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LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER

This week's topics:

1. Why is it when the government gets involved, the price goes up?
2. Memories of Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County public parks
3. Memories of elementary school buildings. Not teachers, just the buildings. Anything notable about the rooms, grounds or whatever?
4. Anyone still using a reel mower?
5. If you've never written, where are you and what are you doing these days?
6. Have you gotten used to "getting old?"
7. What did your parents or siblings do that drove you nuts?

and responses:

Wendy (Davis) Weiss

Somehow, I missed the question on the white bass run in Fremont. Ward and I live next to the river. When we were first married you could almost jump from boat to boat. It was not unusual to catch 100 white bass in a short amount of time. It took longer to clean them. It doesn't seem like the run is quite like that these days. We are happy to share our dock and always enjoy company. Stop by if you are in town.

Dick Trudeau - Class of '64

Only recently did I become aware of the LHS Newsletter. What a treat it has been to be reminded of the kids I grew up with. Thanks for your efforts. I'll gladly make my share of contributions while my memory banks are still functioning.

I graduated in 1964 and my wife Merry (Aschenbrenner) followed in 1965. I graduated from Whitewater in 1969 with majors in accounting and finance. That same year we packed up the boys and headed for a Yellowstone vacation. The mountains and wide open spaces of the West grabbed hold of us and wouldn't let go. The following year I passed the CPA exam and went out west to find new employment. We've been in Idaho for 47 years now, but the fond memories of growing up in Wisconsin Rapids have never faded.

I retired in 2002 after working 30 years for the federal government. Merry worked for the same agency and retired in 2006. What agency you might ask? OK, we worked for the Internal Revenue Service. I retired as an International Tax

Specialist and Merry was the Taxpayer Advocate for the Idaho district. We play hard and take advantage of all the outdoor activities Idaho has to offer.

When it comes to memories of Wood County Parks, the White Sand and Red Sand beaches come to mind. Bike rides, sunburns, and swimming out to the raft were part of it. It's amazing nobody drowned in the spillway below the dam. Thankfully, it's all fenced off now. Ask about city parks someday. I could write a book on Robinson Park.

When it comes to elementary school buildings I believe the class of '64 has the distinction of being the first class to start and finish grade school (K-8th) at the new Howe School. The building's newness precludes anything unique, but I still remember the teachers letting us put our wet mittens on the heat registers after recess. I can still remember Mr. Helke (the custodian) running around making sure all the rooms were properly heated. Every once in a while, we would get a peek into the teachers lounge where they were puffing away. In second grade I had to attend the Irving School for some reason. It was the year the second grade class at the Irving school was used as guinea pigs for the new polio vaccine. I didn't know it at the time, but every second grader in the country was a guinea pig. Polio Pioneers they called us. Good thing it worked! The building was a relic in 1952, and amazingly it was still standing the last time I was in Rapids.

I don't feel old yet, but I am getting weary of talking to people our age about surgeries and grandkids. We hike, bike, cross country ski and ride everything with a motor. My grandson wants me to climb Mt. Borah (12,562 ft.) with him again this year and I think I will do it.

Nick Brazeau

5. I have seldom written but wanted to add to my response last week regarding working after 65. My good friends Alan Grischke, Leon Schmidt and Bill Metcalf are also still practicing law here in Whiskey Rapids (Grischke in Wausau) at age 72. We began grade school together and all graduated in the class of 1963 from Lincoln. We started at the old Howe school in 1950 and walked single file to the new Howe school for our second semester of kindergarten.

Enjoying a wonderful spring here in Rapids.

Roger Fritz -

#6 I think getting old is a continuous process. I conceded that I'm on the downhill side of life and constantly remind myself that if I don't do "it" now, "it" won't be easier later and may never get done.

