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Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 5/4/17

Lincoln High Newsletter

RE: Vince Biegel getting drafted by the Packers

Barb Thalacker -- Cousin of my cousin too. Yippee

Roger Fritz -- I also always liked him for his connection to cranberries. Now maybe he can buy his own or a larger bog. <http://www.agdaily.com/video/biegel-wisconsin-cranberry-farmer-nfl-draft/> My good friend in Massachusetts had a small bog and I had great fun helping him, especially at harvest time. We once lived for 17 years in the town of Lakeville, MA, where Ocean Spray has their headquarters. Do you remember the Cranberry parades in Rapids or "the cranberry scare?"

Nancy Timm -- AWESOME! Let's hope he does us (as well as himself) proud! Thanks for the update!

Toni Olsen -- Great news about Vince Biegel getting drafted by the Packers. He has such deep roots in the Rapids and is also the grandson of Susie Eichorn Dempze, LHS class of '64.

This week's topics:

1. Remembering the toys of our childhood: what were they?
2. How many pets have you had over the years? Do you remember their names?
3. Mainline churches are losing members. How's your local church doing?
4. It's tick season once again. Have you had Lyme disease? Any lasting effects?
5. One of the readers is considering having both knees replaced at once. Have any of you done that? How did it work out?
6. Do you participate in organized exercise? How's it working?
7. What's the funniest thing that happened to you or someone you know?
8. Do you think Christians in America are being persecuted? How?
9. Have you ever experienced someone "speaking in tongues?"
10. It's severe weather time. Do you have a generator to supply electricity to your home if the power goes out? Used it?

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

and responses:

Bill Cammack

Barb (Martin) and I live in The Villages, Florida. This is a retirement community of around 110,000 mostly old people. The churches around here are flourishing. Most churches have had to add on, and, once the additions are completed, they have to add on again or open branch churches (if that's what they are called).

The only explanation I can come up with is that we are all getting close to the end and everyone wants to hedge his or her bets!

Don Solie

5. My wife has had both knees replaced, but they were two years apart. Prior to the replacements the left knee had two meniscus surgeries and the right knee had one meniscus surgery. She played tennis for 20 years winning city team and individual championships in the many communities we called home: Indianapolis, Atlanta, Austin, Dallas, Oak Brook (Chicago), and San Diego. Claims she'd do it all again. She had a friend in Ft. Worth who had both done at once and got through the rehab okay. She had to have both done together because of other medical issues. Most surgeons prefer not to do both at once because the recovery and rehab require real commitment and dedication. I have a friend who had both replaced but waited six weeks for the second.

3. We've been affiliated with Presbyterian and Methodist (current) and experienced pretty level membership. We're changing to a United Methodist in McKinney, TX, in two weeks (we move on May 16th) and it is growing steadily due in part to the expanding community growth. Here in the DFW area we've experienced a steady level of membership in Lutheran, Baptist, and the afore mentioned churches.

8. Persecution of Christians in the US is difficult to assess since geographically definitions of Christians may vary, and the sources of alleged persecution can be dependent on the source of the information. Our experience has been persecution free, but in the nation the number of regularly attending Christians has been declining.

Candace Caylor

1. I wasn't much for dolls but I loved playing outdoors. I had my own bat and played "baseball" with the neighbor kids. I did love playing jacks and pick-up-stix. My dad did make me a doll house that I actually played with. I played board games. Candyland was my favorite. Going back to last week's subject—I lived on Irving Street midway between Irving School and Robinson Park. The neighbor kids and I would play in the park. In those days you could go without your parents and have no fear. The only stipulation was to not go near the "bum jungle." That was down an embankment near the train tracks. Of course we would go down there. Never saw a bum.

2. I've had many cats. I can't remember all their names. The last few I owned here in Milwaukee were Scotch, Tequi, Coco, Minty, Squeaky, Squirt, and now Pepper and Ginger. No, I didn't have them all a once! I also owned two small Lasa Apsos, but did not have enough time to spend with them because of the crazy nursing shift hours. I'm just an animal lover.

