



Huskies

Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

THE PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

Here's hoping everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. The most important news from the alumni association is the 6th Triennial All-Alumni Picnic scheduled for Sunday, August 21, 2011 to be held on the Reno High School grounds. Mark your calendars now! Fliers for registration will be sent out around January. If your class is planning a reunion next year, it might be a good idea to plan it in conjunction with the all-class picnic. The picnic committee is formed and have met several times to start the planning process.

Pass along to your classmates that they may be an alumni of Reno High, but they are not members of the Alumni Association until they join and pay annual dues. Application forms are found on the website (www.renohighalum.com)

We are looking for class representatives for the following school years: 1938, 41, 71, 81, 91, 93, 94, and 2002 to the present. Check our website for current representatives.

Bring your friends to the RHS Alumni Museum Fridays (2 p.m. to 5 p.m.) or Saturdays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). You will notice a few improvements.

If you have any good stories of your times at Reno High or recent alumni accomplishments, send them to us.

J.D. Schnabel
President

STORIES FROM THE PAST

"Nobody remembers the speaker at their high school graduation"

By Someone on TV



Jacqueline Reid, Joyce Pefley, Dodie Post, Dorothy Savage, and Nita Reifschneider

Well now, **THIS** graduate will never forget the speaker the night I was graduated from Reno High school. It was June 1, 1940. I'm sure of that because I still have the gold wrist watch that my parents gave me—with a lovely engraving of the date on it from R. Herz & Brother Jewelers. That was 70 years ago! So here is the name of the speaker: Leon W. Hartman. He was a long time physics professor and he had recently been named president of the University of Nevada. He came to tell us we should go on to college because a college degree would enable us to make more money. He had the statistics to prove his point and he delivered.

There were just about 140 graduates, including about 35 January grads, almost evenly divided by gender. We assembled in the Reno Civic Auditorium at 8 p.m., in the Nevada State Building which was across the street from the Riverside Hotel on South Virginia Street. This was, of course, a big time event for Reno with an audience of parents, family, and friends representing a regional population. Reno High School was the only high school in town. Also, it had a fair number of student commuters daily who arrived on a big bulky school bus called the stage which was actually the local public transit for rural folks between Sierra Valley north of Reno and as far south as Carson City.

Outside the auditorium an assembly room provided room for some teachers and a few parents to supervise the graduates garbed in their traditional caps and gowns as the Processional began. The traditional academic attire in 1940 was really traditional – black wool robes, long and generous in cut to near-floor length. For the male in a suit, it was like an overcoat. Inside was storage room for a ball to toss or signs or balloons. The coat effect on a female could crush a corsage or a new dress purchased from a downtown store or made on the home sewing machine. Few teen hairdos could balance a mortar board with dignity.

After The Processional by the High School Orchestra, led by Rolla V. Johnson, brought the graduates to their seats, there was an Invocation and more music by a clarinet quartet, featuring Fred Wood, Helen Park, Ada May Bachman and Dorothy Reynolds.

Then came The Address by President Leon W. Hartman. The man and speech to remember? I did not time him on my new wristwatch, but for no purpose. It was a warm evening in the auditorium. The 150 graduates in their flat caps and woolen gowns grew warmer. President Hartman, a distinguished man who had studied in Germany to be a physicist in the best scientific way, had lots of statistics and percentages to document his belief that more education at a university would increase the number of dollars that each of us would earn in the years ahead. His message was convincing, but not at the moment. We were sweaty, overheated, and thinking about a quick getaway with diploma in hand. Our minds were about the parties we were going to after this ceremony when we could really celebrate.

Thankfully, President Hartman did complete his presentation in due time. Some graduates later rallied to stay awake and celebrate in Reno's 24-hour town – but only after the high school orchestra played an overture by C. Back, Superintendent E. Otis Vaughn awarded honors, president of the Board of Trustees C. M. Oliver presented diplomas, and the High School Girls' Chorus sang "Who is Sylvia?"

