

John Mall Background

John S. Mall was born in 1910, in Leadville, CO. He and his three siblings were orphaned during the 1918 Flu Pandemic. He was brought to St. Vincent's Boys Orphanage in Denver on December 31, 1918, where he lived until the age of 14. With an 8th grade education, he was now on his own. Because he was an excellent student, he was encouraged by the Jesuits to attend Regis High School in Denver. He worked as a janitor for his room and board, and graduated in 1928. After taking a year off to work, he enrolled in Regis College where he became Class President and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1933.

John Mall was an educator – he felt he owed a debt to society for caring for him and his siblings. He believed strongly in family, community and education. He was Principal of Washington and Hill School in 1952 and became Superintendent of Schools two years later in Walsenburg, Huerfano County, CO. One of his first acts as Superintendent was to abolish eighth grade graduation – he knew students needed more education and were not ready to face the world alone. He re-organized the county's rural school districts into two – Walsenburg and La Veta.

Under his leadership, he provided an education that has produced doctors, lawyers, teachers, businessmen, scientists, soldiers, plumbers, electricians, ranchers and farmers, moms and dads. He considered his greatest achievements to be his students who came back to teach in their own schools. He believed in college and he believed in vocational education. His Saturdays were spent working with the janitors and he became a legend for mowing the football field in retirement.

In 1976, John Mall was honored by his fellow citizens with the naming of the high school – John Mall High School in Walsenburg, Colorado. He earned their love and respect by what he did and what he stood for. He was defined by his exemplary character.

Huerfano is the Spanish word for orphan. Somehow, some way, this man named John Mall, an orphan, ended up in Huerfano County. Students coming out of John Mall High School could not have a better role model.

John Mall Scholarship

\$1,000

Date _____

NAME:

GPA:

CLASS RANK:

COLLEGE OR ACCREDITED VOCATIONAL SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING:

Please tell us about yourself – How has growing up in Huerfano County and attending John Mall High School shaped you?

Please include the following:

- **High School Activities**
- **Volunteer Efforts**
- **Work Experience**