



Huskie Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

President's Corner

Happy New Year everyone! The end of another year-I think most of us are happy to say goodbye to this one. I don't have much to report this year.

At the beginning of the year, we said farewell to our past President, John Watson, who chose to step down as a trustee from the Alumni Association. We welcomed Valerie Porter, a Science teacher at Reno High School as well as a 1989 graduate. We also welcomed Mikala Yopez, a 2010 graduate. Mikala has been working on keeping our computer systems up to date. Valerie has moved into the role of Membership Chairwoman as Amanda Myers stepped down this summer. We have five trustee slots available.

The building was used early in the year for the Washoe County School District Counselors' monthly meetings as well as a few reunion meetings. We closed the building to visitors soon after the Covid pandemic hit and cancelled some of our monthly meetings. Our building manager, Daryl Pelizzari, goes to the building every week, picking up the mail, checking e-mail and ensuring that all is well with the building. The building is in overall good condition.

Unfortunately, all reunions were cancelled this year including our triennial all-class picnic. We have tentatively rescheduled for Sunday, August 15, 2021. We will be monitoring the news, and if things are looking up by March, we should have enough time to get the ball rolling. Several classes are making plans for 2021 reunions. We will keep the website updated as we learn more.

Although donations are down, we are still financially sound. We bestowed four \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors from our funds, the \$30,000 Westover scholarship that we are trustees for, and awarded to a Leadership medal to an exceptional ROTC cadet. Unfortunately, we were unable to give these in person, which is usually a highlight of our year.

Membership has dropped a bit this year. We were hoping to gain more members at our annual picnic. We have a total of 511 members - 212 of those are life members. We include a membership form in most of our newsletters for you to share with friends and classmates who may be interested in joining. You do not need to send this one in, as we will send you a reminder when your current membership subscription has expired.

If you would like to visit the museum, please call the office. One of us would be happy to meet you there and show off our building!

Have a successful 2021 and stay safe. We will get through this!

Kathy Wilcox
President, RHSAA



All aboard for the Freedom Train!! Some of you might have been around Reno in October 1948 when the Freedom Train paid a visit. Let's take a look back at this occasion.

America was struggling after WWII with unemployment and economic depression along with world disorder. William Coblentz, an assistant director in the Department of Justice's Public Information Division, spent his lunch hours at the National Archives. Lamenting how few Americans were able to visit Washington and see the nations' founding documents, he thought about how a display of America's struggles and sacrifices for freedom would make a powerful impression. If only the entire country could see these great documents. If Americans can't all come here, Coblentz reasoned, let's take the documents to them. Coblentz took his idea to his boss, Attorney General Thomas Clark who liked the idea but with the Treasury broke, Clark looked for private donations from business owners, movie moguls, bankers, industry leaders and the Advertising Council. Soon the nonprofit American Heritage Foundation was formed with a board of directors and deep pockets. Coblentz's modest Liberty train passenger car concept was born. The purpose was to foster a rededication to American ideals and principles, and designed to create a greater awareness of the unique blessings of the American heritage.

The Freedom Train, operated from September 1947 to January 1949, was composed of seven coach cars run by a 2,000-horsepower diesel locomotive. Three of the passenger cars were transformed into armor-plated coaches-bulletproof and fireproof, with steel-covered windows forming one long aisle displaying 133 original, historical documents and iconic objects. The four remaining cars were a baggage-utility coach and three sleeper-stateroom coaches to house the accompanying guard and maintenance crew.

On November 27, 1947, President Truman, his cabinet, and Justices from the U.S. Supreme Court, visited the train. After a 30 minute tour of the train, President Truman stated, "I sincerely wish that every person in the country could see those documents and appreciate just what they stand for – freedom and liberty to live as that individual sees fit, as long as he lives in harmony with his neighbors."

Twenty-seven Marine Sergeants and Corporals were tasked with the duty of guarding the train and providing assistance with the displays. The train would crisscross the United States-33,000 miles -for 16 months, stopping for up to five days preceded by, and followed up with, planned patriotic rededication programs and parades themed around the motto, "Freedom is Everybody's Job." Towns throughout America bought into it, estimating roughly 10,000 visitors per day at each train stop.

