



# HUSKIES TRAILS

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RENO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

## Alumni Center Open House July 29th

Reno High School Alumni may get their first look at the interior of the RHSAA's Link Piazza Alumni Center on Saturday, July 29 that's when the Reno High School Alumni Association will play host to an open house at the 395-A Booth St. facility, according to Association President and 1955 graduate Joe Granata.

The Center bears the name of the 1937 graduate whose \$400,000 donation to the Association made possible the construction of the 3,400 square foot brick structure on the front lawn of the high school campus. The building was erected by Q&D Construction Co. after the RHSAA signed an agreement to a 25-year lease of the property from the Washoe County School District, with a 25-year renewal option.

Open house from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. will follow a 10 o'clock dedication of the bell believed to be the one that hung in the belfry of the 1879 Central School on West Street. Restoration of the bell to its foundry condition was made possible by a generous donation from 1938 RHS graduate Earl J. Avansino.

The 1879 structure housed high school classes on its upper level until it was razed in 1911 and replaced just before Christmas in 1912 with a more modern school

on the same site, between West Fourth and West Fifth Streets. The site now is occupied by a motel, and the Sundowner Hotel/Casino on West Fourth Street at Arlington Avenue dominates the western end of the block.

The current Reno High School on the south side of the Truckee River opened for studies in the fall of 1951, and the former Reno High School served for several years afterward as Central Junior High School.

Memorabilia and artifacts are being sought by the Alumni

Association for the Center, which will house an historical museum known as Heritage Hall and a Hall of Achievement dedicated to the post-school career accomplishments of the school's former students. A utilitarian office, residential-size kitchen for preparation of coffee and minor snacks, and a storage/copy room also are part of the structure.

One of the Association's major projects is creation of a computerized database that it is hoped eventually will contain the name of every student who attended

*(See OPEN HOUSE, Page 2)*



# Reno High Reunions use new Alumni Building

An even dozen members of Reno High School's graduating Class of 1935 gathered in the RHS's Link Piazza Alumni Center early in May to begin planning for the group's sixty-fifth anniversary reunion. It will be the fifth such gathering for the group, which did not stage its first class reunion until it had been out of school for fifty years.

Retired business executive Lou Capurro, who heads the 2000 committee, said, "We enjoyed one another's company when we did that in 1985, so we had another reunion in 1990 for our 55th anniversary, and got together again for the 57th and 60th anniversaries."

This time around, with an anticipated attendance of some 100 classmates and companions, the group decided upon a late July, midweek buffet luncheon.

The '35 group is one of nine such committees planning reunions this year for Reno High School

alumni, and several of them will include a tour of the Alumni Center as part of their gathering.

The Class of 1947, co-chaired by Shirley Van Meter Biglieri at 747-6633 and Gerri McDougal Atwood as 323-1192 will meet Aug. 19 at the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino.

For the Class of 1950, it will be a gathering scheduled July 29-30 at the Eldorado Hotel/Casino. Details at 322-6856.

Joe Granata at 425-6777 heads planning for the Class of '55 Aug. 18-20 get-together.

The Class of 1960, working out plans with Dave Minedew, will celebrate its 40th anniversary of graduation on July 28-29. Details at 747-1101 or e-mail to [sundew-pro@aol.com](mailto:sundew-pro@aol.com)

Thirty-five years out, it will be a July 14-15 reunion for the Class of 1965, with details from Pat Herring at 826-3282 or Ann and Steve Scolari at e-mail

[sscolari@aol.com](mailto:sscolari@aol.com).

The Class of 1970 is working out details of its 30th anniversary reunion with coordination by Kris Hargrove at 826-6636.

The 1980 group will gather on July 29 to celebrate its 20th anniversary, according to Paige Menicucci Hastings, who is reachable at 424-1221.

Dan Olsen is leading the hunt for 1985 classmates and that group's 15th anniversary reunion, to be held Aug. 25. Contact is with Dan at (310) 216-0313 or e-mail <http://renohigh.50megs.com>.

And the Class of 1990 will gather 10 years out of school on July 21-23. Contact Keri Manson, P.O. Box 40192.

Anyone having information regarding upcoming reunions is encouraged to contact the RHSAA at 825-2586 to be included in future issues of HUSKIES TRAILS

