



# Huskies Trails

---

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

---

## Early voting at the Alumni Center

By Karl Breckenridge

“Early Voting at the RHS Alumni Center?”

“Washoe County wants to use our building as a polling place for two weeks before the September primary and for two more before the November general election?”

“We have to open and close it each day for the election workers and have one of our alumni association trustees there between nine ayem until six o’clock at night for four weeks? And we can’t open it for our own use as a museum on Fridays and Saturdays for four weeks?” Yikes! Who thought that was a good idea and said ‘yes?’”

Dunno. Might have been our leader, President Betty Jo (Martin) Baker. Or Daryl Pelizzari while he was still president. But I do know one thing for sure about turning our alumni center over to Washoe County:

It’s the best darn move we ever made since the building opened seven years ago.

We’ve 15 trustees, and every one to a man, or to a person anyway, pulled together to keep the building open, and it didn’t take real long for a wonderful truth to set in: For six years, RHS alums have been visiting the center, and all have the commonality of knowing at least why the décor theme seems to be Red and Blue and what the Huskie means to us. But the view of what our association has accomplished, seen through the eyes of other schools’ alumni, was revealing. If we have this opportunity again for the 2008 elections – which I think your trustees are unanimous in hoping for – I’d like to conduct a simple poll of the voters visiting the building: “Where did you go to high school?” to gain a better idea of where all were coming from.

For four weeks we welcomed many RHS grads, but a predominance of voters attended other high schools including many from out-of-town. And I can

convey to y’all that what the Reno High School Alumni Association has created – both the bricks-and-stones of the Museum and the memorabilia it houses, and the human element that built a first-class building, makes the association run, pays its bills, puts out a newsletter like this to a data base of alums – is a mindblower for the majority of voters who visited our center.

“I’ve driven past this building a hundred times, and didn’t know what it was.” “I graduated from high school in ... *(fill in the blank)* and lost track of my classmates and teachers a long time ago.” “Our old high school was razed in *(fill in the blank)*, and we’ve forgotten what it even looked like.” “We had letter sweaters/photos/ lockers/posters/cheerleaders’ megaphones/*(fill in the blank)* but I haven’t seen anything like these since *American Graffiti*.” “You guys have all of this school’s old yearbooks? And your alums can buy an old yearbook here?” “You’ve got old phonograph album jackets on display? And menus from the long-gone diners you went to?”

“...and your dues are only 15 bucks a year?”  
*(Thinly-veiled membership plug.)*

During the early voting, 1,850 people visited our center – a whopping number, almost equaling the number of visitors since it opened on Dec. 30 of 1999. And none just walked in, voted and left. Invariably even those in the biggest hurry would grudgingly stop and check out the bell in the lobby. Then they’d look at a photo or two above it, then at the bookcase full of Re-Wa-Nes, some old maps, a Block R jacket, a Ray’s Drive-In menu, and the vintage electric scoreboard that we kept lit for the occasion. On one day I worked, a guy checked out our museum and left, and then came back later because he’d forgotten to vote. And, a Redwood City native who’d already voted brought her

husband back to see it.

I think every association trustee has a story of his or her own, about the compliments that the building received. The Mayberry Drive firemen parked Engine 5 on Booth Street and voted *en masse*. Our own Lord Mayor Bob Cashell, voting in the primary the day before he left for his own 50th high school reunion in Texas, wants to bring his graduating class back just to see our center (I'm not sure he didn't mean it; with Hizzonner you never know.) We told him to bring 'em on, Pardner...

The unanimous emotion of your trustees, from the initial "...we're doing *WHAT* with the Alumni Building?" early last summer to the ringing of the old school bell in the lobby at straight-up six o'clock on Nov. 3rd to celebrate the end of Early Voting was, a great pride in your alumni association – of the attractive structure itself, reminiscent of the old Reno High on West Street; of the archives and artifacts, furniture, photographs, records and yearbooks and other mementos within that so many of you have contributed; and of the organization, research and structure of the business end of the association.

The visitors that 2006 Early Voting brought to our building told us that we are all to be envied, to have such a unity of Reno High's alumni – very much a rarity in America.



## THE SKY FELL 1953-1954 CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (AKA OLD RENO HIGH)

Taking a test is never fun, you sit there praying for a miracle, which would save you from taking it. It was mid morning, our English class room windows looked out over the west side of the school. I sat in the last seat in front of the cloakroom doorway.

