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**From:** The Vasbys <kvasby@smallbytes.net>  
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**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient;;  
**Subject:** Lincoln High Newsletter - 9/8/16

## LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER

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### Responses to previous topics:

Judy (Hanneman) Vasby - [jvasby.office@gmail.com](mailto:jvasby.office@gmail.com)

#### 8. Memorable drive-in movie moments?

When we were in high school, Judy Gilberts asked if she, her brother Jerry, and I could have the car to go to the drive-in.

Her parents gave us permission and told us to have a good time.

But when we came back several hours later, they were hopping mad. Where did we go? What took us so long? We kids were flabbergasted. But after a few minutes we were all laughing. We had meant "movie." They had meant "root beer."

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Barbara Thalacker - [bthalacker@comcast.net](mailto:bthalacker@comcast.net)

Re: Drive-ins. My parents used to put all 7 of us in the car, put my little bothers in PJs because they usually sacked out in 10 minutes. Take snacks and do the carload for a dollar. My first 2 movies were East of Eden and Demetrius and the Gladiators. Fond memories of homemade popcorn with lots of butter.

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

Hi I have been canning tomatoes for days and am happy to say I just finished. We grow or hunt most of what we eat, I think we are some of the few. Thank you Pete Smullen for your comments about some people keeping their comments to themselves.

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Candace Caylor - [klorkatz@att.net](mailto:klorkatz@att.net)

Donna Rehman's letter about Ed Gein really brought back memories. My dad was one of the Wood County deputies— I think Sharkey was the only one— to help with the Gein case. I was about 11 and I remember my dad coming home and telling my mom and me what he had seen in Gein's house and barn. He saw everything! I have read a couple of the books written about Gein. One of my mom's distant cousins lived in the Plainfield area and had him babysit her kids! Needless to say she was repulsed.

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Jack Sultze - [jsultze@verizon.net](mailto:jsultze@verizon.net)

Ouch! I stuck a nerve! I gave an opinion, asked for opinions and certainly got one back. My "naïve and deeply flawed" statement was inappropriate. That was an error in judgment and I'll own it.

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**Editor's note:**

Anyone know where Gerald Rogers and Joyce (Cochrane) Wilson are?

Their "mailboxes" have been full for several months.

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**This week's topics:**

1. It was so quiet, you could.....
2. Senior moment - You walked out of the room to ..... and you.....
3. I know what you did this summer! - No, I don't! What did you do?
4. Wisconsin beats LSU - Your thoughts.
5. Did you "labor" on Labor Day?
6. Ever encounter an angel?
7. What's normal these days?
8. Have you ever walked out of a movie or other public gathering because of something that was said?
9. What did you like to do with your father?
10. Smartphone apps

**and responses:**

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

6. Ever encounter an angel? - Yes, and I married her 47 years ago!
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Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64 - [tonicrafty@gmail.com](mailto:tonicrafty@gmail.com)

8. I walked out of a recent Robert DeNiro movie called "Dirty Grandpa." Zack Efron played the straight-arrow, young adult grandson of DeNiro's character. They were on a road trip, and the humor was supposed to be the contrast between the young Zack Efron and his foul-mouthed grandpa who was a widower. I'm socially liberal, but the movie wasn't funny to me. I left about halfway through the movie, dragging my 80-year-old neighbor with me.

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Don Wylie - [donwylie2@gmail.com](mailto:donwylie2@gmail.com)

2. Senior moments - well I haven't walk into something I didn't want to step on lately. Nor fallen for neglecting where I stepped so that's an achievement.

7. Cell Apps - My Garmin failed on last summer's trip because it didn't have western states in it. So I parked it and use Google Maps. It works even when I drove into no data areas like Rocky Mtn. Park. It continued to navigate with the map it had which was enough.

Other Apps - I like the Bubble Level because a lot of times, what I think looks level is an illusion.

I also frequently look at weather data. Wunderground is OK, and I use it to get local neighborhood temperatures when I'm making snow and I really need to watch the temperature. But my preference is the government site - weather.gov

Type in your city, state using the two letter abbreviation for the state. It also offers lots of detailed forecast. You can get a graph of it and it also has radar pictures which answer the common question "Is it going to rain or will it stop?"

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Don 65 & Donna Rehman - [zakons@comcast.net](mailto:zakons@comcast.net)

10. Apps you like.....OfferUp....GasBuddy.....Waze....Redfin....Kohls...LiveATC

Our daughter just told us yesterday of one she likes. It is very cool, if you want to buy or sell something. This is for the Apple iPhone....It's called .....OfferUp....