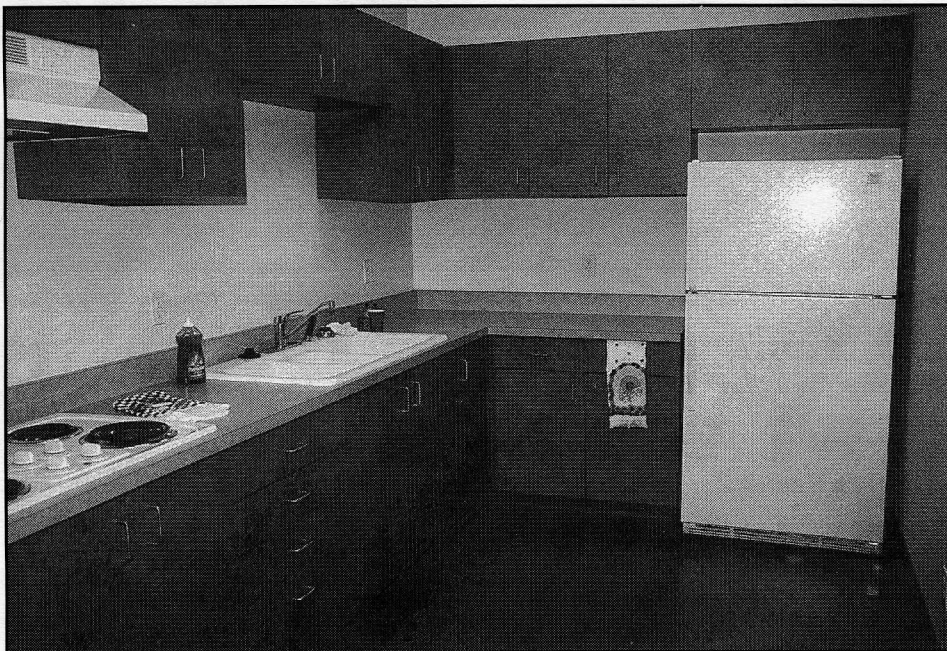
## OPEN HOUSE

(From Page 1)

classes in any of the three buildings known as Reno High School.

The RHSAA yearbook collection currently dates back to a 1907 publication titled *Au Revoir*. The current name *Re-Wa-Ne* (for Reno, Washoe and Nevada) did not appear until 1917, and after the 1918 issue of the same name was replaced by a 1919 *La Victoire* that celebrated the end of World War I. The 1920 publication was known as *Mircocosm*, and *Re-Wa-Ne* returned in 1921 as the publication's enduring title.

The two major rooms are available for Alumni and Reno High School-associated activities such as class reunion meetings and may be scheduled by telephone at 825-258 (825-ALUM).

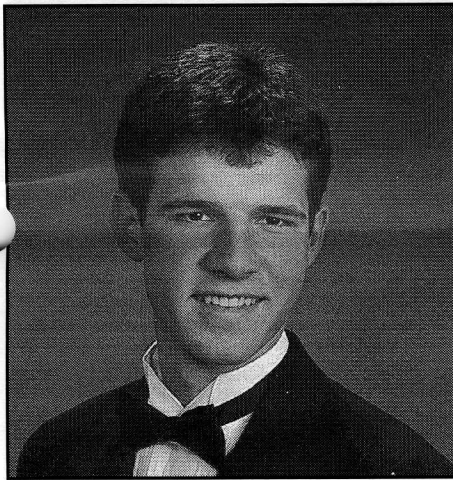


*The Alumni Association building has a convenient, modern kitchen available for use for any group that holds meetings in the building.*

# Alumni Association presents second scholarship to student

Samuel T. "Tim" Summers has been designated the second winner of the Reno High School Alumni Association Scholarship, a \$500 cash grant with which he will begin studies this fall at the University of Nevada, Reno. The 17-year-old Summers, an Eagle Scout and holder of one of the first Nevada Millennium Scholarships, as well, has chosen biochemistry as his field.

The son of Tim and Robin Summers accepted the RHSAA Scholarship from Alumni Association Secretary Joanne Petre



during the high school's May 24 Scholarship and Awards Convocation in the high school gymnasium.

"I am completely overwhelmed by this wonderful honor," Summers wrote by way of thanks to the Association. "When they called me out of class to the Career Center, I had no idea I was about to receive such a wonderful (not to mention beneficial) award. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

"I know this scholarship will help get my college career off to a smooth start, and again I thank you for your decision to honor me with this marvelous award. It must have been a tough decision to make, and I am in awe of this honor."

The first RHSAA Scholarship was awarded in 1999 to biochemistry major Sharif Rumjahn, following establishment of the Scholarship Fund with a \$1,000 cash grant from the RHS Class of 1943. The same class added another \$500 this year to the fund aimed at helping graduating Reno High School seniors continue studies somewhere within the University and Community College System of Nevada.

Tax-qualifying contributions to the Association in any amount may be designated for the Scholarship Fund.

## MEMORABILIA DONATIONS ARE COMING IN

We have two band uniforms from the 1950's. Rex Daniels donated his entire collection of RE-WA-NE's and we already had some that other alumni had donated. Plus, we picked up another 200 from Reno High School that they hadn't sold in years past. Dan Halcomb, a teacher, called and said that he has some more to give us. He is in charge of the RE-WA-NE yearbook program.

We have a letter sweater from 1931 and a picture of the football team from that year, donated by the widow of Peter Barengo. We will soon have a letter jacket from the 60's. We have pictures that have been donated, and Red and Blues. The Red & Blues, about 40 of them, go all the way back to the 1930's.

There is a class ring from the 1960's, reunion mugs, the bell, and six desks that were used in the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City in the 1800's and loaned to the Washoe County School District in 1912 for the new high school, since the student population was dropping in the early 1900's. In 1967, the desks went back to the

(See DONATED ITEMS, Page 10)

## RHSAA Web Page now accessible

The Reno High School Alumni Association has a web page. The RHSAA has been waiting for Reno High School to get its web page up and running, in order to hyperlink to that page. In the meantime, Joe Granata has built a web page for the alumni associa-

tion and uploaded it to the internet on his own provider. The web page gives information about the alumni association and how it began. It also has pictures of the building, the bell from the 1879 building, and a picture of the building.