Some of the original documents were signed by people like Christopher Columbus, Paul Revere, Thomas Paine, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Admiral Nimitz, General McArthur, and President Franklin Roosevelt. Additionally, there were copies of the Magna Carta, draft of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Bill of Rights, original manuscript of "The Star Spangled Banner," original version of the U.S. Constitution, of the National Women Suffrage Association to Congress, the Truman Doctrine, the hand written Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery written by President Lincoln, and many more.



On March 19, 1948, a Freedom Train parade took place in Reno two days before the train arrived.

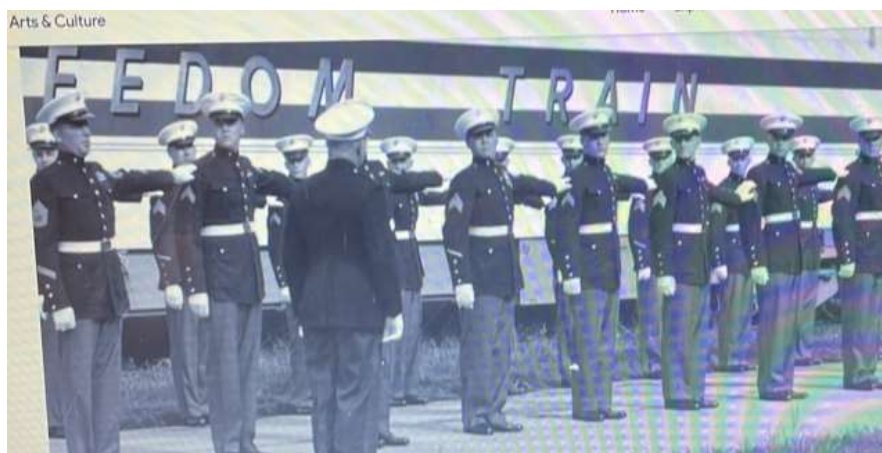
Reno High students participated in the parade honoring the train including the band, Huskiettes, ROTC, and floats by Block R, Industrial Arts Department and Drama Department. The Huskie Haven presented a Freedom Train play over the station KWRN on Sunday. Senior ROTC Instructor Captain Don Hickman was the parade chairman. Students were released from school early to attend the parade at 10:30 a.m. The picture above shows the Block R entry composed of RHS athletes representing football, basketball, track, baseball, and boxing. The sign says, "Competition is the American Way."

The train arrived in Reno on Sunday, March 21, 1948 and stayed from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. About 6,000 people waited three hours to board the heavily guarded train and view the 133 documents.

The Freedom Train and associated activities accomplished its purpose of renewing the spirit of patriotism of those who viewed the most sacred original documents of our history.

As a side note, if you Google Freedom Train song, you can hear Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters sing this song.

In 1975, another American Freedom Train was established to celebrate the United States Bicentennial. Perhaps we could use a Freedom Train these days as well.



MEANING OF CERTAIN SAYINGS

A SHOT OF WHISKEY

In the old west, a .45 cal cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash, he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a “shot” of whiskey.

The Whole Nine Yards

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo, he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

Buying the Farm

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1, soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died, you “bought the farm” for your survivors.

Iron Clad Contract

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

Passing the Buck /Buck Stops Here

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker, it was common to place one of these buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer, the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal, he would “pass the buck” to the next player. If that player accepted, then “the buck stopped there.”

Riff Raff

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight, but they were expensive, so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a “riff” and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

Cobweb

The old English word for “spider” was “cob.”

Over a Barrel

In the days before CPR, a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel, you are in deep trouble.

Barrels of Oil

When the first oil wells were drilled, they had no provision for storing the liquid, so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

Hot Off the Press

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat up. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press it's hot. The expression means to get immediate information.

Hog Wash

Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad, they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless “hog wash.”

· Mind Your P's and Q's

In English pubs, ale is ordered in pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them, ‘Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.’

Never blame anyone in your life. The good people give you **happiness**. The bad people give you **experience**. The worst people give you a **lesson**. The best people give you **memories**.