The app is for buying and selling things locally. Just this week she sold an elliptical and also bought some pieces of furniture. You put in your information, like how far are you willing to travel to get the item, like 5,10,50 miles etc. then there is a place for the price, make an offer, or firm, a place to contact the seller or buyer with questions, etc.

So if you are looking to buy a chest of drawers, you put in the search, chest of drawers and then all these pictures pop up of anything that fits your description.

Her elliptical went within a day of posting it.

.....  
We use GasBuddy almost daily. The price of gas around our area can be 30 cents different either day.

(Just in the last month 2 large gas stations went out of business). I read that might be happening in the next couple of years, but they were busy gas stations. Puzzling.

.....Waze ...is a good app for traveling . Love it. While you travel, it tells you, traffic conditions, back ups, even side streets along the way . You sign up, and then you can post, if there is an accident, even where a policeman is, ambulance, construction.. You pick out your own character. Car etc. the first week you sign up your character will have a pacifier , because you are a newborn .. ...cute....I love it because you can expand it and get the small streets that don't normally show up. Plus backups in traffic...when there is an accident, or even a car along the road. Even YOU can make comments when you see something wrong, like an accident.

It helps you see the MPH the traffic is going ahead of you, so you can take a detour if you want.

The app gives you plenty of chuckles along the way.

Redfin.....can see what houses are for sale, prices, and even pictures of the houses inside and out for sale...

Kohls.....love it because you can see all your offers etc, in your wallet in the app, coupons , yes 2 you rewards, special offers. kohls cash....just everything in one spot....your wallet.

LiveATC.....Don's favorite, you can load your favorite airports from all over, not just local and hear the towers and pilots talk .....we listen and can hear when we know a family member is ready to land or take off, we had their flight numbers And just listen.. We both actually enjoy it.

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Chris Gorski - [cwgorski@yahoo.com](mailto:cwgorski@yahoo.com)

Hi Kent: What a wonderful summer it has been, hope Judy and you enjoyed it as well. Here is some fill if you need it:

### 7. What's normal these days?

Years ago, thru our 30's, we felt free to voice our political opinions and proudly announce who we were supporting and voting for in political elections. I remember displaying a Ronald Regan bumper sticker on my Ford Bronco, proudly announcing my support for him as President, never worrying about my vehicle being keyed or vandalized while in an airport parking lot while I was away on another week long business trip. How times have changed, today most keep their political favorites a secrete for fear of getting their home or vehicle vandalized.

Try driving thru Milwaukee's North side or downtown Madison with a Walker or Trump bumper sticker on your vehicle. Or, try displaying a Trump or Walker yard sign out in front of you house. You better make sure your comprehensive deductible is low on your autos and home policies, or your supplemental health policy has a low deductible because it is very likely you will experience a negative encounter. I speak this from experience.

Could it be that our generation, having grown up used to getting our own way, instilled a sense of entitlement in our children and grandchildren as well, resulting in belligerence when confronted with an opposing view. Or, is it that the quest for money, power and control by too many politicians has resulted in suspicions running wild of one opponent or the others intentions, making it near impossible to control tempers? Would be interesting to hear some of your thoughts on this social illness while it is running at a fevers pitch, why is this happening and how will this division end? By the way, for old times sake, at present my support and vote will be for Trump.

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Bill Hartley - [TOYGUY5538@aol.com](mailto:TOYGUY5538@aol.com)

Thanks for your ongoing efforts on the newsletter. I'll try to answer the app question this week. The three apps I use the most are:

Gas Buddy - I travel quite a bit, and when gas prices were up around \$3.50, I found this app very handy, as some stations vary quite a bit when prices are that high. Now I don't use it so much, because gas here in Texas is mostly under \$2.00. But I keep the app, because I have faith in the oil industry that they will get the prices back up there some day.

Mag Light - This is a magnifying glass app with the light, for enlarging something in dim light. Or for daily use as you get older and try to read small things.

Office Lens - I use it primarily to take a photograph of a document and turn it into a pdf file. It's handy for police and fire reports at an inspection site.

Bonus app - NASCAR - Great app for keeping up with the race if you're somewhere where watching it on TV isn't an option.

Also attached is an article I've written on my hang outs in Rapids back in the day.

### Hang-outs

**Some of my fondest memories of growing up in Wisconsin Rapids in the 50s and 60s are of the places or businesses I hung out at and the friends I made there.**

These are places where you could feel comfortable spending some more time than you would in the average business. I'm sure I was a pest to some, but nobody actually threw me out as I recall. Most of my hang outs were places that were operated by nice, fun people, and most were very educational. Being a car guy from a very young age, many of them were related to cars (or girls) in some form or another.