There is a calendar of events

and information on upcoming reunions. There are hyperlinks to the reunion representatives and home pages. You can click on the e-mail address of the class representative and send them a message.

The address for the Reno High

(See WEB PAGE, Page 10)

# Reno High School Alumni Association and its beginnings . . .

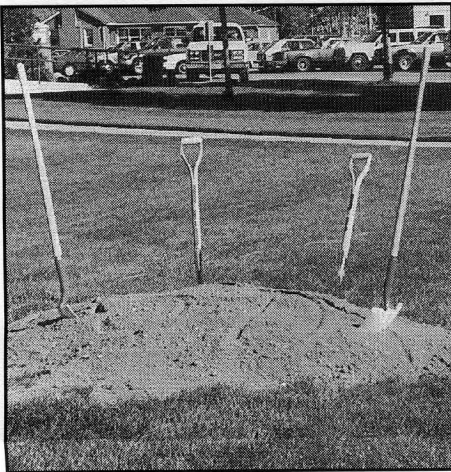
Your RHS Alumni Association was a dream back in November 1994 when retired coach Bud Beasley appeared before the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, and proposed a suitable building on the high

school campus, to house and display the history of the school and it's students. His presentation was supported by Reno Architect Tom Casazza, and by Dale Sanderson, the school districts' plant facilities administrator. At Beasley's request,

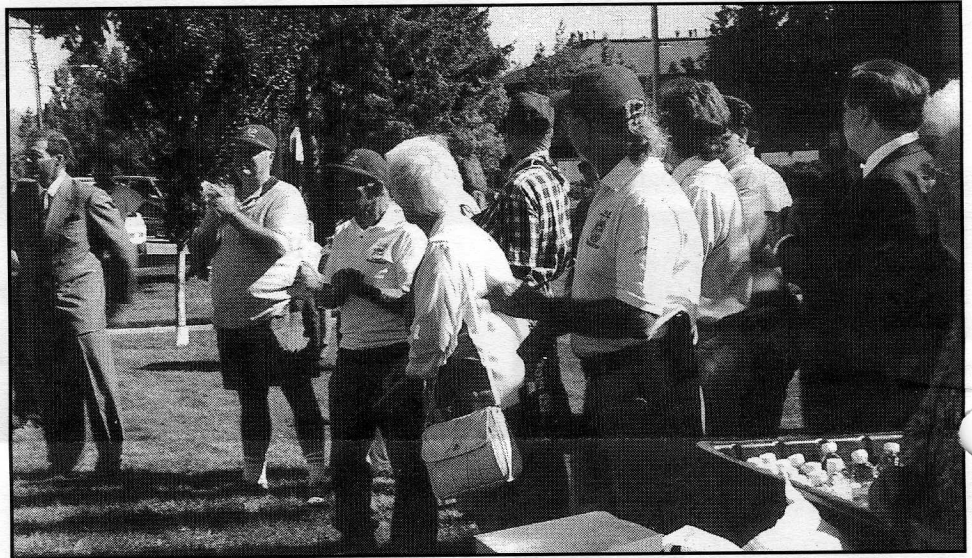
1943 classmates Joe Elcano and Len Crocker were in the audience and heard the School Board approve the concept of the Alumni Center.

Two months later, then RHS

*(Continued on Page 5)*



Shovels in place at the groundbreaking ceremony, August 1999.



A large crowd of former Reno High graduates assembled for the groundbreaking ceremony.



Norm Dianda (Q&D Construction) and Len Crocker, President of the Reno High School Alumni Association at the groundbreaking ceremonies.



Construction begins almost immediately, as seen in this photo, taken in September 1999.

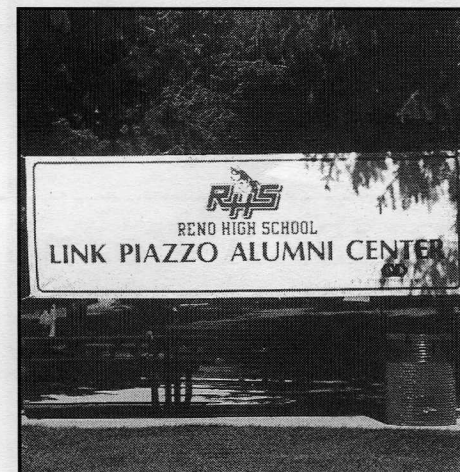


Principal Pat Rogan led Bud Beasley, Len Crocker, Joe Elcano, Tom Casazza, and Ralph Casazza on a tour of the school campus, seeking an appropriate site. Later that summer, Bud went to the 40th class reunion of the class of 1955, and asked Joe Granata if he could use the microphone to explain his idea. After Bud's enthusiastic presentation, he walked off the stage with almost \$4000 in cash and checks. That money wound up the next day on a table in the living room of Len Crocker along with Beasleys' instructions, "There you go Croc, now do something with it!"



Reno Attorney Frank Petersen was among the ringleaders in Beasley's plans to provide a home for the coach's years-long collection of memorabilia, and the Association was born soon afterwards in Petersen's law office. There, Beasley, Crocker and Granata were chosen as charter trustees of a new Nevada non-profit corporation, with Petersen a counsel. At a gathering in the library of Reno High School, new principal Janet Ross listened as

(Continued on Page 6)



A temporary sign is put in place during the construction phase.

The three photos above show the building in varying stages throughout October 1999.