Thus the 70th Anniversary Observance of your graduation from Reno High School may also properly be celebrated on June 10, 2010 - if you can stay awake.

You lucky Children of the Depression who have survived to read this are the fortunate members of our class who beat the odds on war, homicide, illness, suicide, accidents, and bad genes, to mention a few of the causes of death of our classmates. Was Dr. Hartman correct to urge you to continue your education? Has anyone studied our statistics after seven decades of living? Do you think Dr. Hartman would blink if we talked about forty-thousand-dollar automobiles, million-dollar houses or thousand-dollar Social Security checks?

The above was not written without thoughtful help from Barbara McKinley Rabenstine, who has kept a June 1, 1940 program and shared it with me. One year when I was studying Journalism at the U of N, I saw Dr. Hartman about once a week because I had the president's beat to cover for the *Sagebrush*. That's why I remembered his name. His graduation talk was right on subject, but could have been better timed for a cooler day.

Best to you all!

Nita Reifschneider Spangler
Redwood City, California

Buck's letters home

July 2: Dear Mom, Reno is a big town after growing up in Searchlight and I'm looking forward to starting at the University. They're building a new Fine Arts building and a dining hall; next year a library. They have a football team with not one but *two* coaches – pretty big program! Reno is looking forward to the Winter Olympics next year at some place called Squaw Valley. I miss Pinky and know he's off to law school; he promised that 50 years from now he'd show us why elections shouldn't last more than four hours. I'm off to find a job!

July 4: The rodeo's in Reno, Fred MacMurray won the "Silver Spurs" and rode in a parade. The new pool opened at Hidden Valley, a country club 'way out of town. I met a girl there named Del Loomis who just won the State Jaycee tennis tournament.

July 5: Mom and Dad: I got a job at a new hotel called the Holiday as a busboy; it's an expensive restaurant with prime rib dinners at \$2.99. I was lucky to get it. There are now 29,000 people employed in Nevada, I read. I got an apartment at 128 Maple Street with two meals a day for 15 bucks a week.

July 8: Hi Mom and Dad, been playing a little bass fiddle with some guys I met from Stanford who come up to the hotel every weekend named Nick, Dave and Bob and play some kind of new "folk" music. Mr. Crumley, the owner of the hotel, lets them stay here for free and play on weekends. There's a new dancer at the Mint Club called Rose Marie the Bronze Temptress, and when she started dancin' the dancin' made me feel that everything she had was absolutely real (my new buddy Oscar Hammerstein, another busboy at the Holiday, said that.)

July 11: Hi – there's a printer's strike in Reno and the editors are running the presses so it's kind of hard to read. Biggest news is the old Reno dump closed, and 40 shirts were stolen from a car on North Sierra Street, just fresh from the laundry, speculation was that the victim was a legislator named Townsend. The Blondie comic strip today is a duplicate of one that would run in August of 2010, but we don't know that yet. They thought they could get away with re-running it but we fooled 'em.

July 15: Hi everybody; busy day today at work, Holiday lunch was roast turkey for \$1.35. I waited on two bankers just promoted to full vice-president of First National Bank – Bert Fitz and Harold Gorman. The bank's president Eddie Questa was with them; he seems to be a good friend of Mr. Crumley's. The county auditorium is being pushed on Mill Street between *[former]* V&T right-of-way and St. Clair Street *[probably Sinclair; typos happened in '59 also.]* My weekend friends with the guitars and banjo are packing in some crowds – they picked a name, "Jamaica Quartette," or something, although I think they're really a trio. Jim Eardley, a RHS teacher, is offering a new driver training class in a car with dual steering wheels from Richardson- Lovelock the Ford dealer. He came in for lunch; he's a good guy.

July 17: Sparks PD is holding an urgent message for Claude E. Dennison EL5-8324. The newspaper strike is over; there's an ad for a City of Reno Recreation Director, PE major, must be male, under 45 years old, \$475/month. Fifty years from now I'd lump that with premier Realtor Ray P. Smith's ad today for a home "Ideal for Coloreds." Whitey Herzog is on the Kansas City A's disabled list, and Dick Williams is standing in for him.