Take a trip down memory lane with me to the Rapids of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Maybe some of these were your favorites, too, or you can add to the list.

**Wisconsin Rapids Police Department** - Fred Bonow was a relative of my friend and for several years he worked the desk in the old police station on West Grand Avenue. We often spent evenings there talking with Fred and the other officers who came through, listening to the police radio, and chuckling when one of our friends got picked up for something. I got to know many of the local police officers while hanging out there, and those acquaintances helped out a lot in my later (driving) years. I gained a huge respect for law enforcement and the tough job they have to do.

**Fischer Cycle Company** - Donald Fischer was my friend Jim's dad. He ran the bicycle and motorcycle dealership on East Grand Avenue across from the Dairy Queen. I bought my Schwinn Black Phantoms from him. He sold Harley Davidson motorcycles there also. I remember he had a big Harley with a huge side car on it that he used for many years to make special deliveries around town. Donald was a great mechanic, and he was always fixing something interesting in his shop. Occasionally we would slip out of the open windows in Mr. Carlson's third hour study hall and spend that hour with Don. I think he kind of liked the company, and I learned a lot from him while hanging out there.

**Joslin's Auto Salvage** - Joslin's was located on County Z South of Nekoosa. They used to have a museum out there also. Tom Joslin was the owner and his two sons were in the process of taking over during the 60s. When I spent time there, Tom was still working there rebuilding manual transmissions. He was always willing to share his knowledge and techniques of rebuilding transmissions and living life in general with us, even if we were visiting on an afternoon when we maybe should have been in school. Tom was a great technical resource for transmission and differential questions. In those days they would burn cars before crushing them and sending them off for recycling, to get rid of combustibles such as carpet, upholstery, wire insulation, and so on (try that today!). They would let us know when they were planning on burning out some cars prior to crushing them so we could take wiring, light bulbs, lenses, etc. out of them before they were burned. I still have some of those light bulbs to this day. It was a great place to observe and learn.

**Friendly Fountain** - Great food, nickel pinball machines, pretty girls. What more could a guy ask for? Oh yeah, Shirley worked there, too, in the later years.

**Pour Inn** - a little beer bar on Second Avenue by Montgomery Wards. Jean, the owner, also owned King Henry's around the corner. She was always fun and became a good friend to those of us who were regulars. I consumed many shorty Hamms' and improved my pool skills there. Several excursions to the drag strip in Anoka, MN were planned over a few beers in the Pour Inn.

**Liska's Sinclair** - Charlie Liska ran a Sinclair service station that was across East Grand Avenue from the Mead Hotel. Charlie's son Don was a good friend and was in the Untouchables Car Club with us. I learned a lot about cars from Charlie and the other guys who worked there. I saw the inside of an automatic transmission there for the first time when I was about 15. Liska's was a great place to hang out to watch a parade, and any Friday night to watch the kids (read girls) cruise up and down Grand Avenue.

**Tom's DX** - Tom's was on the corner of 8th and East Grand and was run by Tom Fogarty, or "Big Drag" to many of us. Tom was easy to hang around with and there was always a group of guys around there working on something. Tom bought one of the first Snap-On oscilloscopes for diagnosing ignition and electrical systems on cars, and several of us learned how to use it there. I became good friends with many guys there, including Mick the Hamms Beer truck driver. I went on a couple of trips to St. Paul to pick up beer at the brewery and a couple of trips to Kenosha to drop it off with him. Always a good time on the road. Tom later went on to run the Enco station on 8th Street across from Terrace Gardens. I worked for him out there for a while. I remember we were open 24 hours during deer season because we were the first Enco station hunters saw on the way up north from Milwaukee and Chicago, and we were always busy. I also remember that I did not like pumping gas and providing full service to customers in the winter. Brrrr. Bill Cammack's dad was a regular at both stations. Every Friday night, after he was on the road all week selling whatever he sold, he would come to Tom's for an oil change, grease job, and wash job. I washed his car one cold winter night at the Enco station, and when I was done I couldn't open the bay door to get it out. It had frozen shut. Took a lot of ice chipping to get it open.

**Art's Restaurant** - on West Grand near the Wisconsin Theater, Art's was owned by Art Davis. I don't recall seeing Art in there very much, but most of the time I spent in there was after the bars closed. That's where I learned how to drink coffee (with cream, at first). It was a real gathering place for a while.

