



Huskie Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

President's Corner

The All-Class Reunion is Postponed!

Happy June, fellow Huskies! Well, last quarter we were excited to be preparing for our Triennial All Class Picnic and Reunion. This quarter, we are sad to say, brings the decision to postpone this event to next summer. It was a difficult decision, as we have Trustees who felt strongly on both sides of the issue. We waited as long as we could, but decided the safety of our Board, Members, and Alumni was not worth the risk.

We believe we have contacted everyone who has already sent in a registration. If you sent in payment for the picnic but have not heard from us, please call us!

The postponement of the picnic also robs us of the opportunity to recruit new members and/or donations. If you know of any classmates or family members who might be interested in joining the Alumni Association, please encourage them to do so! Our monthly bills are \$650-\$700 and membership and donations are our only income. Additionally, we try to award four \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors.

The museum has been closed due to the pandemic. At this point we still have several Board members in the at-risk category and cannot support opening every Friday and Saturday. If you would like to schedule a visit, however, please call the office to leave a message, and someone will be able to work out a time with you. You may also email me at kwilcox5299@gmail.com.

The Board has not met since February. We are planning a June meeting, however, on the 24th at 5:00pm. We are always looking for Board Members, so if you are interested, we'd love to have you!

I would like to introduce **Mikala Yopez**, class of 2010, to the alumni board. She brings experience in the area of computers and website management. Welcome, Mikala.

I hope you all are safe and healthy and able to enjoy some social activities now that life is starting to get back to normal.

Kathy Wilcox
RHSAA President

SPANISH FLU

As we go through this coronavirus pandemic with school and businesses closed, we might think back over 100 years ago when the U.S. suffered through another pandemic called the Spanish influenza (H1N1) or “Blue Death.” The pandemic started in January 1918 and ended in December 1920. The influenza did not originate in Spain. Spain was a neutral country during the war with a free media that covered the outbreak from the start, first reporting on it in Madrid in May 1918. Allied countries and the Central Powers had wartime censorship and covered up news of the pandemic to keep moral high. Since Spain was the only one reporting it, many believed it originated there.

Reportedly, the flu came from a pig farm in Kansas where a young man from the farm joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Two weeks later, the flu quickly spread throughout the post and 1,100 soldiers were hospitalized and 38 died. The flu quickly spread to other military installations in the U.S. and overseas. In 1918 as the first World War was still raging, the Spanish influenza had been making its way through Europe and affecting the ranks of the American military who were stationed there. The movements of troops in WW1 spread the disease especially in crowded settings such as in trenches or crowded troop ships. By the end of 1918, 57,000 U.S. troops died from the flu compared to the 53,000 who died in combat. The troops soon would bring the flu back to the United States military bases where it further spread to overcrowded Army camps and Naval bases.

Worldwide, the flu infected 500 million people which was 1/3 of the world’s population at the time. This resulted in 40-50 million deaths.

The flu came in three separate waves. At first, officials downplayed the severity of the outbreak, but by autumn, healthy adults and children from cities to remote rural areas were getting sick, with many dying within days. Unlike the current coronavirus which has mainly sickened seniors with underlining health conditions, the Spanish influenza infected otherwise healthy 15-40 year-olds.

There were 675,000 deaths in the U.S. Locally, the first case in Nevada was October 1918 and within weeks Reno’s Board of Health imposed a precautionary city-wide quarantine. All theaters, hotels, churches, fraternal lodges, dance halls and Reno High School were ordered closed and all public gatherings were banned. Mines were shut down and trains stopped at state lines for screening of passengers. Wearing of gauze face masks was mandatory and those not wearing one were fined \$25. It was also illegal to spit on sidewalks. At first, grade schools stayed open with students placed in alternating seats and prohibited from mingling on the playgrounds. But as the number of cases spiked, they also closed. At one point, about 80 percent of the children in Carson City Orphans Home were sick. Schools in Sparks were shut down for a month. Chairs were removed from saloons intended to discourage loitering. Most schools were reopened in February 1919. In Nevada there were 4,000 cases with 102 deaths mainly occurring in southern Nevada. Nevada had a population of 80,000 residents at that time. In Washoe County there were 560 reported cases and 7 deaths. The exact number was difficult to determine because many of the sick went on to develop pneumonia. Most of those having pneumonia died and not counted as flu deaths. Like today, there was a critical shortage of doctors, nurses, and medical supplies.

Some of the unusual and creative local remedies of the day were eating red pepper sandwiches, wearing red color clothes, eating more onions, putting sliced onions around the house, wearing a bag of camphor around the neck, gargling with salt water, and sprinkling sulfur in one’s shoes.

