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**From:** The Vasbys <kvasby@smallbytes.net>  
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**Subject:** Lincoln High Newsletter - 12/17/15

## Lincoln High Newsletter

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### Ed note:

**There will be no newsletter next week.**



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### Responses to previous topics:

Nancy Arnold Witt

Thanks for the good read about senior health. I commend all who went through their surgeries, health issues, etc. and still came out with positive feelings and thoughts. I feel for what you did go through as I've been lucky with good health and good joints, etc. Thanks for sharing.

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### This week's topics:

1. Ever been in a mine? What kind? Why?
2. Ever work for an airline? Pilot, flight attendant, desk, maintenance? Any interesting stories?
3. Does your home have solar or wind power? Saving any money after you include cost & maintenance?
4. Where and when did you eat out last? What did you have? Anything unusual?
5. 500+ of you readers have never responded to "what have you done since graduation?" Wanna try now?

6. Is there anyone NOT running for president that you think should be running?

7. Father Knows Best - Editor has been watching reruns of that 50's show on Antenna TV. There was always a good "moral" (lesson, message, meaning, significance, point, teaching) to the story. What "morals" do current TV programs teach?

8. Your most unforgettable person is?

9. Insurance claims - Did your insurance rates go up more than the claim?

10. Anything else you'd care to write about.

**and responses:**

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Chris Gorski

Merry Christmas to everyone and warm wishes for a happy, healthy new year. Here you go:

In elementary school I attended mostly parochial schools, especially in the early years. In those years, Sister LaNore was my favorite nun because she took the time to get to know you as a person. I wanted to become an Alter Boy and she not only encouraged me to become one, she stayed after class and helped me to learn the mass in Latin. Most of the other nuns I had as teachers growing up seemed to be very strict, not very caring and they did not take the time to get to know their students. Sister LaNore used positive reinforcement to bring out your true potential, making you taking pride in your accomplishments. I'm hoping that there are still a few K1 through K8 teachers that take the time to get to know their students as persons and not as just pupils.

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Marcie [ Basler] Ortscheid '65 - [marcie.ortscheid@ki.com](mailto:marcie.ortscheid@ki.com)

I don't watch a lot of television, just can't stand the stupid laughs that are so fake It makes me want to be sick, also how everything that is said is be funny, or how they talk to each other. So my way of boycotting is to just not watch. If I didn't like to watch football and the news and weather in the morning I would just get rid of my television. I don't know how some of those shows stay on the air.

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Lenore Haferman - [lenorehaferman@yahoo.com](mailto:lenorehaferman@yahoo.com)

We have a passive solar home, I guess we were early, we built 32 years ago, we love it. We built for the long run so we are doing good, our heating bills are half of our friends.

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Jim Nickel (LHS '65) - [jnickel206@aol.com](mailto:jnickel206@aol.com)

Thanks for all the time you spend on your newsletters. We enjoy them.

In another life (1970's) I was a new Systems Engineer for Motorola in our Cleveland, Ohio office. After several high profile mine accidents, we thought using new UHF high frequency radio communications could aid the companies operationally and in emergencies. If it would work, miners could use small portable radios to communicate instead of walking to fixed telephones.

As the "new guy", I got the challenge. A consultant said these frequencies would not work because of mine tunnel geometry. I just felt a different approach might work. I tested some new ideas in the US Bureau of Mines test mine near Pittsburgh and visited dozens of coal mines, salt mines and subway tunnels.

My last mine visit was to a US Steel long-wall coal mine in West Virginia. The mine height was the width of the coal seam, about three feet. Here the coal on the mine face is removed and then they wait for the roof to fall in before advancing. This is something one has to experience, especially after crawling a hundred feet on hands and knees from the larger tunnel. The experimental radio system worked great, but that trip diminished any further desire to go underground.

With engineering and experimentation, I was able to develop a leaky coax system that is now the standard used in underground radio systems around the world. When the English and French were designing the "Chunnel" under the English Channel in the 90's, I was asked to lead the final design reviews on the radio systems used for security, operations, maintenance and telemetry. Some ideas withstand the test of time.

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Pete Smullen - [pete\\_smullen@hotmail.com](mailto:pete_smullen@hotmail.com)

1. Ever been in a mine? What kind? Why?

Quite a few, including a uranium mine in Idaho, several gold mines in Colorado and Wyoming, and a copper mine in Utah, but the last one was the neatest. It is called the Sterling Hill Mine and it is located in Ogdensburg, New Jersey. It is considered the world's best place to see fluorescent minerals and is often called the "Fluorescent Capital of the World".

We brought our two grandsons there two years ago. The tour of the mine is really fantastic ... when they turn off the regular lights and turn on the ultraviolet lights, the walls simply glow with vivid colors. The mine was active until the 1960s; they mined zinc. The website for the museum is: <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/>

3. Do your home have solar or wind power? Saving any money after you include cost & maintenance?

Back in the '80s, when there were substantial subsidies, tax breaks and grants, we purchased and had a solar hot water heater installed. If we had to pay full price, it would not have paid for itself, but after all the incentives, we saved about \$200 per year on our electric bill.