#3 Mead school was under construction when I started kindergarten. I had to walk past it on the way to Edison School. (Now the west side fire station). We stopped to watch the workers building it. I remember talking to one guy who told us he was a stock car racer and only did building for fun (I don't think it was Dick Trickle). Also recall the whole Edison crowd marching in line to the new shiny Mead. The Edison was very tall and dark. The Mead was very short and light colored. Both only had two floors. Bet they saved a lot on the cost of bricks and stair treads.

#1 I have way too many responses. You don't want to get me started!!

Ron Karnatz

My grandfather worked for Consolidated Papers (CPI) for over 40 years, making patterns for castings for various machines. My dad worked for CPI for 45 years and retired as millwright supervisor. I worked three summers as vacation relief and that was incentive to study harder when I went back to school each fall. I eventually was hired by CPI and worked for 25 years as the Health Services Supervisor until CPI was purchased by Stora Enso. I was "retired" at that time. My wife worked 25 years for CPI, some part time relief and some full time.

My brother worked for Castle Rock Container (which was a part of CPI) for many years. Both of my kids worked as summer vacation relief. As you can see, the family has had a long and profitable history with the paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids.

On one of the other topics, fishing runs. After leaving the Army, I went back to school in Oshkosh and would fish on the rivers around Oshkosh during the white bass runs. Caught many fish. Haven't done that since leaving Oshkosh.

Thanks again for keeping the newsletter going. I do try to sent something once in awhile. I wish more people would do so.

Sue (Christensen) Weimer

I grew up looking at Lake Wazeecha out my back door. Wasn't able to go down to the water without an adult until I knew how to swim. By the age of 6, my friend Pam and I knew how to swim well enough to go to White Sand Beach together without adults along. So many summers spent at that beach... we would ride our bikes there and just leave them up by the beach house without any locks. Nobody took them. Sure couldn't do that now. We rode our bikes everywhere: through the park, across the lake to Kellner and to Red Sand Beach and beyond. Was a Lifeguard at White Sand Beach the summer I graduated from Lincoln. My growing up years were the BEST. If I had the chance, I would love to live that time in my life again, during that era. Now, when I go out that way, it brings back some wonderful memories.

Pete Smullen

6. Have you gotten used to "getting old?" -- HELL NO! I'm too young to be this old.

7. What did your parents or siblings do that drove you nuts? -- Um... everything? I was the youngest of five. They were all into "torture" of some sort. I did manage to take care of one problem when I was young. My sister Annette used to tickle me and tickle me until I cried. One day I finally decided to take a stand... and hit her in the nose. She never tickled me again.

Barbara Camack

The lines and achy bones are fine, but every time I see the doctor, dentist or dermatologist the news is never good. I guess we just wear out when we pass 65 years old. Whenever I'm golfing, I never know who shows up to play; just glad I'm walking on green grass and not looking up at brown roots!

Don Wiley

1. Government driving the price up: In the late 1980s, under the Regan administration, there was an effort to sell the satellite part of the National Weather Service. The government would still have to develop and launch satellites and run the weather forecasting models.

When Ric Santorum was a Pennsylvania senator he annually proposed a bill to get the NWS out of forecasting and leave it to private firms and TV stations. The satellite sale to Comcast almost went through until the Government Accountability Agency (who's job is to watch Federal agencies) found out that the Comcast bid would cost far more than what the agency --the National Ocean and Atmospheric Admin (NOAA)-- was spending. As for Santorum's bills, they even ticked off a friend of mine who is a NOAA employee from Pennsylvania and a loyal Republican. They never made it out of senate committees. So on my end, transferring government weather functions would all be very costly to the tax payer and we all have no confidence in the quality of what private firms do.

2. County parks: loved Lake Wazeecha and grew up skiing at Power's Bluff.

3. Grade school buildings: Chris Mathis (my apologies to Chris for misspelling), Tim Foley and I all are graduates of Seneca Township's Altdorf school. Its a one room solid brick building. Its still standing on County D but missing its most notable features--the white outhouses, the swings, and the bell on the roof.