Remember the bar that often was underneath the desk, I had propped my feet up on it, knees wedged underneath the desktop. I was looking out the window waiting for that miracle, suddenly I heard a cracking sound come from behind me, in a split second the ceiling in the cloakroom came crashing down.

The teacher yelled "everyone out!" I tried to jump up, but I had forgotten to put my feet down, there I was wedged between the desk top and the seat, all the while the white dust from the ceiling was billowing through the doorway covering all of us in the back of the room.

After a few frantic tugs and pulls, I calmed down, sat down, dropped my feet, got loose and bolted out the door. We were taken downstairs to another classroom.

Why did the ceiling collapse? The rifle range in the old Reno High was positioned over the classroom and the targets were positioned right over the cloakroom. The weight of the spent ammunition from all the years of target practice had caused the ceiling to collapse.

I thought I was safe...no such luck I still had to take the test.

Grace Brown Fujii (class of '58)



### RHS AAA Personalized Bricks

As of the beginning of the 2006 school year, two new brick pads have been placed in front of the main entrance of the school.

Now with three pads and a total of 169 individual bricks, the fund raising program is moving right along.

*Many thanks to Kim Reinhart of AAA*

Order forms are available at RHSAA Center/Museum

## AN E-MAIL FROM FAR AWAY

{*Guestbook Entry*} Just came across the website – very impressive! Immigrated to (then) Rhodesia in '78 and stayed. Own a small business in Harare, Zimbabwe.

{*We replied to his guestbook entry*}

That was quick! You may be thinking of either my father (Ira La Rivers, Central High, Class of 1933, I believe) or me - we both have the same name, though I've simplified the spelling. My Dad was a biology professor at UNR until his death in 1977, and was fairly well-known in local circles both as a biologist and a historian.

I did get some media attention in the Journal and the Gazette while in high school and college in connection with a series of talks on snakes that a colleague and I did over the years.

I emigrated to what was then Rhodesia in 1979, and worked as a tsetse control biologist with the Department of Veterinary Services until 1980. I then worked in the South African homeland of Bophuthatswana with another Reno High alumnus, Hans Koenig, on a three-year contract as a nature conservation officer (game warden in Americanese), and after a bit of traveling, returned to what had become Zimbabwe.

I joined the Investigations Branch of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management in 1989, and carried on until 2003 when the political situation had deteriorated to the point that very little could be accomplished. I then did the "Iraq thing" (the currency exchange operation, 2003-2004) and put together enough hard currency to come back and buy a small business.

Right now, I'm just waiting for some turnaround in the country's economic fortunes, which I'm sure, will come in time. I will definitely fill out the alumni membership form, though when it comes to subscriptions, it is virtually impossible to get any hard currency out of here (legally).

Kind regards,  
Ira ~ Class of 1973

From: "Ira Larivers" <ijl@gauntlet.co.zw>  
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2006 5:01 AM



## FENWICK'S

By Jerry Fenwick



From 1947 to 1977 Fenwick's Paint, Wallpaper and Art Supplies was a local standby. The store was first on the southwest corner of Sierra and Commercial Row from 1947 to 1967 in the Travelers Hotel building and in the Lakeside Plaza Shopping Center on Plumb Lane for the last ten years.

The Travelers Hotel building was constructed in the 1920s by John Petricciani with a basement and a foundation of stone and mortar. When the large Southern Pacific articulated locomotives passed by on the railroad tracks, they created so much vibration that mortar was shaken from between the rocks; one of my first jobs was to sweep up the sand and mortar and box it up to be set out with the garbage.

Watching the trains go by was a favorite way to pass the time when we were not busy. Those same trains that shook out the basement mortar also shook the windows in their frames creating gaps that allowed the dust and rain to enter the display area; this made regular calls to Desert Glass Company to adjust the glass in the frames necessary.

The side of the building was painted with the large Fenwick's sign visible in the photograph to catch the attention of people entering downtown from the north.

The store location directly across the tracks from parking meant that there was heavy traffic by the front door as people passed by on the way to shop at Sears, J. C. Penney, the National Dollar Store, Ward's, Home Furniture and Gray Reid Wright further down Sierra Street toward the Truckee River.

When the store opened, durable paint was oil based and had a strong odor. This made it unsuitable for application in the cold weather. In order to survive and grow, we expanded into art supplies and later picture framing. These two items became the staple, particularly over the last ten years of business.



