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LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER

This week's topics:

1. Ever bet money on anything?
2. Your memories of steam locomotives in the Rapids.
3. Your memories of the white bass "run" in the river. If you had white bass in the river, that is.
4. What's in a name? What's your middle name? How did your parents arrive at it?
5. Memories of you or your parents working at the paper mills.
6. Ever studied a martial art?
7. Your memories of elementary school principals.
8. You're older than 65 and still working? Doing what?
9. Some folks seem to think that we're not animals. What do you think?
10. Whatever else.

and responses:

Kathy Gotter

#7. I only went to Children's Choice for 8th grade but made wonderful friends and our principal was Mr. Feutz. He was an outstanding administrator but an even better person. I remember him with great affection over the years. We all had so many great times at that small rural school. One of the highlights of our 50th class reunion was the 8th grade class reunion Saturday. It was like time stood still although we all looked just a smidge older.

Marcie [Basler] Ortscheid '65

#1. Here at the office we have a football pool that I am in. It's only a \$1 each week. We can win at halftime and then again for the total score. It's fun but I will never get rich on it.

#8 I am over 65 and still working full time. I keep saying I am going to retire. Then, when the time comes around, I just stay. Don't know what I would do with my day if I didn't have to come in here and put in my 40 hours. Plus as crazy as it sounds I really like my job and I have the best supervisor.

Larry Davis

Lived at the end of 4th Street where the hospital is now. I would wave to the train engineer. The tracks and bridge are gone. Calvin Hagen was principal at Howe. One day his son Curtis and I were called to his office for throwing snowballs. Of course, Aaron Ritchay was principal at Lincoln. He was short in stature but a real iron-fisted boss.

Peter Parsons

I marvel at how many topics you can come up with week after week.

Steam locomotives: Up until I was 10 years old, we lived on 13th Avenue South and Chase Street. The Chase Street railroad crossing was always busy with rail traffic. Being a block away, we could run down to the corner to see the trains. This would have been the early 1950s. There were still a few steam engines operating at that time. I remember that I believed the steam from the locos formed the clouds in the sky. There were four major railroads that ran through Rapids at that time: Green Bay & Western, Chicago & North Western, Soo Line, and Milwaukee Road, the last one being the one that took myself and Larry Johnson to basic training in 1966. I have always been fascinated by trains. I have been on most of the passenger lines throughout the country. My longest trip was Miami to San Francisco in the mid 1970s. My most recent trip was last year, Milwaukee to San Diego.

There was a hobo camp located about a block south of Chase which we use to sneak over to. Never saw a hobo though. It's interesting how the word hobo was derived. Anyone care to elaborate? I am currently building a scale (HO) model railroad that will be loosely patterned after the mid 1950s to early 1960s Wisconsin Rapids. Life is good...

Nick Brazeau

8. Greetings. I am still practicing law full-time here in Wisconsin Rapids, which I have been doing since 1971. My office is now located in the Flatiron Building, which was previously occupied by attorneys Bill Nobles and John Jeffrey.

My grandfather, Theodore W. Brazeau, was born in Wisconsin Rapids in 1873. He was three years old when Custer had his "last stand" and died in 1965. He practiced law in Rapids from 1900 to 1964. His son Richard practiced law in Rapids from the mid 1940s until he died in 1968.

At age 71, I handle Real Estate, Estate Planning, Probate and Business Law. My son, Nick Jr., is a Circuit Judge here in Wood County. I can't imagine retiring.

Jan (Van Stedum) Decker

For the past year, I have been working part-time as a RN in a nursing home. Previously I did hospital and hospice nursing. Still love caring for people.

Bill Hartley

1. I am not really the betting or gambling type in the true sense of the word, and didn't spend much money gambling, even when we lived in Reno. In the casinos, I'm more of a buffet guy rather than a slot machine guy. But I do enjoy betting on cars. Since I retired in 2002, I have been buying and selling late-model muscle cars, and I guess that is like gambling--hoping to make a profit on them. I am not a dealer, so I only buy one or two a year, and only one at a time. I buy the muscle cars, hopefully at a reasonable price, drive them in my other business, and then sell them off when I get

tired of them, hopefully at a profit. I've had a couple of 2006 GTO's, a Pontiac G8 GT, a couple of new Chevrolet Caprice police cars (2011 and 2014), and most recently a 2004 Corvette convertible. All worked out remarkably well, so I'm currently buying a 2014 Camaro SS convertible. (It will be for sale in a few months.) Might as well have fun while doing business.