However, the best part of having it was in 1985 when hurricane Gloria visited us ... we were without power for eight days but, thanks to that solar hot water heater, we had plenty of wonderful, fabulous, luxurious hot water for showers. Between that and cooking on the gas grille, we survived quite nicely.

"My goal was to lose ten pounds this year ... only twenty to go."

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Bill & Shirley Hartley - [toyguy5538@aol.com](mailto:toyguy5538@aol.com)

Ever been in a mine? Yes, several times in several different mines. We lived in Reno, NV for five years when I worked for Porsche. There were many abandoned mines all over Nevada. A group of us would go on off-road exploring trips quite often, and almost every one involved exploring at least one mining site, including remains of the buildings and the mine if possible.



One trip took eight of us north of Lovelock, NV into the mountains to an abandoned mine in a ghost town called Seven Troughs. In a valley about 20 miles up, we came across a grass air strip. From our vantage point, we could see there was just one road in and out. We always wondered who put that in and what they used it for. Further up the mountain, we came across a large safe lying in the wash next to the cleared road. The door was open, and looked like it had been there many, many years. Closer to the top of the mountain, we found the mine.



There was some abandoned machinery scattered around, and even the hulks of a couple of trucks from the 1930s. Pretty cool stuff. The mine, however, was locked up. Many abandoned mines in Nevada were cemented closed for safety reasons in the 70s and 80s.

One trip led eight of us to Bodie, CA, a state-maintained ghost town for tourists.

After checking out Bodie, attending an Indian ceremony, and spending the night, we drove back to Reno over Brawley Peak and around Powell Mountain and down to Hawthorne, NV. The dirt road over Brawley Peak runs from California into Nevada. The state line marker is a tree on the outside of the trail with CA spray painted in yellow on one side, and NV on the other. Once into Nevada, we came upon a mining site where several buildings including the multi-story mill were partially remaining. While the girls were exploring the first floor of the partially collapsed mill building, they heard a loud noise coming from upstairs. Since the guys were in another area on the site with the guns, they screamed for help and ran out of the building. As we explored the building with guns drawn to see what scared them, we heard the noise also. Just as we were about to go upstairs to see what it was, a fox came running down the stairs and out the door so fast, headed straight for the girls who had regrouped across the lot. We heard the screams again as they scattered. Turns out, it was a rather small fox that was more afraid of us than we were of him. We also found that a large sheet of the tin roof had fallen onto the upstairs floor, and the noise was the fox running on it.

We also took a guided tour of a silver mine in Virginia City, NV.



The city sits on top of the Comstock Lode, once the richest silver deposit in the world. The city is a bustling tourist attraction today. The mine entrance was in the back room of a bar on the main street. It was very interesting. The ore cars and tracks were still down there, as was some of the digging equipment and safety equipment of the day. The tour included a history of the gold and silver boom and mining operations in Virginia City. I would highly recommend it for anyone visiting the area.

There was an abandoned open mine shaft in Peavine Mountain, which was less than two miles from our house. We aren't sure what kind of mine it was, but it was really cool. The opening was about 4 feet high and 3 feet wide, and it went about 6 feet into the mountain. There it opened up into a large "room" with several horizontal shafts going in different directions into the granite mountain. During several visits, we explored each of them as far in as we felt comfortable, but never found anything really interesting. About 20 yards into the largest shaft, there was a shaft that went down off the left side. Our powerful flashlights couldn't see the bottom. I'm glad none of us fell down there.

This was a really cool site, and it was close enough that we could ride our motorcycles, or drive the 4x4s up to it in just a few minutes, so we went and explored it often. It was a regular site for the many visitors we had while living in Reno. Obviously, you don't want to attempt this sort of exploration without exercising caution and having the proper equipment. We carried several high powered lights, ropes, etc. and were always very careful.

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Chad Lewis - [chad.a.lewis@comcast.net](mailto:chad.a.lewis@comcast.net)

Visited a coal mine in Beckley, WV some years ago that's now used for tourists. Oppressive! Miners were paid in scrip to be used at the Co store & had to buy their own lamp oil for their miner's hats, etc. No way to ever get out of the cycle except by dying.

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Randy Cox - [wi9cox@gmail.com](mailto:wi9cox@gmail.com)

If Trump doesn't run (he's the change we need) I'll write in Ryan (who should have ran) . Clinton is just another Obama (both cowards) my opinions don't matter---except to me.

Who do I miss? (besides relatives and freinds) the rat pack, john wayne and elvis. I'm a brett farve fan,so any team that beats the packers is my team, broncos are my favorite.

Got my amateur extra liscense in ham radio, yay for me.

Merry Christmas to one and all and thankyou thankyou very much! randy cox (coxy)

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**Supper in the Fifties**  
**Thanks, Gene Santoski**

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Rice was a pudding, a favorite dessert at our house.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating; lard and fat were for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapple came in chunks in a tin...we had only seen a picture of a real one.

Water came from the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The things that we never ever had on at our table in the fifties...were elbows, hats and cell phones!