NOTEABLE ALUMNI – FRANCES MARGUERITE HUMPHREY

Frances M. Humphrey was born on June 29, 1904 in Carson City, NV but spent most of her life in Reno. Her father, Frank Humphrey was a miner. She graduated from Reno High in 1922 and was very active in school. Frances was a formidable basketball player, serving as the team's captain for two years and twice selected as an All-State side center. Frances was the president of the Girls Club, vice president of the student body, a member of the yearbook staff, and Girls Business Manager. She was also an expert horsewoman. While at the University of Nevada, she played varsity basketball and was one of the founding members of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. Upon graduation, with teaching credential in hand, Frances headed out to her first teaching position in a rural community in northern Humboldt County called Willow Point. By the next school year, she found a teaching position in the Reno school system at Northside Junior High. She taught there for three years before transferring in the fall of 1931 to the "old" Reno High School, located on the corner of West Street. Frances' salary was a whopping \$1,800 a year. At both schools, she filled a multitude of positions; among them was girls' physical education and English teacher. A new Reno High School was built at the corner of Booth Street and Foster Drive in 1951 and Frances transitioned to the new facility as a school counselor.

As a young teacher she was a member of the Vagabond Club, composed of teachers and young business girls who meet once a month for social activities, and as a professional educator, she held offices in the Washoe County Teachers Association and later, the Retired Teachers Association. She was also active in PEO, a woman's fraternal organization, and a dedicated member of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Although she retired in 1965, for the next ten years Humphrey was a substitute teacher for both Reno High and the new Earl Wooster High School. One of the most important events for her each year was attending Reno High School reunions to reminisce with former teaching peers and students. In 1995, columnist Ty Cobb wrote of her in one of his Reno Evening Gazette articles: "I sat with guest of honor, Frances Humphrey. At 91, she was as bright and lively as the days when she was my P.E. and basketball coach at Northside Junior High."

She experienced an incident in 1978 when would-be burglars broke a window to enter her house about 9 o'clock at night. She heard the glass pane break, armed herself with a stove poker and shouted, "I'm calling police." When police arrived, they found scuff marks on the wall nearby indicating a person tried to gain entry, but her yelling (undoubtedly in her teacher's voice) forestalled the break-in.

She had a special relationship with the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. As a native Nevadan from two pioneer families, she had a great love of the state's history. She was a museum supporter through the years and donated different types of collections to the institution.

Frances Humphrey died on November 2, 2001. She had only been in a hospital one time and that was shortly before her death.

Frances was listed in the Nevada Women's History Project. Information on Frances Humphrey was researched by Patti Bernard and taken from the 1922 RHS yearbook.

MORE CLEVER PUNS

- I wanted to be a monk – but I never got the chants.
- I was kidnapped by mimes – they did unspeakable things to me
- The finest shoes are made of smooth leather – my opinion will never be suede.
- If any of you know how to fix broken hinges – my door is always open.
- To the thief who stole my glasses – I will find you.... I have contacts.
- If your guy doesn't appreciate fresh fruit puns – let that mango.
- A few puns make me numb – but math puns make me number.
- My friend was explaining electricity – and I was like watt?
- Due to the quarantine - I'll only be doing inside jokes.
- My resolution was to exercise – no wait – I mean extra fries.
- Police car loses wheels to thief! Cops are working tirelessly to nab suspect.

FINAL LAUGHS

1. I am about one week away from being friends with a volleyball,
2. My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said: "No, we all seem to enjoy it."
3. There are people out there training for marathons..... and here I am, on the couch, trying to lasso the remote control with my phone charger.
4. I just paid for a 12-month gym membership. My bank called to see if my credit card was stolen.
5. Got up this morning and ran around the block 5 times. Then I got tired, so I picked up the block and put it back in the toy box.
6. Apparently, it's only appropriate to say, "Look at you! You got so big!" to children. Adults tend to get offended.



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775-327-9314 (2504)

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.}

Washoe County School District
RHS Alumni Association
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Reno, NV 89520



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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
	Mikala Yepez . . .	2010