# Dreams become reality as building construction begins

(From Page 6)

Crocker was chosen as President, Granata as Vice President, Class of 1950 grad Jim Binns was elected as Treasurer, and Joe Elcano was the secretary. Other charter members of the board of trustees were: Rose Meredith, Class of 1943; David Minedew, Class of 1960; and Albert Solari, Class of 1939.

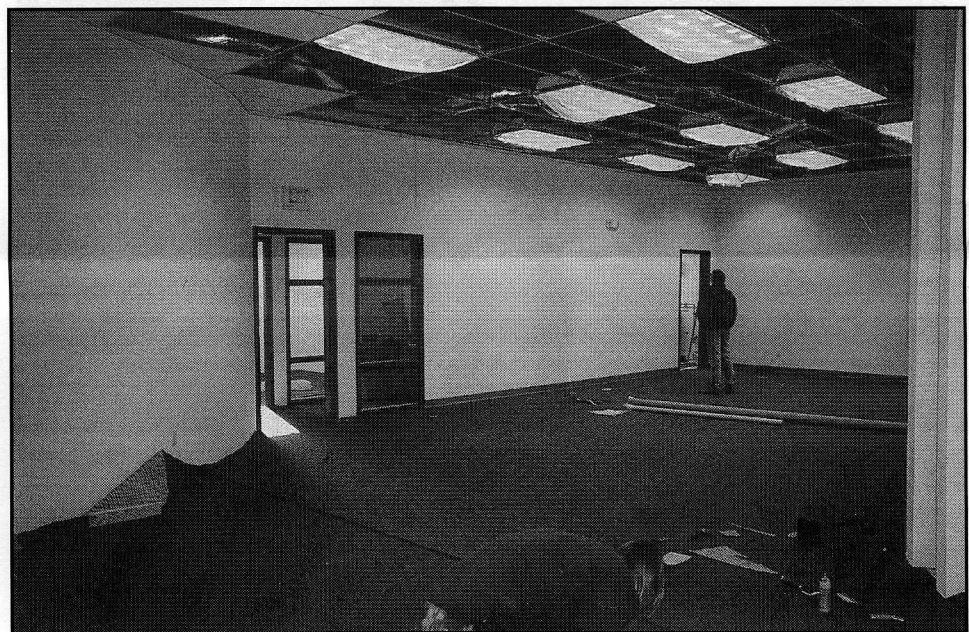
Granata became Association President in January, when Crocker assumed the new post of Membership Vice President. Other incumbent officers are: Ann Sutton, Operations Vice President; Joanne Petre, Secretary; Albert E. Cartledge, Treasurer; and Virginia Zorio, Assistant Treasurer.

Beasley and Elcano continue to serve on the Board, with fellow Trustees Ralph A. Casazza (who was principal architect of the Alumni Center), David J. Minedew, Lillian "Moe" Munley, William J. Newman Jr. and Larry Pizorno. Attorney John Frankovich is Counsel and Al Solari is an Honorary Trustee.

Others who have served since the Association's charter but have retired are Treasurer Jim Binns, Trustees Greg Ferraro, Hank Garell, Rose Meredith, Richard B. Rowley, John P. Sande III, and Dr. John H. Sutton, plus Counsel Steve Walther.



Exterior of building, prior to finishing touches.



Interior of building while carpeting is being laid and ceiling finished.

(More photos on Page 7)

## RHSAA Board Member Profile

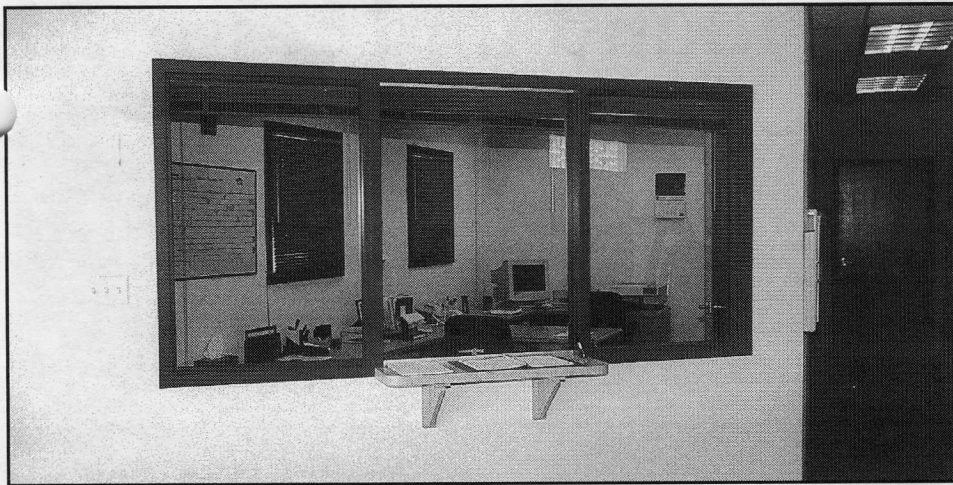
RHSAA Founding Trustee Joseph R. "Joe" Granata served four years as the group's vice president before accepting the position of president in January. Born Feb. 17, 1937 in Reno, he graduated from RHS with the Class of 1955. He served two

years in the U.S. Navy before beginning a 29-year career with the Reno Fire Dept.