Sounds romantic but the education quality was far less than the rest of you got. We had one teacher for 24 kids spread over 8 grades. Language was one of the subjects our poor over-worked teacher had dropped or minimized so I'm struggling writing about it. The best feature was the heating system - a big octopus (gravity flow w/o fan) coal/wood fired furnace which the teacher had to stoke a couple of times during the day. It was great for drying kids and gloves after playing in the snow. Running water--this was the privilege of the 8th graders that ran over to a farmer's well across the road and carried it back.

Toni Olsen

3. Memories of school buildings: I went to S.S. Peter and Paul Catholic School (now closed) for grades 1 and 2, and I remember that the windows were quite tall. Before the days of air conditioning, we needed some open windows in the spring. The nuns would use long wooden poles with a hook on the end to open and close the windows.

6. Adjusting to "getting old:" Sometimes I look in the mirror and see a blend of my mother and father looking back at me. Just for a fleeting moment. I can understand why actors and actresses opt for plastic surgery at a certain age, but surgery can't really bring back the face of youth.

7. My parents were both heavy smokers, and I didn't like growing up in a smoke-filled house--especially in winter. Some things are beyond our control. Glad I never started smoking, and I guess I can thank my parents indirectly for that.

One more thing: Has anyone noticed that today's first graders are reading at a more advanced level than we were at that age? My first-grade grandson and his friends are reading the Harry Potter books. I was reading the "Dick and Jane" books in first grade, with simple sentences like "See Spot run." Amazing.

Chris Gorski

1. Why does the price go up when the govt makes purchases?

My Company was a GSA and Military Base Contractor and we provided a variety of beverage equipment that we manufactured. Unlike selling to a restaurant chain or a food and beverage distributor or dealer, selling to the govt whether it be a military base or an administrative arm, the compliance paper work was a headache especially when only one item was specified. Additionally, an on-site inspection was performed both of the item/s being purchased plus the paperwork that was required. So, built into the govt's unit price was the amount of hours required in completing all of the paper work and the time spent with inspectors prior to shipment of the Order. Typically, this additional compliance work added 15% to the normal wholesaler cost of the item. On a large quantity Order, the added cost to the govt reached \$15 to \$20,000. Then, of course, because it is not the requisitioning party's money, they do not question the up-charge amounts. When you're not spending your own money, no one cares what it costs.

2. Parks in the Rapids: Robinson Park was, in my opinion, the nicest park in the Rapids. Two or three times a summer my parents and my brothers and I would Order B roasted chicken from the Chicken Hut along with some sides items and go over to the Park and have a picnic. It was a large park with playground equipment and many picnic benches. The pine trees added an adventurous atmosphere making it seem that your were far up north. It is no wonder that that is where we played our first Little League games when the league started. And boy, was that chicken good. Not many restaurants have the B roaster Franchise anymore. Instead, they deep-fry their chicken.

Randy Cox - wi9cox@gmail.com

The government does what they "think" is best for everyone as long as it fits their interests, not ours. The "government " could be just one person or several, but not all. Prices go up when "they" serve special interests. Won't have to worry about any of that none to soon.----

Oh so many good memories of Wisconsin rapids, wouldn't give those up for any thing in the world. Were there public parks back then?---- the school buildings we were at were just fine, there are still many like them,again--good memories.--

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My sister (Charlene) uses a reel lawnmower.----

Getting OLD, my wife tells me everyday. Who would have ever guessed what it would be like? Just turned 70 or was it 29? We're born, we live, we die! No big deal as long as we can like ourselves.---- the only person who drove me nuts was me, getting better though. I don't like the word sibling, say brothers and sisters instead or is that too many letters for anyone? Growing up with 8 brothers and sisters was not nuts, it was fun even with the good and bad things. Parents-they were just that,miss them. Sorry I didn't detail much,but I don't like texting. Talking is a different story.

Pete Smullen - pete_smullen@hotmail.com

I recently "discovered" a box of goodies I didn't know I had. The attached picture was taken at an Assumption High basketball game sometime between 1959 and 1962. I wonder how many people can find themselves in it.