3. I do think the mainline churches have lost members to the large nondenominational churches. My local church--Congregational--is a charter church and is doing quite well.

5. I'm still contemplating knee surgery but not both at once.

Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64

1. Toys of our childhood: I remember Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, puzzles of all kinds, yo-yos, doll houses made of metal or aluminum, wooden blocks, and balsa wood airplanes. You can still get the balsa wood airplanes. I saw some recently that said "Made in USA," believe it or not. My husband Larry has a cool "rocket bank" from his childhood. It's made of cast aluminum and has the name of a Chicago Savings and Loan Association on the side. You place a coin on the rocket, pull back on a spring-loaded little plane, and the coin shoots into the part of the bank that looks like a little world globe. That's my trip down memory lane for today.

Roger Fritz

#1 My dad once gave me a new Schwinn Black Phantom bicycle. I could tell that his tastes in bicycles were not the same as mine. It had a built-in horn and light and I thought it was really ugly. Pops was such a nice guy that I couldn't tell him, so I rode it. Sometimes other kids wanted to give it a try so I was happy to trade with them. Chris Gorski had a real "beater" which I would have gladly traded for in a heartbeat except for Pops. In about 2009, I saw my same old Black Phantom in the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

#3 There are few Episcopalians, Lutherans or Presbyterians native to southwest Virginia, so they formed this combined church made up of mostly older retired folks from the northern US. It's really booming, pardon the expression, and I expect it will continue to do so as long as people kept retiring and moving south for the better weather. The other churches in the area also seem to be doing well, probably because the South is less secular.

Dick Trudeau LHS '64

I could address a number of your subjects, but I will limit my reply to the "pet" question. I assume hunting dogs qualify as pets. We have had a number of hunting dogs since we moved to Idaho in 1970, but one has a particularly interesting story to it.

The story actually starts my junior year at LHS. In that year, I was on the varsity basketball team. Coach Rheel wanted to bring up 6'8" Bruce Ristow from the sophomore squad, either because of his exceptional ability or my lack thereof. In any event, they cut me from the squad in order to make room for Bruce.

Fast forward 40 years to 2003. I needed to replace my Brittany Spaniel bird dog. My hunting buddy told me NOT to get a "field trials" dog. Instead he advised me to get a "gun" dog. "Where do I get a 'gun' dog?" I asked. The best "gun" dogs in the country are raised by Tainter Creek Kennels in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin. I googled "Tainter Creek Kennels" and who do you think the owner is? 300 million people in the country and 6 million people in Wisconsin and I need to buy a bird dog from the guy who bumped me off the LHS basketball team 40 years earlier. Bruce and his wife Sue developed an outstanding strain of Brittany bird dogs that were just what I was looking for.

I contacted Bruce and jokingly suggested he owed me a favor. He laughed and said moving up to Varsity was the worst thing that could have happened to him. He was a star on the JVs, but "rode the pine" on the Varsity. In any event, Bruce found me a dog and put it on a plane to Idaho. She's the BEST dog that ever lived! Thanks again, Bruce.

Kent Vasby - Fort Atkinson Class of '58

1. Had the usual Lincoln Logs and erector set but Dad also got me a functional toy steam engine to power the things I made with the erector set.
 2. First dog I remember was Blackie, dad's hunting lab. We've had two dogs, Doc and Marlo. Cats have been around since my 16-year-old daughter brought home a pregnant female from our neighbor. Currently have Calli, a calico cat.
 3. The Methodist church in America is hurting. But our local United Methodist Church is doing OK because we use scripture as our base, not the social gospel.
 8. Persecuted Christians? Trump's executive order this morning did much to alleviate that here in the US. At least until some 9th Circuit judge rules otherwise.
 9. Haven't needed a generator since the ice storm of 1976. Was working at Monkey Ward in Fort Atkinson at the time and when I woke up and went outside and heard all the tree branches snapping off, I figured it was time to have one. Drove to the store and bought the only one we had in stock. Took it home and powered the furnace and coffee maker for five days. Used it at several other homes in Cambridge to get their homes warm, at least for a short time.
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