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Lincoln High Newsletter

Editor's note:

There will be NO NEWSLETTER next week.

Judy will be having surgery next week Wednesday.

Please keep her in your prayers.

This week's topics:

1. Where did you work while going to high school? Any good or bad memories?
2. Any unexplainable "coincidences" influence your life?
3. Things you used to take for granted.
4. Whatever happened to your mother's fur coat?
5. Still got your letter jacket/sweater? Got a pic with you wearing it?
6. Were/are you and your spouse in business together?
7. Did you ever ask for a raise? Get it?
8. Anything else you'd care to write about.

and responses:

Candy Caylor

1. I did some babysitting during high school. I did not have any other job—lucky!
 3. Just being young was taken for granted! Health: although I have no serious issues, the older I get the more I think of what can happen.
 4. What fur coat?
 5. In my profession--nursing--that wasn't an option. I feel I received adequate raises. There was the across-the-board cost of living raise (though many years it was skimpy) and raises according to performance.
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Chuck Hinners

Jack Savidusky ran a successful fur business in Madison for over 40 years. He retired and turned it over to his son Mike who gave up a booming real estate career. Mike closed down the fur business in Madison in 2013. He was the last surviving Wisconsin fur trader outside Milwaukee. John Jacob Astor made his fortune as a fur trader. Animal fur kept people warm ever since Australopithecine hominids moved out of Olduvai gorge for cooler climes. After Austra, Astor, and other fur entrepreneurs died off, Louis Kiss fetched up in Wisconsin Rapids after he emigrated from Hungary in 1921. Kiss ran his business from his home on 9th street not far from Howe School. We have three fur pieces my mother wore.

Susan (Rice) Hammel

In high school, I worked at Anderson Drug. Very interesting to say the least. Especially when the Wisconsin Rapids Twins were in town.

My mother loved furs. Not jewelry (as I do), last I knew one of them is/was with my ex-sister-in-law. Thanks Kent, always enjoy reading the newsletter.

Marcie [Basler] Ortscheid '65

Number 3: There was a time I could stay out until 1 am and be up and at work bright-eyed at 8 am, and then turn around and do it the next night. Now if I'm not in bed by 9 pm, it's all I can do to keep my eyes open at work. My health...still am very healthy (not on any medication) but I make sure I eat fiber and drink my green tea and tons of water. Had my Harley made into a tricycle as it was getting harder to hold up two wheels. I hate to admit it, but age is catching up to me but I am not giving in easily.

Chris Gorski

Where I worked in high school:

The summer between my sophomore and junior year, I worked at Preway on an assembly line. I operated a pneumatic screw driver and put screws into of the back panel of ovens as they moved along on a conveyor belt. It was a very boring job that taught me a valuable lesson about improving my career prospects by getting a good education. The other part of the job that I did not like is that I worked 2nd shift, 3 pm to 11 pm, missing out on afternoon and evening activities with my friends.

Between my junior and senior year, I worked for the City. I had my own City truck, a tar kettle, and trailer. This time my working hours were 7 am to 3 pm which I liked a lot. Each day I would be given a section of a city street that needed the cracks to be blown out with the trailer's air hose and then filled in with hot tar. I really liked that job because I worked by myself with no one looking over my shoulder. Every day, I worked in a different part of the Rapids. As I recall, the money was also pretty good for a job that I really liked. Can you imagine the City giving that job to a 17-year-old today? How times have changed.

Linda Leitzke

1) Little restaunt next to JC Penneys at 16. Then, Schroeder Dime Store during junior year. Then, JC Penneys senior year.

Linda Edwards

My (ex) spouse and I were in business together for about 23 years. We bought a franchise of Management Recruiters in 1987. I stayed with Xerox Corp for another seven years while he got the business up and running. The first couple of years were pretty tough and then it turned around. I joined him in 1995 and worked an IT desk. Hated it! I really had a hard time sitting at a desk, tied to a phone, after being on the road for so long. Apparently I wasn't an ideal employee...thus the "ex" thing.

I sort of asked for a raise one time. My boss at the time was a very gruff, old-school kind of guy who didn't seem bothered by income inequality. He was very difficult to work for in many respects. He also was very intimidating, so I took the easy way out and wrote him a memo, suggesting that I might be better suited to a different department. Well, he said he was glad to see that I had finally displayed some backbone, gave me a raise and we never looked back. I worked for him until he retired.

