



# Huskie Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

## President's Corner

Hello Huskies! I can't believe another three months have passed already! We all hope that you and your families are safe and healthy!

We have made the difficult decision to postpone the all-class picnic one more year to 2022. We felt we should make the decision sooner than later for the folks who live out of the area and would need to make travel plans. The cost to the Association to put this on is quite high. With the unknowns of what the school district's restrictions might be, how many of our members are choosing not to get vaccinated, and how long these vaccinations are effective, we decided on the safer option.

On a happier note, we plan to reopen the museum effective May 1. The hours will be the same as before (Fridays 2pm to 5pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm, except holidays). Masks will be required.

Our membership has dropped significantly over the last few years. Some of our members sadly have passed, others just quit renewing. We are down to less than 500 alumni members. Please-if you have friends or relatives who are alumni or current or retired staff, we'd love to have them join us!! And just a reminder-if you are already a member, we will send you a bill when your current membership has lapsed.

We are happy to welcome three new Trustees to our group! Judy Bacon '61, Toni (Rae) Walsh '67, and Joe Walsh '68. Unfortunately, our website coordinator, Mikala Yepez,, has resigned. We are very sorry to see her go. This means that the website is not as current as we would like. We are looking into possibly getting some help from the high school computer department.

Several reunion committees are discussing individual reunions. If you need information or have information, please call Betty Jo at 775-851-3203. When we find a new computer expert, we will get all the information we have onto the website.

Finally, if you have any Reno High memories you would like to share with all of us, JD Schnabel is always looking for newsletter items. We would love to hear your stories!

Thank you for your support of our Association. We wouldn't be here without you!

Kathy Wilcox  
President, RHSAA





### **Farewell to Dawn Wells**

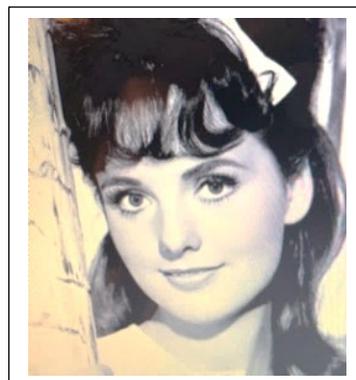
Reno native and notable actress Dawn Wells died due to COVID-19 complications on December 30, 2020. She was 82.

Dawn graduated with honors from Reno High in 1956 and participated in many school activities including Girl's State, Filibusters, Huskiettes, Re-Wa-Ne, Varsity Debate and Honor Society. After high school, Dawn attended the all-woman's Stephens College in Missouri and later transferred to the University of Washington majoring in theater. She was crowned Miss Nevada in 1959 and represented Nevada in the Miss America pageant in 1960. Dawn's most noteworthy achievement was starring as Mary Ann Summers on the popular CBS series, 'Gilligan's Island' from 1964 to 1967. She played the wholesome Mary Ann among a misfit band of shipwrecked castaways on the sitcom.

Over the years, she appeared in such shows as 77 Sunset Strip, Maverick, Bonanza, the Joey Bishop Show and Hawaiian Eye. Dawn also appeared and starred in TV shows, including Wild Wild West, The F.B.I., Vegas, Growing Pains, The Bold and the Beautiful, Baywatch and Two and a Half Men. In 2013 Dawn was honored for her work with Tennessee-based refuge, The Elephant Sanctuary. She was also a supporter of the Terry Lee Wells Discovery Museum in Reno. Terry and Dawn were cousins.

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gilligan's Island, Dawn wrote, "A Guide to Life: What would Mary Ann Do?" and Mary Ann's Gilligan's Island Cookbook. She was also a member of the RHS Alumni Association and over the years, attended several class reunions.

As funny woman Jane Lynch tweeted, "Oh, this is so sad. Bon voyage, Mary Ann. Dawn Wells will always be our shining star and she will be greatly missed.



