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**From:** The Vasbys <kvasby@smallbytes.net>  
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## Lincoln High Newsletter

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### Responses to previous topics:

Bill Hartley (63)

Sorry this is late, but we've been on vacation again. Great job on last week's newsletter, everyone. It's nice to see so many responses. Thanks, everyone, and thanks Kent for your continuing efforts.

Personal License Plates - I only had personal plates once, and that was in Nevada because they were so cheap out there in the '90s. I had this license plate on my truck:



Write in to next week's newsletter and tell me what you think it means.

Hitchhiker - I haven't picked up a hitchhiker for many, many years. There are too many weirdos out there and I don't want to wind up shooting someone in self-defense. I did hitchhike a lot in my youth, however, and always got a ride. I guess times have changed some. I mostly remember hitch hiking from Rapids to the new Port Edwards swimming pool. We used to park our bikes and stand in front of Woolco and mostly got rides with people who worked in the mills and were on their way back to work after lunch. Then we'd hitch hike back around 4:00 PM and often the same people would pick us up again. And our bikes were always there when we got back. I guess times really have changed.

First time with a gun - When I was about 12 I bought a .22 rifle at Perry's Sport Shop. On nice fall afternoons, we'd put the gun across the handlebars of the bike and ride out to the woods on East Washington Street. No case, nothing, just a rifle across the handlebars of a bike. No problem, never got into any trouble, nothing. We'd go out and shoot some cans, trees, and maybe a squirrel or two if we got lucky. Then we'd sling the gun back across the handlebars and pedal home. Times have really changed.

Australia - No, we've never been to Australia. We went to New Zealand a couple of years ago, and it was the most beautiful, diverse, and interesting place we've ever been. While there, we talked with other tourists who had spent two weeks in Australia and one week in New Zealand. Most said that, after seeing both, they wished they would have spent all three weeks in New Zealand. We took Australia off our bucket list and vowed to return to New Zealand again soon, possibly this year to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

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**This week's topics:**

1. So, what's happening in your life?
2. What's the most important message you ever received?
3. Been acting/performing lately? Were you in a high school play/musical?
4. Got any health problems you'd like to share? Maybe one of the readers can help?
5. Did you ever go to a hootenanny? What's a hootenanny?
6. Who's winning?
7. Bill Hartley's personalized license plate - What does it mean?

**and responses:**

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Karen King

Never been to a hootenanny although I'd go if there was one in my neighborhood. Clarifying, if there was one with the old folk singers. Unlikely, right? I still drag out the vinyl to listen to the Chad Mitchell Trio, Mamas and Papas, Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins and Peter, Paul and Mary. The scratches just add to the nostalgia.

In high school I tried to be in all the musicals. I was never a primary player, always in the background or part of the dancing crew, but I did semi-star in a production of "Our Town" in 1998. I played Mrs. Webb which was really a stretch since she is described as a thin, crisp woman and I'm more of the ample, loquacious variety. No one ever asked me to be in a play again so I guess that says it all.

The license plate: Jeep 4/4

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Rosemary (Akkerman) Passer

1) John and I are doing something different this winter. We are becoming snowbirds. We will be heading for Texas for February, March, and April.

We didn't even get the snowmobiles out this year and John has only ice fished a few times. Guess he is finally getting tired of the cold too.

7) I have had a personalized license plate for at least 20 years now. QU1LT 4U. I had to substitute a 1 for the I because someone else was using it.

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Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64

Question 1 - I've joined the ranks of those who have had cataract surgery. My left eye was done a week ago, and I'm surprised at my improved vision in that eye. In two weeks, I'll have the surgery on my right eye. After putting this off for about a year, I decided to go ahead. I guess I was anxious about the cataract procedure, but "numbing" eye drops given right before made the short procedure quite bearable. Also some IV medication took care of the anxiety. Interesting how cataract symptoms come on gradually. For the past five years or so, I had noticed that I needed really good light to read, especially at night. Seeing halos around lights while driving at night is another symptom. Although I chose not to have laser surgery to correct my severe astigmatism, and therefore will still need glasses, I'll be seeing a brighter and clearer world after my right eye is done and both eyes should then be the same. I'll be getting new glasses to go with my "new" eyes!

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Gene Hafermann

I'm mostly replying to take a crack at Hartley's license plate.

But before I try that, here are my answers to some of your other questions.

I am still working hard on our new house and we hope to move in sometime in early February (assuming they allow that with the outside stone veneer and landscaping not yet done due to weather).

I think the most important message I remember was when my current wife sent a message to my Match.com post asking if I might be interested in a woman who was a few years older than me and above the limit I had set. Glad I said, "I might be," and after more information and pictures were exchanged, we met and hit it off. That was 11 years ago and I couldn't be happier.

I still perform music for weddings, funerals, and church services, but haven't acted since 1995. However, I may give that a go again next year since I know the president of the Middleton Players and have been asked to try out for musicals.

My recovery from prostate surgery is going well. When I am not doing so much physical labor like I am now with the house, it goes better. But I no longer like it as cold as it has been the last few days as it hurts in my chest.

I know what a hootenanny is and I did sing at some of those back in my college days.

Who's winning what? I bought three Powerball tickets and never match even one number in the drawing. My teams are out of the NFL playoffs, so I really don't care who wins, but I would rather it not be the Patriots. I think perhaps the people who are winning are the ones who are dying.

And now for the license plate.

I think the last 5 characters are 4x4 (as in a 4 wheel drive vehicle with the numbers in Roman Numerals). The GP could be for Grandpa, but I'm going to go with Jeep. I think perhaps JP was taken and so Bill changed it to GP. So for my guess I would say it means Jeep 4 by 4.

Thanks again for engaging us and compiling this newsletter.

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Candy Caylor

1. Not much now. I'm just trying to stay warm and dreaming of a tropical climate.
4. It was interesting hearing about those of you who had knee replacements. I'm still in the debating phase, but I know it will be in my not too distant future.
5. I remember hootenannies — folk music concerts. Remember, Toni? I loved Peter, Paul, and Mary and The Kingston Trio among others. I had their records and albums.

6. Who's winning what? I certainly didn't win the lottery and the Packers didn't win Sat.

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Leslie (Wolfe) Fitz, 1965

Most important message: On August 21, 1967 - seven days after I gave birth to our son in Wis. Rapids – I received word that my husband and our son's daddy was injured in Nam, that he would lose his arm and had serious facial injuries. An eternity later, I received word he was recuperating well, with no head trauma and he had not lost his arm. At age 20, we were blessed to learn that every day is a gift from God.

After seeing the movie, "13 Hours: Secret Soldiers of Benghazi," I feel inexpressible gratitude to every warrior who is serving and who has served our nation. Likewise, I am disgusted and outraged by the inaction of an untrustworthy and unsupportive government.

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