Here is a 1918 children’s playground rhyme: ***“I had a little bird, its name was Enza. I opened a window, and in-flu-enza.”***

SPANISH FLU AND RENO HIGH SCHOOL

The best way to determine the impact of the flu on the students is to examine the 1919 yearbook called, "La Victoire," which covers the period from September 1918 to June 1919. A student wrote, "None of us can fully realize the immensity of the problem of readjustment, but there is a way that each one of us may help to solve that problem. And that way lies before us right in the school today; Namely, to re-establish and revive the school spirit and enthusiasm, which has been suppressed and almost crushed by the conditions caused by the Great War, and by the terrible epidemic of influenza." Remember WWI came to an end on November 11, 1918. A calendar in the yearbook gave us a timeline of activities for the year. The following are items referencing the Spanish flu:

October 7, 1918 – The flu takes possession (school closed)

November 18 – Our unexpected vacation has 'flu' away and so has the war. We celebrate with an all morning assembly

November 19 – Mammias won't let their darlings come to school yet – school closed again.

November 25 – Where, oh, where, has the football season gone? (season closed)

November 29 – The furnace tried to quit working but we had to go to school in the afternoon anyhow.

December 3 – Everybody stays home. More flu.

December 4 – School closed again. Christmas vacation after all.

December 30 – Here we are again and there's such good skating on the river.

January 2, 1919 – We welcome the New Year by not knowing anything (lack of school)

January 7 – The furnace and Mr. Vaughn (principal) both have the flu.

January 8 – Furnace recovered – Mr. Vaughn still 'fluey.'

January 9 – A very pleasing announcement made – school on Saturdays.

January 11 - (Saturday) It's a cruel old world.

March 5 – No more school on Saturdays.

In the athletics section of the yearbook, a student wrote, "The football season opened with a very bright outlook this year. Plenty of good material showed up and there promised to be some very exciting games. Unfortunately, the "flu" took possession of the entire state just when the material was being whipped into fighting shape, and football was called off." Boys basketball team tried to get going with Mr. Vaughn as coach, but the games were cancelled. The girls' basketball team played in three scheduled games against Fallon in March and a game with alumnae. There was hope that next year they could have a regular season just like they did "before the war." In May, the baseball team was formed at the last moment because other sports were cancelled. The team played 4 games – two each against the Stewart Indians and Susanville. Reno High School had a difficult year similar to what students are going through today. Now students make up lessons on-line or completing lesson packets while students in 1918 -1919 had to suffer through Saturday School. Sports in both generations were cancelled due to the pandemics.

In 1918, a student drew this sketch of the Spanish Flu in the yearbook. It says, "This influenza germ got a hold of Reno High School." "Highly Magnified."



AROUND THE RHS CAMPUS

1. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) suspended all high school athletics for the rest of the year starting on March 16th.
2. The Big News!! Teacher Christy Briggs was selected as the 2020 National Speech and Debate Educator of the Year. She has been an English, Journal and debate teacher for the last 13 years. Congratulations, Christy.
3. Speech and Debate won the Northern Nevada Championship for the 25th year in a row. This group broke 1,000 points which no team has done in 13 years.
4. Newspaper – Maggie Arden was named Journalist of the Year for the state of Nevada.
5. Boys and Girls Basketball teams won Academic State out of all 4A schools.
6. Boys Basketball coach, Matt Ochs, was named the High Desert League Coach of the Year.
7. Girls Basketball first team in the High Desert League were Maddy Shults, Hana Hackbusch, Gracen McGwire.
8. Boys Basketball High Desert League first team was Skylar Hales.
9. Wrestler Ryan Lopez won regional championship.
10. Skier Tyler Francis was the individual state champ in slalom, giant slalom and combined.
11. Pole vaulter, Samantha Sheppard-Moore, was accepted to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She is one of the top pole vaulters in the nation.

2020 RHSAA Scholarship Winners



Helena Rowe will attend Seton Hall University in New Jersey and major in business and law.



Madison Paszek plans to major in environmental science and minor in French at the University of Oregon.



Lucas Seitz plans to attend UNR and study electrical engineering.



Kathleen Bradley plans to attend the University of Utah. She has not decided on a field of study.



Breanna Paszek is this year's winner of the Westover Family Scholarship. She plans to attend UC Santa Barbara and major in environmental science. RHSAA coordinates the awarding of this 4-year scholarship which is the largest scholarship given at Reno High.

SKATING ON THE RIVER

From the 1919 yearbook, there was an article about skating on the Truckee River for the first time:

“This January, for the first time in the history of Reno, the Truckee River froze over and, from the dam to the pipe bridge, the river was covered with skaters.

The Mayor saw to it that the fire department flooded it every night and the chain-gang smoothed it off so that it was as slick as possible. Lights were put up along the bank and bonfires built to make it attractive in the evenings. The High School turned out full force with their skates, even the faculty enjoying the fun. We found we had some real ‘champs’ among both boys and girls. The boys kept the hockey field busy most the time and some exciting games were held between the different organizations. ‘Crack-the-whip’ was also a popular game and, when a long line of boys and girls came sweeping toward you, it was time to move.

On the side of the river opposite the lights there was a long smooth place, which proved particularly attractive to couples skating together in the evenings. Everyone was interested in the sport, crowds of people and cars lining the river at all times.

Reno Hi certainly enjoyed it and we were all sorry when the thaw came, and we were forced to go back to unexciting sports.”