## KULULA AIRLINES HUMOR

Kulula is a low-cost South-African airline that doesn't take itself too seriously. Here are some funny announcements:

1. On a Kulula flight (there is no assigned seating. You just sit where you want), passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing their seats, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people, we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it."
2. On another flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of the flight attendants."
3. And from the pilot during his welcome address: "Kulula is pleased to announce that we have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight."
4. From a Kulula employee: "Welcome aboard Kulula 271 to Port Elizabeth. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."
5. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."
6. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."
7. "Thank you for flying Kulula. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
8. As the plane landed and was quickly coming to a stop at the Durban Airport, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"
9. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."
10. Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."
11. A pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." Everyone had got off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"



*In looking through old yearbooks, it was discovered there are many clubs that were popular back then but are not around today. An example is the Girls' Club.*

The club started in 1915 with the purpose to build up girls into an all-around life through physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual development. The club's effort was to get all high school girls acquainted and to support one and other. Every girl was eligible to become a member which was the high school branch of the Y.W.C.A. One of the early projects was rehabilitating and furnishing the girls' rest room which was in bad shape (1917). Dues were 10 cents a month and the club had one social and one business meeting a month.

In 1918, another club called the Patriotic League was organized, and there was a move to combine this club with the Girl's Club. This was disapproved by club members.

The girls participated in hiking and swimming activities as well as sponsoring social events. The first event of the year was called "High Jinks" that honored and initiated the freshmen girls. A play was given as a fundraiser and the money (\$100) was given to the yearbook staff and used to send a delegation to a girls' camp called Asilomar. Asilomar is a Hotel and conference center at Pacific Grove, CA. Later they sponsored an annual Halloween Barn Dance as well as a Silver Offering Tea which again were fundraisers. Christmas day baskets of cheer were made and distributed to the poor in Reno.

The 1921 yearbook stated the Girls Club could have been called a "Friendship Club," because its purpose is to entertain a kind spirit toward all girls and treat them all as equals. A cute poem was included:

*Tall girls, short girls, big girls, thin,  
G.C. takes them all in.  
You don't need money, you don't need pearls,  
Anybody, everybody, just so you're girls.*

A Mother and Daughter Banquet was held in 1921, and in 1922 a costume party was held called, "No Man's Land." For the next several years, the club continued to have social functions, fundraisers, and sending girls to girls' camp at Asilomar. Then in 1927, there was no mention of the Girls' Club but a new group started called, "G.A.A." or Girls Athletic Association which was formed by the girl's Physical Training instructor, Helen Moser. The purpose of the group was to promote intra-mural sports, physical and mental efficiency, good sportsmanship, athletic activities and the love of the outdoors. It appears that the Girls' Club was replaced by the G.A.A.

## ODDS AND ENDS

- Christian Chamberlain, Class of 2017, was an outstanding left-handed pitcher while at RHS. He also successfully pitched for Oregon State and then signed on with the Kansas City Royals. Additionally, Garrett Hampson (2013) plays for the Colorado Rockies, and Justin Watland, (2014) plays for Winnipeg Goldeyes. There are 21 RHS graduates who are currently playing college-level baseball.
- Senior Penelope Smerdon will run for the Nevada cross country and track and field teams. She has won the past three Northern 4A regional cross-country titles and won state last year.
- RHS Sports – Due to the pandemic, high school sports have taken a hit this year. Sports are starting to open as follows: Winter sports of basketball and wrestling were supposed to start in early January, but they did not have a season. Skiing got a short season. Fall sports are underway now with a 6-week season including football, volleyball, soccer, tennis, cross country and girl's golf. Baseball, softball, track and field and swimming competing are scheduled for April and May. Attendance at the games is now limited to 100 spectators but it is expected to expand to 250 later this month and only home teams are allowed to have fans. Clark County canceled all fall and winter sports and does not have children in classrooms.
- Most schools from the Northern Class 4A are now in the Class 5A after a realignment before the pandemic shut sports down. Wooster, Hug, Sparks and North Valleys will play in Class 3A. There are no 4A schools in Northern Nevada. Only football athletes, coaches, and game officials are tested for Covid-19 once a week when there is a scheduled game. There will be no state championships in any sports.
- Concerning academics, Reno High School student have been on a hybrid schedule, with some students stuck with online learning and others on an every-other day, in-person learning option.
- Junior volleyball player, Carrie Crom, was selected as the RGJ Athlete of the Week
- Special thanks to Melvin Allard, class of 1958, for his generous donation which makes him a Gold Level Sponsor.