Questions from Neal Cobb/Jerry Fenwick

- 1. What is this structure?**
  - A. Where was it located?**
  - B. How was it used?**
  - C. When and why was it replaced?**
- 2. What opened on December 17, 1947 and closed on December 17, 1982?**
- 3. What was the name of Lee's Drive-in when it first opened?**
- 4. How was the present Whitaker Park originally used?**
- 5. Which term is correct - "The Four Sisters" or "the Spanish Quartette"?**
- 6. Can you name the four?**
- 7. What was a common nickname for Virginia Street from Court Street south in the 1940s & 1950s?**
- 8. Name at least eight drug stores in Reno in the 1940s and 50s.**
- 9. What was in Powning Park that is not there now?**
- 10. Who advertised - "Not recommended by Duncan Hines"?**

## Answers

by Neal Cobb/Jerry Fenwick

- 1. Central School built in 1878.**
  - A. Southwest corner of Fifth & West Streets.**
  - B. It housed the high school students on the top floor and junior high school students on the lower floor.**
  - C. It was disassembled and removed in 1911 and replaced by the second high school in 1912.**
- 2. Mapes Hotel**
- 3. Gabe's, built by Hudson Lee.**
- 4. Bishop Whitaker's School for Girls was located here from 1872 to 1894.**
- 5. Both are correct - Four Sisters was used more by adults and Spanish Quartette was used more by children.**
- 6. Orvis Ring, McKinley Park, Mary S. Doten and Mount Rose Schools.**
- 7. Automobile Row, most of the major new car dealers and used car dealers were located here.**
- 8. Ramos, Skeel's, Locke's, Hale's, Owl, Wilson, Riverside, Cerveri's, Walgreen, Cannan's, Powell, Hilp's, Arch, Pettis Pharmacy, Payless, Modern, Eagle Thrifty, Arcade Pharmacy, Washoe, Professional Pharmacy - where is your favorite downtown pharmacy now?**
- 9. Trees and grass.**
- 10. Les Lerude's Wigwam Coffee Shop.**

## SILVER HUSKIES

Class of 1982

This will be your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the RHSAA has a special showcase just for you to decorate.



## RHSAA DOCENTS

WHAT IS A DOCENT? Docents are unpaid staff that volunteers their time to museums, historical societies, and libraries who help get jobs done that otherwise would be left waiting.

The RHSAA is one of the lucky institutions to have docents. Thanks to these wonderful people RHSAA museum is up and running. We are now the repository for all the memorabilia "YOU" the graduate have entrusted in our care.

The docents faithfully come in and catalog all memorabilia that have been donated over the last 10 years. There are 10 filled display cases, pictures, letterman jackets, cheerleader and band uniforms are on the walls and many more items are out on display.

Without the dedication of these docents the displays would not have been possible. Wherever you happen to see them, thank them for their never-ending work and dedication to the RHSAA.

Thank You . . .

Sylvia (Vanoni) Ernst

Roberta (Hayes) Fraser

Joanne (Ortiz) Petre

Gloria (Cortesi) Garavanta

Thank you to Harold Hilts and Frank Savage who help get the newsletter in the mail.

Respectfully  
Grace Brown Fujii  
Curator





**Bud's Burgers**

**YIKES 50 YRS!!!**



Patsy Plumm

**50th CLASS REUNION {1957}**

Yes it is coming, that event we all use to think was just really for the "Old Folks". Well, that is us. It is true we still really just look great but of course our classmates have fallen apart. Yeah.



"brazen types"



"recognize these hoods"

Our 50th reunion committee chaired by Claudette Koepf Edmiston is hard at work putting together a reunion for all to enjoy. We have been meeting at the RHS Alumni Center and have had good participation by about 10 to 15 of our class. In addition to our planning we have a display case at the Center dedicated to the "Golden Huskies". which is us. Sue White Broderdorf is in charge of this and if you have any special memorabilia you would like to display please contact Sue via RHSAA ~ 825-2586



Green door Tex in action



ah yes, another award



upset about award

In any event we are still having our meetings with some issues still to be decided but as it stands now this is the schedule: **September 7th 2007, Friday nite:** Coney Island Bar and Restaurant, 6:30p.m. cocktails and appetizers, no host bar but appetizers provided by our class. Free to attend. **September 8th, Sat nite:** Cocktails, dinner and dancing at the Siena Hotel in Reno. 6:30 p.m. to ? Cost TBD per person. Siena will have discounted rooms for our group if needed. **September 9th, 9-12, a.m.:** at the RHS Alumni Center for free coffee and rolls/doughnuts, etc. Come for the whole time or a few minutes. See the Center and RHS History.