2. None. How old do you think I am? I remember one permanently grounded at the zoo, though.
3. When I lived in Rapids, the water in the river was coffee-colored and it foamed when it got stirred up on the rocks. No way would I eat a fish from that river! I understand it is really nice and clean now.
4. My middle name is Sumner. Quite old fashioned, not one you hear much today. It came from my father (Sumner Walter Hartley) and his dad, who was Walter Sumner Hartley. Grandpa was a conductor on the Milwaukee Road passenger trains out of Dubuque, Iowa.
5. My parents didn't work at the paper mill and neither did I. My dad worked at Fey Publishing and my mom at the Sugar Bowl. Shirley's dad and brothers worked at the mill, though. Two still do.
6. Nope, other than in the Army basic training.
7. I attended Howe School my whole 9 years (K-8). The only principal I remember was Calvin Hagen. I remember him as a nice guy who always had time to talk to us kids. I don't remember any forced marches to his office, though.
8. I'm well past 65 and still working part time, mostly because I enjoy it. I have my own business conducting product liability investigations for auto makers (airbag non-deployments, brake failures, vehicle fires, etc.). I am also a certified hazmat shipper, and I ship airbags, fuel system components, etc., that have been replaced under warranty back to the factories for product study. I try to work no more than three days a week, but pretty much take assignments when they come. It's very enjoyable to me, so not really work.
9. Thinking back to some of the parties we had in our younger days, the people who think we are not animals may be wrong. That's all I'm going to say about that.

Roger Fritz

#2 I remember the East Grand Avenue loop at the old train station. (It was the east side turn-around of choice for kids cruising through town.) Once, a large black steam engine was starting off from the station, heading towards Port Edwards, and let out a blast of white horizontal steam all the way over to the grain elevator (later a lumber store). I think that engine, or one like it, ended up at the rapids zoo, where it was easy to get over the chain link fence and play on it.

#8 I'm retired but am thinking of getting a job so that I can get some time off.

Kaaren (Berg) Brehmer

4. My parents named me Karen. When they called my paternal grandfather, he asked what they had named me. "Oh, Kaaren, you mean!" he said. I finally have resorted to telling people that it is pronounced like "the *car* in the garage." I spelled it with one "A" in the beginning until Karen Goetzke entered my class at school. I then added another "A" so the teacher would know which papers belonged to each of us.

My dad was a machinist at Consolidated the whole time we were growing up. He always worked the day shift and had most weekends off. He worked until he had several strokes. The doctor said he could continue to work. John Natwick

had just started advocating for people with disabilities and was able to get a settlement and early retirement for my dad.

The principal at Immanuel Lutheran when I was there was DeForest (Bud) Kersten. He also taught 8th grade. We could always tell where he was by the smell of the cherry tobacco that he smoked in his pipe.

I am still working part-time. I just finished working in the Hallmark store in the Rapids mall and will soon start my summer job in Boulder Junction. I have been lucky to have understanding bosses and coworkers. They both are anxious to have me back for another season. After 37 years of being the boss, it's a pleasure to just show up, do my job, and then go home. I like getting paid too--that didn't happen often when I worked before.

Linda Edwards

I remember fishing for white bass at Fremont, WI. It was a good time, but very crowded.

My middle name is my mother's first name. She, interestingly, did not have a middle name.

My father worked at the Biron mill for many years. I remember a time when he was on strike and had to work in the cranberry bogs for a while.

For about four years, in my late 40s, I studied karate. Should have done it at an earlier age.

At 69, I'm still working, but not full-time. I spend about seven months a year in a semi-truck (Allied Van Lines) with my sweetheart. We load and deliver quite often--too often--by ourselves. Can't always get help during the busy season.

Lenore Haferman

Yes, we are still working. Jim is 74 and he is an attorney and has no plans of stopping. I am 72 and have five part-time jobs. I teach dance at Dance Dynamics, I am a tour guide for Lamers going all over the US and Canada, I do subbing when I am home, and I work part time at our office. As you can see I keep my self busy.

Lynn DeLong

1. Ever bet money on anything? While working as an Agent for the Justice Department, I backed up the team doing wire taps on bookies during the Super Bowl and NCAA Finals by doing surveillance and placing bets with bookies.

2. Your memories of steam locomotives in the Rapids? I remember contributing for the purchase of a steam locomotive for the Rapids Zoo. The last time I saw it, it was very rusted.

3. Your memories of the white bass "run" in the river. If you had white bass in the river, that is. -- Not in Wisconsin, but in Texas they would bite on every cast.

6. Ever studied a martial art? I work at a YMCA that had a Judo program. I learned how to fall and make my opponents fall. At the University, I took fencing and joined the team competing in all three weapons: foil, epee, and saber. These all helped when I was in law enforcement and taught Close Quarter Combat.