He remains active in fire fighter retiree activities and traditionally heads reunion activities for his high school class.

"I loved and played sports

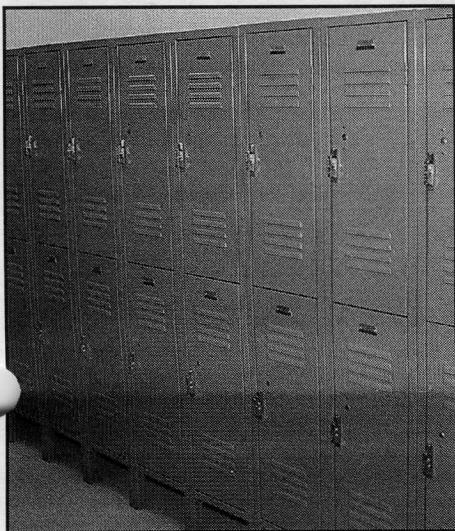
until my knees went bad," Granata says, "but now I'm into computers and a reclining chair that needs my weight to keep it from floating away." He and his wife, Lola, have three children and five grandchildren.



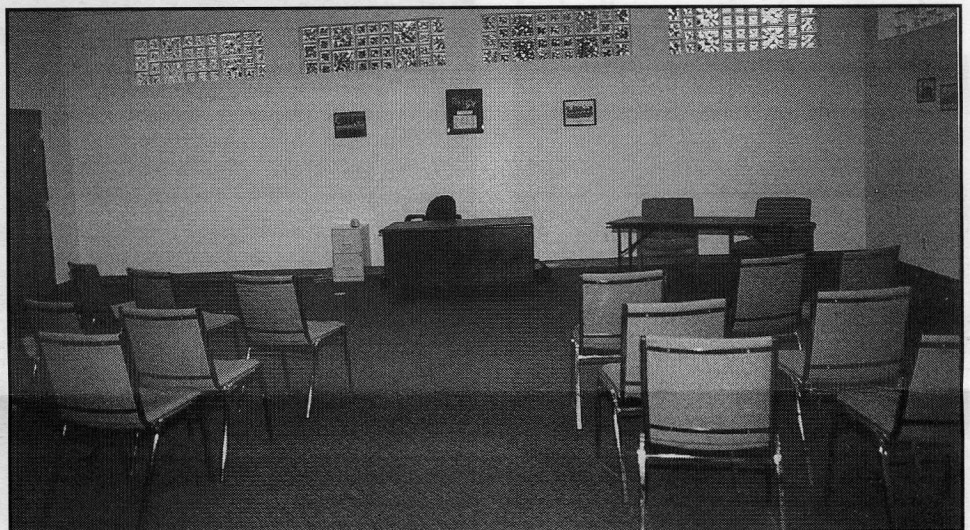
View of business office for the Reno High School Alumni Association.



Trustees Bud Beasley and Joe Elcano.



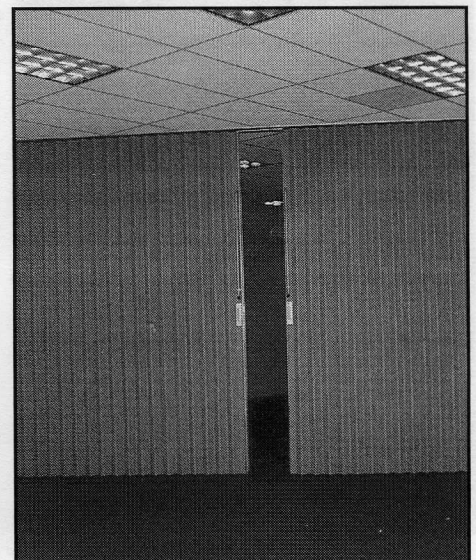
Recently donated lockers are available to store class records or for use by reunion committees.



Meeting room currently used by RHSAA and other groups (including reunion committees).



At the building dedication in December 1999. President Len Crocker, Vice President Joe Granata, Trustee Bud Beasley and Link Piazza, building benefactor (from left).



Room dividers that section off "Heritage Hall" room from the "Hall of Achievement."

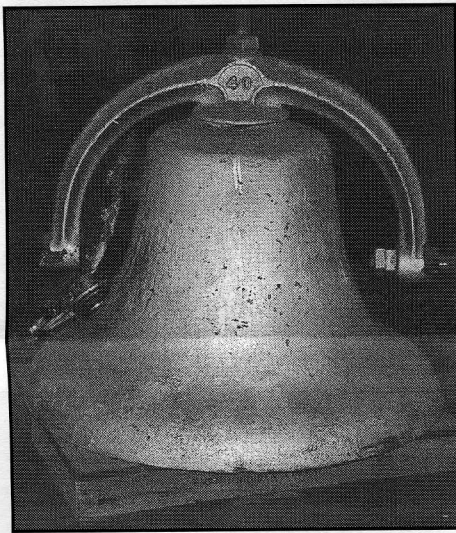
# Old RHS bell is found and restored

The first high school in Reno was the upper floors of the Central School, built in 1879. The lower floors is where the lower classes went to school. The school was finished just before Christmas 1879.