Now if there was ever a reunion you should attend, this is the one. We want to see everyone who's made it this far, believe me, it will be fun and who knows maybe the last time to see old classmates, friends and people we just waived to or just said hi. Let's do it again .....this time could be the very best.

'57 Reunion Committee

"57" Classmate  
 Alex Kanwet  
 RHSAA Trustee  
 alexeyk@aol.com

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following is my synopsis of the annual report presented to the Board of Trustees at our October meeting.

For most of the year, we've been working with a 15-member board. Cal Pettengill became a Trustee midway through the year and has proved invaluable as a computer whiz—as well as in many other ways. He helped us create a new membership application. In March, thanks to him, a FAX machine was installed in the office. He is helping us tremendously with the January turnover in memberships as our long-term trustee, Len Crocker will be going off the Board.

At the beginning of my term, I said this was going to be a “working” board. Everyone has stepped up and contributed in one way or another. It's been a successful year. As members of this Association, you should be proud of your elected Board of Trustees. Virginia Zorio, our Treasurer knows her “figures” and keeps us in line with the money. Our Secretary, Maurine Tuckett, doesn't miss a word or action in her reports. Gene Hillygus, the Parliamentarian, keeps us on the straight and narrow during meetings. Neal Cobb has several jobs. As Chairman of the Newsletter Committee, and with the help of Karl Breckenridge and Joe Granata, a retired Trustee, We've published two newsletters in addition to this one. As Museum Chairman, Neal and his committee—with Grace Fujii and the rest of the “Docents” have put in countless hours of their own time.

The balance of the trustee volunteers have come through with flying colors. One of them has been here every Friday or Saturday and every day during the weeks of early voting.

Daryl Pelizzari has seen to it that the building has had lots of use-- which gives us great exposure. The principal and vice principals held their monthly meeting here in February. In May, the High School Leadership Council met here. In June, we opened for Advancement Student placement testing. The Journalism teacher brings his classes over often. And several other teachers have brought their students over for class sessions. Len Crocker brings his literary group in every month. Reunion groups have found this to be an ideal spot for holding their meetings. And in August and October we had early voting in the building.

In February, the board approved a recommendation that all donations received from the “sale” of merchandise (shirts, hats, etc.) go into the Scholarship fund. In March, at long last, revised By-Laws and the new Policies and Procedures Manual were approved by the Board. Thanks to Jerry Fenwick and his able committee. In April, Neal Cobb, Jerry Fenwick, Daryl Pelizzari, Joe Granata, and I participated in the Channel 8 segment on Westfield Village. In May, Daryl and I attended the Reno High School Scholarship Convocation and were pleased to present our two \$750.00 scholarships to two deserving students. We're pleased to say now that in July, the board increased the scholarships to \$1,000.00 each. In September, a Discretionary Fund was established to help on pre-approved Reno High projects.

We're looking forward to the coming year and more accomplishments. Please call me if you have any comments or suggestions for improving your Association. Happy Holidays to all of you.

Betty Jo Baker  
RHSAA President



P.O. Box 5807  
Reno, NV 89513

**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

Correspondence: P.O. BOX 5807, RENO, NV 89503

Telephone: 775-825-2586 {775-825-ALUM}

Website: [www.renohighalum.com](http://www.renohighalum.com)

Email: [rhsaa@renohighalum.com](mailto:rhsaa@renohighalum.com)

PRESIDENT.....	Betty Jo Baker	1951
VP/OPERATIONS.....	Daryl Pelizzari	1952
VP/MEMBERSHIP.....	Len Crocker	1943
SECRETARY.....	Maurine Tuckett	1952
TREASURER.....	Virginia Zorio	1955
TRUSTEES:	Joan Anglin	1957
	Karl Breckenridge	1959
	Ralph Casazza	1946
	Neal Cobb	1958
	Jerry Fenwick	1953
	Gloria Garaventa	1951
	Alex Kanwetz	1957
	Cal C. Pettengill	1956
	Larry Pizorno	1956

Counsel-Matt Gray 1995/Museum Curator-Grace Fujii 1958/  
Parliamentarian-Gene Hillygus/Webmaster-Cal C. Pettengill 1956

Active Members 727 - Life Members 109 - 100.5