My mother never had a fur coat. A friend of our family wanted to give me a beautiful mink stole for high school graduation but I said, "No thanks. I would never wear it." Wish I had it. My granddaughter is always asking me for cool, old-fashioned dress-up clothing.

Jack Sultze

High School Job: I worked one summer on Doug Hambach's "gentleman farm." Some might remember that he was a dentist in Rapids. He bought a small farm, out past Kellner, I think. It was a hobby for him at that time.

I remember tearing down a large pre-Civil War shed that was built without nails. Everything was doweled together. The building was leaning and looked like it was about to fall down but we had a really difficult time tearing it down. Another thing that always stuck with me: He bought 40 acres of adjoining land. He bought it because the government was going to pay him NOT to plant anything on it.

I also remember painting fences with creosote. It is nasty stuff that burns your skin if you got sloppy with it. I have been told that he eventually bought a large spread in Bancroft and went into the cattle business full time.

Judy (Ehlert) Brown

1) I worked at Woolworth's over a Christmas season. I also did a lot of babysitting during high school days.

4). My mother didn't have a fur coat but my grandmother had a fur cape. I still have it although I removed the lining because I was going to make teddy bears out of it. Hasn't happened yet, but maybe after I retire?

6). My fiancée (of 27 years or so... lost count) and I accepted a job as joint managers of a condominium property in Naples, FL (where I still manage). It was a tough transition as we were both used to being "boss" in our former jobs. We both tried to be the "boss" in our new opportunity. It was tough to work together all day and be together during non-working hours. Hard to draw the line between work and home. After a number of years, Tom moved to a different condo in Naples. He lived and worked there and I lived and worked here. We had a home that we went to on weekends to spend time together. We still practice that now with Tom retired and living in our home on Sanibel Island and I live and work in Naples and go there every weekend. Works great for us! Probably part of the reason I am still working,

7). No, never really asked for a raise. I was in fortunate situations where I was rewarded for the job I did. I have sometimes negotiated for more vacation time. At this time in my life, the time off becomes more important than the money. This past year I negotiated for a shorter work day and I got a nice raise also. I have always believed that if you do a good job, you will be rewarded.

Fall is coming to Florida... the license plates are changing color! Welcome snowbirds!

Toni Weller Olsen - class of '64

Question 1 - I didn't have a job in high school, but I sure remember the root beer stands in the Rapids where girls (maybe a few guys too?) worked as carhops in the summers. There was an A&W on 8th St. near Lincoln High School and another one on Baker St. near the now-defunct Herschleb's. All three places had carhops, frosted glass mugs and "fast food." Nice memories.

Karen King

While I always think I write too frequently I am compelled to address a couple of these subjects.

Where did I work in high school? My dad would not let me have a real job in high school, although I worked at summer camps and that was okay. He said I would work the rest of my life when I got out of school and boy was he right.

When the aforementioned father died we let the grandkids release balloons at the grave site. All the kids wanted red except one two-year-old who wanted yellow. Youngest son lived in Seattle at the time and after the graveside services went immediately to the airport to go home. When he got there he found a yellow balloon tied to his mailbox. Coincidence?

Things I used to take for granted: everything. Things I take for granted now: absolutely nothing.

Spouse and I were in business together twice. Once a retail/decorating/delivery balloon service and once a restaurant. While we did not always agree, we always compromised and yes, we lived to tell the tale, but I'm not so sure I'd recommend that effort to anyone else.

Ursula Nogic

Our family came to the United States post WWII after spending six years in American refugee camps in Germany. Three children born in three different camps. Each time our emigration was processed and we were cleared with immunization shots, necessary sponsoring hosts in the accepting country, and other requirements, one of the kids would come down with a childhood contagious disease that closed the ramps of the embarking ship to our family. The wait for the next exodus began all over again. Had I not taken ill as we finally boarded a ship to cross the Atlantic, we would have found ourselves in Argentina and my name would have been pronounced "Uurrsuuula." Instead, we eventually ended up on a ship to the US by way of New Orleans and arrived in Chicago where my name was pronounced "Ersalla."

We spoke English with my father who brought it home from work, and Polish with my mother as we feasted on her delectable delights. Aside from American steak, which we quickly adopted as a favorite meal, we ate well in a fabulous Polish traditional.