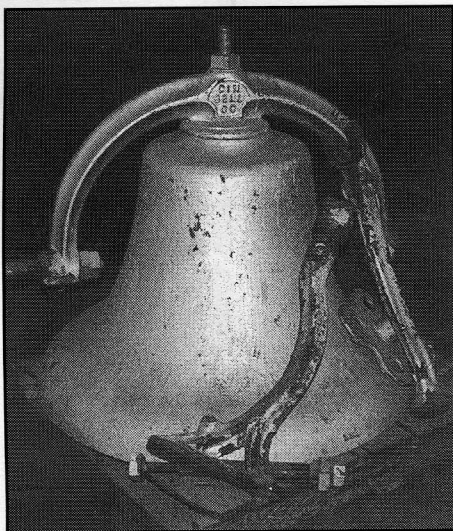
The Central School had a bell tower holding a 1200 pound bell that rang students in and out of school. The building was torn down in August 1911, and just

before the demolition of the old building, there was a last ringing of the bell the night before, from 12 midnight until 1 a.m. The students would climb up in the tower and put their names on the bell. The bell had been painted over so

many times that when the bell was refurbished by the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, they were unable to save the graffiti. The bell is now painted the original factory shipping color, green with red inside.



Bell being refurbished at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.



Two views of the bell in condition it was found in at Washoe County School District warehouse.



Lifting the bell from vehicle at the RHSAA building.



It is unknown where the bell went after it was taken down, but sometime later, it was stored at the new Reno High School built in 1912. A RE-WA-NE in the early 1900's told of still ringing the bell from that school, although there was no bell tower. It is believed

that it was stored on the roof of the new building in a room built on top later. A shop teacher said that he had rang the bell with a hammer in the 50's, because there was no clanger in the bell. When the building was torn down in 1967, we don't know where the

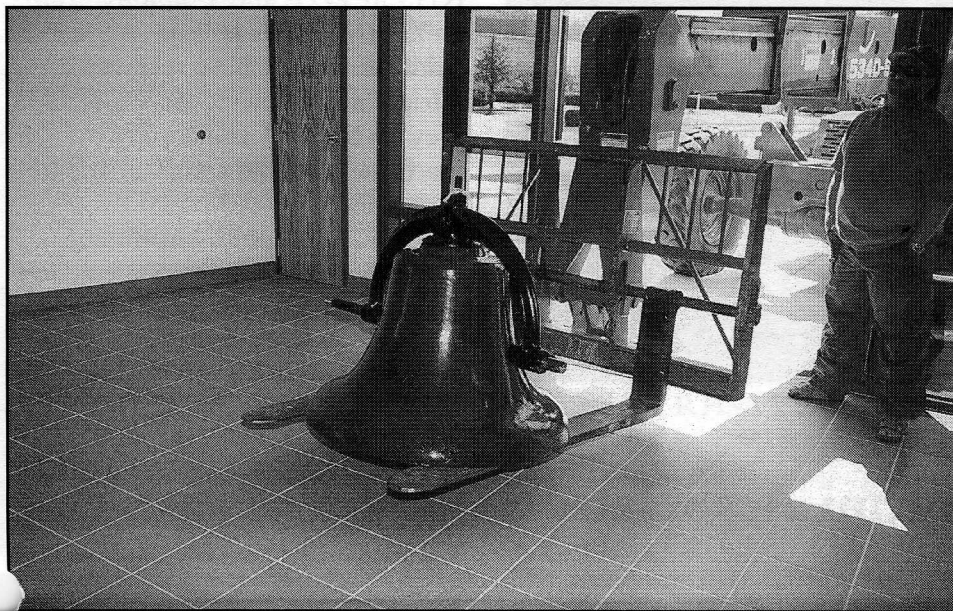
bell was stored, until they built the Washoe County School District warehouse on Ninth Street. That's where we found the bell in 1999.

Loren Jahn, a teacher and historian working on the Glendale School project, told us he had seen the bell in the WCSD warehouse, and he believed that it came from RHS. The WCSD thought that it was from Mary S. Doten School, and they had M.S.D. written on the bell. Mary S. Doten had no bell tower, and after research, we know that it came from Central School. The picture of Central School shows the big wheel that is on the bell now in one corner of the bell tower.

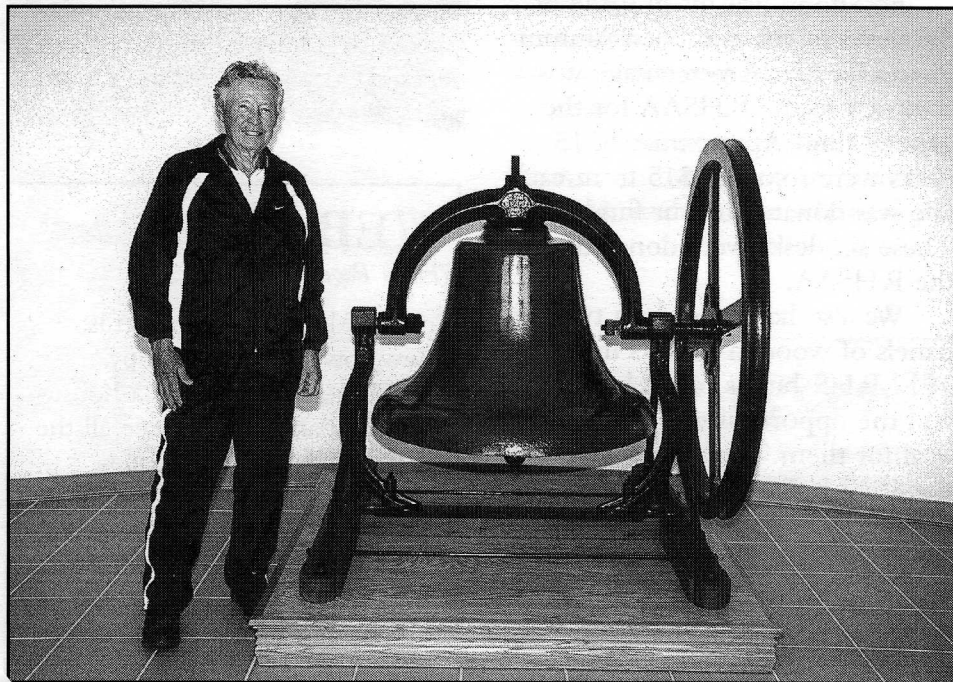
The bell was refurbished at a cost of \$4500 by the NSRM and a big donation from Earl Avansino paid for the refurbishment, and added to our bank account.