THE ELECTRIC CLUB

This unusual club was organized in 1920 with the purpose of stimulating interest in the knowledge of electricity among RHS students. Physics teacher, Mr. Kent, was instrumental at starting the club and drew up a constitution, and officers were elected. The plan of the club was to give a large electrical show at the end of the year and to make the event an annual occurrence. The proceeds were to be used to buy new electrical apparatus. Due to the limited time and because of the many activities at the end of the school year, the club was forced to cancel the event. The Electric Club was never heard of again.

MORE ON BUD BEASLEY

We are always on the lookout for interesting stories about one of our Alumni Association founding fathers and RHS teacher, counselor, and coach, Bud Beasley. The following is from Tim Mueller who wrote about Reno’s baseball history:

“Bud Beasley was an amazing person. I knew that he had taught at Reno High School for many years, but I learned that he also played baseball and coached the Reno High School baseball team. He told me a story about when the Stead Air Base needed to get rid of some extra uniforms and equipment. Beasley did not have a large enough budget to purchase what he needed, and the airbase staff did not feel that they could just give him the discards (much of which was still brand new and boxed), so they dumped them off on the side of the road while Beasley followed behind them in a truck and picked them up.”

Teacher’s Passing: Master Sargent (Retired) Loren Becker died on May 13, 2020. He was the Senior Army Instructor at Reno High’s JROTC program from 1968 to 1975.

2020 CLASS REUNIONS

Even though the RHSAA All-Class Reunion has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus, the status of all planned reunions are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
1950	Joanne Kimball	786-0823	Aug 15	jmk1265@sbcglobal.net
1951	Betty Jo Baker	851-3203	Aug 15	jjlreno@gmail.com
1952	Roger Trounday	853-7929	Aug 15	--
1953	Joanne Petre	323-7770	Sep 19	joannepetre@gmail.com
1955	Linda Church	972-0671	Aug 15	--
1956	Jerry Smith	826-8994	Oct	geraldsmith38@gmail.com
1965	Barbara Gardner	853-5341	Cancelled	barbaragardner@sbcglobal.net
1970	Sharon Thompson	--	Cancelled	--
1980	Shelly Marsh	533-6672	Aug 14-15	--
1990	George Anastassatos	527-2517	Cancelled	--
2010	Caitlin Stewart	--	Cancelled	caitlinmcaninch@gmail.com

If there are any changes to this list, please notify Betty Jo Baker 851-3203.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

We are in need of class representatives for the following classes: **1947, 1948, 1960, 1991, 2004, and 2008.** Please notify Betty Jo Baker if you or know of someone who might be interested in becoming a class rep.

Funnies

1. A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" His reply, "Call for backup."
2. You know you're old when you go to bed at the time you used to go out.
3. I've expanded my skills....I can now forget what I'm doing while I'm actually doing it.
4. Good Moms let you lick the beaters. Great Moms turn them off first.
5. Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.
6. I finally realized it! People are prisoners of their phones. That's why they are called cell phones.
7. A million kids want to clean up the Earth. A million parents would love it if it started with their bedroom.
8. I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.
9. I asked my grandpa, "After 65 years, you still call grandma darling, beautiful, and honey. What's the secret? He said, "I forgot her name 5 years ago and I'm scared to ask her."



P.O. Box 3307 - Reno, NV 89513
775.325.4114 (2536)

The purpose of this non-profit association shall be to identify and recognize the accomplishments of the alumni, students, and staff of Reno High School. Equal attention shall be paid to academic and non-academic phases of high school activity, in order that a well-balanced picture may be presented to the public. Your information will be entered into our database for future use and never given to anyone without your permission.

Current Last Name: _____ Middle Init.: ___ First Name: _____

Class of: _____ Years attended From: _____ To: _____

Last Name While in school{Maiden}: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

If an administrator or staff, years worked. From: ___ To: ___ Occupation: _____

Retired? Yes ___ No ___

Membership Fee

{circle one}

1Yr 2Yr 3Yr 5Yr

Individual \$20 \$35 \$50 \$75

Couple \$30 \$58 \$80 \$125

Individual Life Member.....\$300.00

Couple Life member.....\$500.00

Spouse's maiden name: _____ If Reno High Graduate, Year ____.

Would you like to be involved in RHSAA? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, would you like to be officer, board member, trustee or volunteer? YES ___ NO ___

What would you be willing to help with? {Museum, membership, yearbooks, etc.}

I hereby authorize duly elected RHSAA trustees to spend non-designated funds as they deem appropriate.

Signature: _____

Washoe County School District
RHS Alumni Association
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PRESIDENT.....	Kathy Wilcox	1982
VICE PRESIDENT....	J. D. Schnabel Retired Staff	
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR..	Amanda Myers	1982
SECRETARY.....	Bill Newman	1976
TREASURER.....	Barbara Kinnison	1961
TRUSTEES: Betty Jo Baker.....	1951	
	Dale Lazzarone.....	1966
	Howard Moy	1969
	Daryl Pelizzari . .	1952
	Valerie Porter. . .	1989
	Mikala Yopez . . .	2010