## REUNIONS

With the all-class reunion being cancelled this year, many classes are still planning their class reunions. Please notify Betty Jo Baker (775-851-3203) of your plans, so we can advertise and assist with the coordination of your reunion. Remember, you can use the RHS Alumni Center and Museum for part of your activities. If you are unsure if your class is having a reunion this year, contact your class representative for further details. You can find your class representative by calling Betty Jo, emailing the association ([rhsaa@renohighalum.com](mailto:rhsaa@renohighalum.com)), or leaving a phone message (775-825-2586) at the office. We will publish the list of reunions in the next newsletter. We are missing representatives for the following classes: 1943-49, 1954, 1991, 1997, and 2008.

## **THE RED AND BLUE**

Every high school has its colors,  
Of red, white, blue, or gold;  
And every loyal student  
Should these colors sacred hold.  
So we'll put forth every effort,  
And our duty try to do,  
And we'll fight for good old Reno,  
And the dear old Red and Blue.

So we'll strive in all our studies  
To prove to all the world,  
That the Red and Blue of Reno  
Is the best flag yet unfurled.  
On the gridiron, track, or diamond,  
she leads the brave and true,  
So let us shout for gladness  
And the dear old Red and Blue.

When we leave the dear old high school,  
And face the world alone,  
We will think of days we spent here,  
As the best we've ever known.  
And we'll tell in years to follow,  
As our life work we pursue,  
How the flag that won the victory,  
Was the dear old Red and Blue.

*Taken from the 1924 RHS yearbook and based on the  
"Music of the Orange and Black" (Princeton)*

## WHERE THOSE SAYINGS CAME FROM

1. **CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR.** During carnivals in the 1800's, cigars were rewarded as prizes for winning carnival games.
2. **DRESSED TO THE NINES.** Dressed to the nines meant that you were rich enough to literally purchase the entire nine yards it took to make a tailor-fit outfit (including a vest, jacket, etc)
3. **MAD AS A HATTER.** In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, hat-makers (hatters) often went insane as a result of mercury poisoning, a side-effect of manufacturing felt hats.
4. **GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE.** Before cars, owning a horse was a sign of prominence, since nobility and high-ranking military officials were primarily the ones who owned them. Getting off, meant to humble yourself.
5. **JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON.** In the mid-1800s, circuses would parade around town before setting up, with bandwagons leading the parade. They drew large crowds, and politicians started renting space on the bandwagons to get face time with an audience.
6. **BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL.** In the time before electricity, candlelight or lamp oil was used for lighting. When you stayed up late to work, you literally burned lamp oil at midnight.
7. **IN THE NICK OF TIME.** Though the 18<sup>th</sup> century, businessmen often kept track of debts owed (and interest that built on loans) by carving nick on a "tally stick." When someone arrived to pay off their debt before the next nick was carved, they'd save that day's worth or interest – hence, "nick of time."
8. **BEST FOOT FORWARD.** When bowing to nobility, a gentleman would literally put his best foot forward, extending his leg to take the bow.
9. **PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS.** This originated from back when organists would literally pull the stops from every pipe on an organ in order to play at maximum volume.
10. **AT THE DROP OF A HAT.** Instead of a gunshot to indicate that a race had started, in the 1800s it was customary to drop a hat to signal the start.

### A LOOK BACK

If you are children from the 40's and 50's, here are some old expressions that are hard to define and have disappeared over time. These will confuse the younger generation:

*Heavens to Mergatroyd, Hunky Dory, Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, You have a lot of moxie, Straighten up and fly right, Heavens to Betsy, Gee whillikers, Jumping Jehosofat, Holy Moley, In like Flynn, Living the life of Riley, Life used to be swell, Kilroy was here, I'll be a monkey's uncle, Knee high to a grasshopper, Fiddlesticks. I'll see you in the funny papers, Don't take any wooden nickels, Wake up and smell the roses, More than Carter has liver pills, See you later, alligator, Okidoki, Snagglepuss, and Monkey Business.*

As children of the fabulous 40's and 50's... we were given one of our most precious gifts: living in the peaceful and comfortable times, created for us by the "Greatest Generation" – our parents.

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PRESIDENT.....	Kathy Wilcox	1982
VICE PRESIDENT....	J.D.Schnabel	Retired Staff
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR..	Valerie Porter	1989
SECRETARY.....	Bill Newman	1976
TREASURER.....	Barbara Kinnison	1961
TRUSTEES: Betty Jo Baker.....	1951	
	Dale Lazzarone.....	1966
	Howard Moy .....	1969
	Daryl Pelizzari ....	1952