Putting the bell into the alumni building was no party. A Gradeall, which is a fork lift that will not only lift but go forward 25 feet, was donated by United Rentals High Reach Specialists to put the bell into the building. It took about four hours and six alumni to finish the job. The bell sits in a cradle and still rings by turning the wheel.

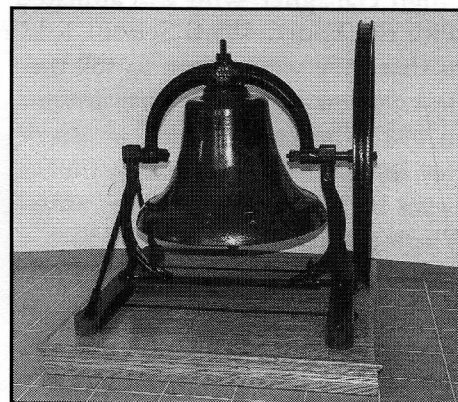
The bell sits on a stand that was donated by Ralph Casazza at a cost of \$1178 and the plaque stand with Earl Avansino's name plaque was built at a cost of \$100.



The bell is brought in the Alumni Center, and although it looks easy here, it took a lot of people a lot of time to accomplish.



Earl Avansino, benefactor of the bell, stands proudly next to it. The bell is now in place in the Alumni Center front lobby for public viewing.



## DONATED ITEMS

(From Page 3)

Fourth Ward School. They gave us six for our building.

There is a teachers desk from the early 1900's, a paper cutter from the early 1900's. There is a picture of the students in front of RHS in 1917, and a diploma from 1905 given to Silas Ross.

Additionally, we have received a refrigerator (donated by Western Nevada Supply) and a copy machine (donated by IKON). The front office was furnished by Machabee Office Environments.

Other donations include a laser printer, 50 chairs, three more desks, a commerial vacuum cleaner, and the kitchen stove and hood by Dave Minedew, plus the money donations.

We are very interested in any memorabilia pertaining to Reno High School. If you have items that you wish to donate to the Alumni Association, please call 775-825-2586 and leave a phone number. We'll contact you and make arrangements to get the items picked up. Donated items will be recognized with the donor's name and class year in the display cases.



## Fourth Ward School desks donated back to Alumni Association

On May 12th, we received six desks that were donated by the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City from Mark Preiss, the curator of the museum/Fourth Ward School.

Originally, the desks were used in the Fourth Ward School until the student population started dwindling in the late 1800's or early 1900's. In 1912, the new Reno High School was built and the desks were loaned to the Washoe County School District. Hugh Gallagher, who was affiliated with the Fourth Ward School, told us that they were going to sell the desks when RHS was torn down in 1967, but Tom Cooke, an attorney in town, told them that the desks had to be returned to Virginia City.

The desks are in the Alumni Building now and in good shape. They have the original graffiti on them. They have been secured to

runners so that they can be moved without damaging the carpeting. People can come by and see if they remember the desks, or the graffiti.

Ed Spoon was given some of the desks to sell at the last Alumni Picnic for \$70. A percentage was returned to the RHSAA for the general fund. Approximately 15 desks were sold and \$15 from each sale was donated to our fund. These six desks were donated to the RHSAA.

We also have a lead on two panels of wooden lockers from the 1912 RHS, but as of yet have not had the opportunity to make a deal for them. They were sold from the 1912 building as they were tearing it down in 1967. A milkman bought them and has them stored in his mother-in-law's basement.

## WEB PAGE

(From Page 3)

School Alumni Association is:  
[www.powernet.net/~cappy](http://www.powernet.net/~cappy).

Washoe County has a home-page now and you can see all the different school home pages. Reno High School has a home page on the Washoe County web page, but it is still under construction.