**Wilpolt's Restaurant** - located across the street from Art's, it was frequented after school by a lot of girls from Assumption. It was always interesting, and a great place to get an excuse written if you had happened to miss school for some reason. That's all I'm going to say about that.

**Corpsman Hall** - formerly the Masonic Temple and who knows what before that, it was located on the west side across from the old Fischer's Dairy. When we were of age, it was a dance hall on Friday nights featuring the local bands like The Triumphs and Zakons. Always a good time dancing and listening to rock music.

**The Milwaukee Road Depot** - I don't think I went inside very often, but I bet I drove around that little triangle in front of it at least 100 times every Friday night while cruising Grand Avenue. This was one of our favorite ways to see and be seen.

**Untouchables Car Club club house** - for a while we had a club house in a rented two stall garage out across the viaduct on 54, just past the Windmill Motel. We had graduated from someone's basement (probably mine or Jim Fischer's) and finally had our own place. We planned many car club activities out there, including club trips to car shows in far away places like Green Bay, trips to the drag races in Union Grove, and road rallies around the area. I think we still had that club house when we bought the Henry J we made into the club's drag car. I remember we worked on it a lot at John Sowatzke's dad's concrete plant over on the west side someplace, too.

**Portesi's** - Our favorite pizza in the whole world. We spent many nights after the bars closed eating pizza in Portesi's. I don't think we ever got rowdy in there, but if the noise level reached a certain point, Mr. Portesi would come out of the kitchen and check the thermostat in the dining room. That was our unspoken warning to cool it, or else. We never knew what "or else" meant, but we knew we didn't want to find out. Shirley and I still visit Portesi's when we're in Rapids, and the pizza is as good as we remember it. Never found any we like better.

**Lake Wazeecha** - Not really a business, but a great place to hang out nevertheless. I always hung at the white beach, since it was closer and my mom had forbidden me to come home full of that red sand. The beach was great, the metal slide would burn your butt on a hot day, and the swings were a great place to have a serious conversation with a girl. I lived close enough that I could ride my bike out there. There were great, secluded picnic areas all over out there, too. They provided great tree cover, under which to take a special young lady and wax your car. My cars always looked shiny in those days.

**Joe's BBQ** - also known as the **Golden Eagle BBQ**, located on Highway 54. Probably some of the best barbeque I've eaten (prior to moving to Texas, of course). Joe's was a great place to go for a sandwich and to get together with friends. They were always nice to us kids out there. I wonder if anyone ever got the REAL recipe? It was a big secret back in those days.

**Herschlebs** - probably the best ice cream known to man. Ever. A great place to sit at the counter and discuss world situations with friends over a soda or sundae. And they had car hops who would serve you in the car, on those days when the discussions had to be more private.

**Sowatzke's Drive In** - Art and Pearl ran the root beer stand on the corner of 8th Street by the LHS tennis courts. If you were lucky enough to get to play tennis during gym class, you could enjoy a hamburger, fries, and a cherry coke or root beer at Sowatzke's before the lunch or dinner crowd got there. As I remember they only had two stools out in front, but there as a picnic table or two out back you could use, as long as the gym teacher didn't come out to see how the tennis was going. We also drove in to that place quite often. I remember the bottom of my Untouchables plaque dragging on their driveway when it hung from the chains on my back bumper. Those french fries tasted great, especially in a '57 Chevy!

**Your Record Shop** - Clem and Dorothy Rumble owned it (David and Larry's parents). It was on 2nd Street across from Daly Drug. It was a great place to hang out, chat with the Rumbles, pick up the latest Top 40 listing, test-listen to some 45s, and test-read some car magazines. Occasionally we would have enough left from our allowance to actually buy a 45 record or a Hot Rod or Car Craft magazine. I'm sure we spent many more hours looking and listening than we ever spent dollars buying.

I'm sure there were other places I'm forgetting. But the message here is when we were hanging out someplace, we weren't out getting in trouble someplace else. Yeah, we had our share of fun growing up in Rapids, but what I remember most fondly are the people I learned from and the places where I hung out in my youth. Hopefully I've encouraged you to remember some of your favorites, too.

**Editor's note: Many thanks for the memories, Bill!**

## Engineer's Love Life

An architect, an artist and an engineer were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress.

The architect said, "I enjoyed time with my wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship.

The artist said, "I enjoyed time with my mistress, because of the passion and mystery I found there."

The engineer said, "I like both."

"Both?" they questioned.

The Engineer said, "Yeah. If you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to the lab and get some work done."