Before they embarked to America, my father promised my mother that he would buy her a fine black mink coat when we reached America. And sure enough, he did!

Randall (Randy aka coxy WI9COX) Cox

My best memory is growing up on the farm on Townline Road with my eight sisters and brothers, going to school at Children's Choice. Even today I think highly of my school chums and teachers. Thanks Judy, for going to the dance with me (considering how shy I was). Then there's Lincoln High School--good and bad thoughts.

I was so shy all four years and I missed a lot. I was quiet and a loner, but did have good times since I had the only car--George Mathews, remember that? I went out for wrestling, coach said my hair was too long. Was in dramatics and got stage fright. Too shy to ask Lenore Crothers for a date. I stuck up for my values in and out of school and got into a few fights, which I never lost.

Quit school for three days, got that out of my system, and graduated. Industrial arts was my favorite, although now since I'm into ham radio and it's complexities I should have been more interested in math and algebra (not too late right?)

In school I worked with my dad at Rapids Fuel and Furnace and at Preway upon graduation. Moved to Janesville with parents after that (I regret that). Volunteered for the Army and went to Vietnam (paid a price). Married four times but have three sons who make me very proud.

Drove truck 29 years and am now retired. I love fishing with my brother on his 320 acres in Tomahawk. I

In my 30s, I did get my black belt in tae kwondo (it was a good feeling).

Well, my classmates and freinds, life is getting shorter. Time to get things done. Just wish I could type better because I got a lot more to say. You are all my friends. Thank you and best wishes always.

Lynn DeLong

1. Where did you work while going to high school? Any good or bad memories?

a. I worked for Johnson Hills before and after school and on weekends. My father was the Treasurer, Comptroller, and a major stockholder of the luxurious department store chain during its period of acquisitions and expansion. During this time, I worked in the Main Store and the Corporate Office performing multiple functions including marketing assistant, sales clerk, electrical maintenance, shipping dock operations, merchandise shelving and displaying, merchandise assembly, property safety, custodian at the Corporate Office and main store, and merchandiser in the hardware and sporting goods department. I traveled to other stores with board members to provide background information and acquire covert information about the operation owned stores, competing stores, and stores that could be acquired.

b. It was good to learn about business management, marketing, and labor relations. The best memories are around the employee discounts ranging from 5% to 25% or more. Every week, I bought a new LP album and a shirt or a sweater. Somehow, I managed to save more than half of my paycheck (I had it deposited in the credit union before I ever saw it). When my dad left J-H, he became a business turn-around specialist. He worked at Lieberman Enterprises in Minneapolis during the aftermath of the race riots of the 60s. Technology became the big answer to distributing the Top 40 Billboard music hits weekly, marketing the transistor radios and sound systems. Going to Minneapolis allowed me to see how smart my dad was in multiple areas of technology, communications, and mathematics.

2. Any unexplainable "coincidences" influence your life?

I remember cold mornings during my sophomore year waiting in the entry area for the school doors to open. I kept noticing a pretty face on a really short girl. I got a smile from her and then she would disappear behind some taller student. It took me weeks to learn that she was new to school and longer before I asked her out. Before she started dating my best friend, she taught me two things: "The Eel" by Ogden Nash and never let a person half your weight race you at the go-kart track.

The next summer it seemed that everyone I dated was a cousin of a classmate. So, I decided to date the classmate. She invited some friends of mine and me to a party in Biron. After arriving, I learned that a fellow did not want us there. We had no sooner left the front door when a young lady came and made the fellow behave. She was pretty and very gutsy. She and I dated for the next four years.

On a night in June of 1969, a Deputy Sheriff from another County and I (an Eau Claire County Deputy) went into the Oar House bar looking for a wanted person. Half way into the bar, a beautiful blond in a red halter top and white hip-huggers bumped into me. She said, "Lynn, ____ (the name of the girl I dated for four years) is back there." I saw my ex-girlfriend and a group of her friends in the back. I think it was her bachelorette party.

Now the rest of the story: The bad guy was nabbed leaving the backdoor of the bar. I was nabbed by the blond beauty in red halter top and white hip-huggers. We were married six months later and will be celebrating our 46th anniversary this December. (See the attached picture. Can you identify anyone 1 – 7 and the friend with whom I switched girlfriends?)