July 19: Dear Mom – the town is busy. My new friend Bob Challender won the championship flight at Washoe Golf Course. A law school bar review class is being given upstairs in the hotel by the firm of Springer, McKissick & Hug (didn't Herb Caen call that the "most romantic law firm on the West Coast?") Will wonders never cease: American Airlines is experimenting with pre-loaded luggage containers for DC-8s. James Hoffa is P.O.'ed at somebody again (and we'll learn later where that got him).

July 20: Work going well, still playing fiddle with the guys, working on a song called “Tom Dooley” that’s kind of neat, got to play in the Shore Room the other night. Idel Anderson, a RHS teacher, is spending the summer in Europe (where she flew with the WAC in WWII). Miss Hawai’i vitals are 35-25-35, whatever that means; we didn’t see that stat much in Searchlight. The Gaylords duo is playing the Holiday; singer Burt Bonaldi (Gaylord) predicted he’d sing *God Bless America* at the Good Old Days club meetings at the Elks Home 50 years from now [*and he does!*] (I’m told the old Elks Home blew up a couple of years ago.)

July 23: Hi everybody! Some big company just bought land at Lake Tahoe (a big lake close to Reno) from the California border halfway down the lake’s Nevada side – they say for the timber but they also said they may put a few houses up there someday. The Eager Beaver ladies group is meeting at 155 University Terrace tonight, and the first item on the agenda is changing the name of their club. Here’s an ad: “Five-room house, West Second street, suitable for a small retail store, information at Chism Trailer Park office.” I’ve got an idea, mom, something like, “Better Browsing.” How’s that for a name...?

July 25: Rita Hayworth sued the Aly Khan for divorce, who claims diplomatic immunity; Judge Maestretti told him to get his ass into court (I later learned that donkeys are the transportation of choice for Khans traveling abroad.) Harrah’s, the only casino in northern Nevada without a restaurant, leases the Grand Hotel at Second and Center for a restaurant; John Petrinovich will run it. The Fielding Hotel in San Francisco seems to be the popular spot for locals. Galena School, ‘way out south of town, I think, will close, its students going to Brown and Huffaker Schools. This saddens a lot of my diners.

July 29: Well, I’ve been here almost a month and getting into a groove. I’ve been promoted to waiter in the Holiday’s Shore Room, the neatest room in Reno by night right on the Truckee river. Sierra Pacific Power, in a full page ad, is sweating Reno’s water consumption [*which ceased to be a concern in later years...*] The Olympics are definitely underway next February. And I start school in less than a month, looking forward to that, might even play for that new football coach Dick Trachok who came up to the University from Reno High’s team last month. Life is good.

July 31: Hold everything! The guitar guys from Stanford Dave Guard, Nick Reynolds and Bob Shane asked me drive with them tonight over the new Donner Summit to cover for some gal who got sick named Phyllis Diller, at the Purple Onion (can that be right?) or Purple-something in San Francisco. So long, Holiday Hotel; adios, University of Nevada; sayonara Maple Street – I’m playin’ bass fiddle in North Beach! Love, your son Buck Squawk to carmineghia@live.com

Endnote: The late David “Buck” Wheat was the longtime but unknown bassist for the Kingston Trio.

And we don’t know if Claude E. Dennison ever got his message...