The address for the Washoe County School District is:  
<http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/reno>

## Endowment fund established to maintain building

All donations made to the Alumni Association of \$1,000 or more will be placed on wall plaques in the front lobby. The year of RHS graduation will also be noted, as well as maiden names, where applicable. The following have contributed as of this newsletter:

\$20,000 or more:

Earl J. Avansino  
Norman L. Dianda  
Albert B. Solari

\$5,000 or more:

William J. Raggio

\$1,000 or more:

Arnold D. Arzoian  
Kay Barbagelata  
Bud L. Beasley  
Donald & Rhonda Carano  
Ralph A. Casazza  
E.P. "Chuck" Charlton II  
Harold P. Dayton, Jr.  
Lee F. Del Grande  
Joe F. Elcano, Jr.  
Paul & Alice Elcano  
John Frankovich  
Boyd E. Kelley  
Art Kess  
Jon E. Madsen  
Robert L. McDonald  
Reginald S. &  
Marilyn A. Parsons  
RHS Class of 1943

We are also in need of major sponsors for the "Heritage Hall" room and the "Hall of Achievement" room. These funds will be used to start an endowment fund to maintain the building. The donors will be appropriately recognized with each room being named for them.

## Membership Update

Twenty-one Life Members top the roster of more than 500 men and women in good standing, as the RHSAA embarks on its first sustained membership retention campaign. Membership Vice President Len Crocker reported at mid-May that he has another 30 individuals whose membership renewals came due earlier this year on his list of "probables" who just have not gotten around to replying to reminder letters. Fifty-eight more were expected to catch up before their paid-up period expired at the end of May, he said.

"Membership renewals had been left to the individuals, until we created our new membership vice presidential post earlier this year," Crocker pointed out. "Now that we're getting out reminders, the response has been really heartening, and the list of persons whose dues are paid until some time between now and January of the year 2007 includes more than 50, whose dues had lapsed through no fault of their own - they simply needed a reminder from our office.

"And two of those people got caught up as Life Members," he enthused.

Annual memberships now are sold on a 12-months basis, rather than the calendar year, as they were recorded when the Association was organized. The roster has been reorganized according to the month in which renewals are due, he said, and reminders will go out early in the month just prior to that.

"Yearly memberships obviously are the easiest to handle with an investment of \$15 individually for any former Reno High School student or faculty member, and \$25 for one of those individuals and a spouse or significant other," the

Association's charter president agreed.

"But we're actively seeking Life Memberships, as well," he said, "and we're reminding everyone that they currently are available at \$300 per individual or \$500 for a 'team' pairing." The lone duo Life Membership currently on the books was registered by Andrea (Ginocchio) and Bill Pelter, who graduated as 1946 classmates.

Sallie Miller Morton of RHS's Class of 1943 was the first to secure Life Membership, followed closely by 1924 graduate John Humphrey.

Since then, the Life roll has been joined by Art Kess of the Class of '61; the Pelters; incumbent Association President Joe Granata, 1955; Sandra Gates Moe, 1969; Harold P. Dayton, 1940; Ida M. Shaffer, 1955; Mike Frederickson, 1962; Kay Barbagelata, 1940; Link Piazzo, 1937; Al Solari, 1939; Bill Raggio, 1944; Norman Dianda, 1957; Eric Boyden, 1980; John "Mickey" Munley, 1943; Roy Arthurs, 1951; Jon Madsen, 1958; Glenda Ternullo, 1955; and Earl J. Avansino, 1938.

## What does your membership buy?

At this time, we plan to publish a newsletter every six months keeping our members informed of upcoming events and status of the alumni center building. The Association sponsors a picnic for all classes every three years. The next one is planned for 2002.

Scholarships are in place. Although membership fees are not a tax deduction, donations to the association are.

# RHSAA office hours established

Thursday, Friday and Saturday office hours for the RHSAA's Link Piazza Alumni Center, will begin July 13th, according to action taken by the Association's Board of Trustees during its regular May meeting.

The Center still is being equipped, Association President Joe Granata pointed out, but visitors

will see rooms designated as the Association's Heritage Hall museum and the career-based Hall of Achievement, as well as meeting rooms, office, kitchen and storage facilities.

The red brick facility on the front lawn of the school at 395-A Booth St. will be staffed by volunteers on Thursdays and Fridays from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Other hours are also available by appointment. "Founding father" and charter Trustee Bud L. Beasley led the move for the board action and heads the volunteer group.

Reno High School alumni who would like to help staff the Center during those hours are asked to contact Beasley at 853-1683. Other details are available at the Association office, 825-2586 (825-ALUM).

# Football fundraiser event scheduled

Fans of Reno High School football will gather at Reno's Peppermill Hotel/Casino on Sunday, August 27th, for the Huskies' annual football fundraising dinner. Tickets for the 4 p.m. event are priced at \$50 each, with tables for eight available at \$400 or at a corporate sponsor price of \$500 that will include advertising in all home football game programs.

Spokesperson Dorothy Nash Holmes stressed that any table of eight purchased as a unit and filled with RHS alumni will earn a bonus of football season tickets for all eight -- plus caps and tee shirts for each.

University of Nevada, Reno Director of Athletics Chris Ault is scheduled to speak briefly, and Huskies Head Football Coach Brian Rothe will introduce the members of his coaching staff during an afternoon that will include a live auction and other activities.

Many RHS football players are expected to attend this year's dinner, Holmes said.

## HUSKIES TRAILS

### EDITOR:

Ann (Seaman) Sutton

### CONTRIBUTORS:

Len Crocker

Joe Granata

Published every six months.

Contributions & photos welcome.

Call 359-4835 (Ann Sutton)



## Reno High School Alumni Association

P. O. BOX 5807  
RENO, NEVADA 89513  
(775) 825-ALUM (2586)

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