minor in piano.

DEMEREY KIRSCH – Plans to attend UNR and participate in cross country and track and major in Pre-dental.

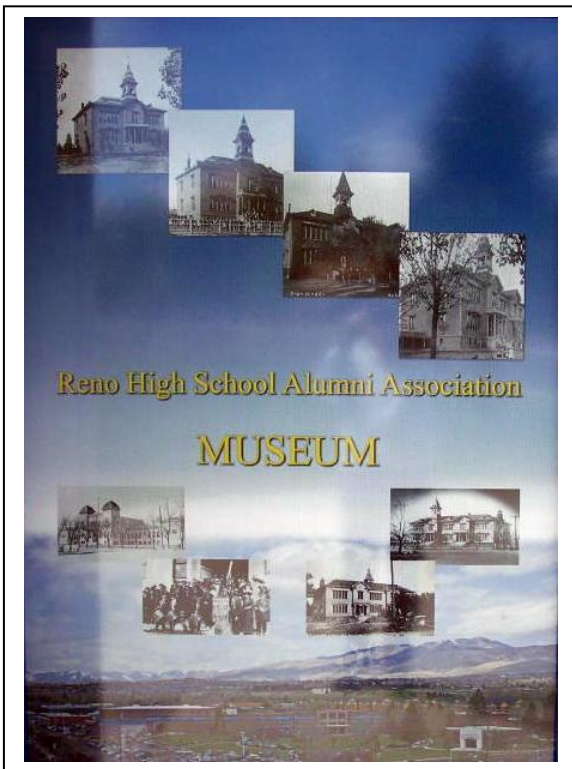


Pauline E. Westover Family Trust Scholarship

Betty Jo Baker stands with Renee Linuma.

Miss Linuma plans to attend UC Davis and study Chemical Engineering.

New Window Decals at the alumni building





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Return Service Requested

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	Jerry Fenwick.....	1953
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	Scott Jordan.....	1988
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