This & That

- **David Funk**, Class of 1961, was selected as Senior Vice President and Regional Manager of Umpqua Bank of Northern Nevada,
- **John Savage**, Class of 1983, is the head UCLA baseball coach who took his team to the College World Series against South Carolina. Unfortunately UCLA lost. John's brother, **Pete Savage**, Class of 1979, is the coach for the Reno High baseball team and the Reno Knights American Legion team. Their father, **L.J. Savage**, Class of 1948, and owner of Savage & Son, Inc, a plumbing and heating company, passed away on July 25th. We send our condolences to the family.
- **Tom Jameson**, Class of 2009, is a baseball pitcher for UNR and has been selected to the prestigious Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America team. He was one of two WAC players to be honored.
- **The Reno High School Triple A Club** needs help with the funding of two new computer wireless Lab carts to bring more technology to the classrooms. If you can help, call 77-323-4500 or e-mail rachael.ferrari@gmail.com.
- **A special thanks to the Class of 1959** for donating funds to pay for the beautiful railings used to hold the various class pictures in the RHS Alumni museum.
- **Crystal Johnson**, Class of 2000, RHS English teacher, Leadership advisor, and cheerleading coach married **Mike Edwards**, RHS Dean of Students this summer.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2010

Of the 376 graduates, 12 students earned a perfect 4.0 G.P.A for their 8 semester of high school. Three students were recognized as commended scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Eight students earned National Merit Scholarship Program semi-finalists status and 7 students earned national merit scholarship finalist status. Four students were named U.S. Presidential Scholar Program candidates. Seventy graduates are advanced diploma candidates and 140 graduates are honor diploma candidates. One hundred and twenty three graduates are members of the National Honor Society. Total scholarship dollars awarded to the class of 2010 is \$5,482, 176. The following varsity athletic teams earned academic achievement recognition for having the highest Grade Point Average in Nevada's NIAA: Girls Softball, Boys Baseball, and Boy's Track.

Principal Robert Sullivan added this to his commencement address: "The Class of 2010 excelled beyond their academic endeavors. The Class of 2010 earned national, state, and regional recognition in areas of: athletics, cheer, student leadership, science bowl, speech and debate, yearbook, newspaper, and ROTC."

RHS HALL OF FAME

The following RHS coaches/athletes have been selected to be inducted into the 2010 Hall of Fame: Phinnie Marsh – coach Gene Scattini – coach Ray Hayes - player/coach Pat Alberti - football/wrestling/track '76 Dirk Manoukian - football/wrestling/track '82 Melissa Batchelder - volleyball/basketball '90 Alex Kanwetz, Sr - football/basketball/track '57 Frank Azcarate - football/basketball '62 Amber Rais - swimming '99 Link Piazzo - player/supporter '37
The Inductee dinner is scheduled for October 23, 2010.

RHS GRADUATES WHO ARE TEACHING AT RHS

Crystal (Arnsperger) (Johnson) Edwards '00 English/Leadership

Cody Forcier, '95 Band

Shane Foster '82 Math

Rebekah (Johnson) Foster '96 English

Scott Jordan '86 Science

Brien Karlin '01 History

Craig Lemons '79 Counselor

Trish (Law) Lucas '87 Science

Sue (Schulte) Marin '82 P.E.

Theresa (Barnum) Mckillip '97 English

Jim Pace '81 History

Valerie (Lujan) Porter '89 Science

Jamie Priddy '96 English ~ David Ross '87 History

Aaron Shoolroy '95 Science

Jeff Tomac '85 Counselor

J.D. Schnabel's comments on *Buck's Letters Home* story

The article entitled, "Buck's Letter Home" brought back a lot of memories. As a teenager, the Kingston Trio was my favorite group and because of them, I learned to play the guitar which I continue to play today. David "Buck" Wheat (1922-1985) was with the Kingston Trio from 1958-61. He left the trio with Dave Guard and played with the Whiskey Hill Singers.



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RENO, NV
PERMIT #217

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.....	J D Schnabel	Retired Staff
VP/OPERATIONS.....	Daryl Pelizzari	1952
VP/MEMBERSHIP.....	Nettie Wong	1956
SECRETARY.....	Maurine Tuckett	1952
TREASURER.....	Gloria Garaventa	1951
TRUSTEES:	Neal Cobb.....	1958
	Tom Farrer.....	1956
	Jerry Fenwick.....	1953
	Lorrie Hadlock.....	1967
	Scott Jordan.....	1988
	Betty Munley.....	1951
	Larry Pizorno.....	1956