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Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient:;
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 1/22/15

Lincoln High Newsletter

This week's topics:

1. Did you get a flu shot and still get the flu?
Editor did! Horrible 2 weeks! Coughed so much I thought I broke several ribs.
2. Why does college cost so much these days?
Editor paid \$150/semester at UW-Whitewater back in the 60's.
3. Ever get locked out?
4. Did you ever participate in a shivaree?
5. Did you buy a fixer-upper and still live in it?
6. Ever been deep-sea fishing?
7. Did your dad check out motel rooms before agreeing to stay there when you were a kid?
8. Ever ride in a sleigh?
9. Anyone still have and use a CB radio?
10. What have you done since graduating from high school?

and responses:

Chris Gorski - cwgorski@yahoo.com

Hi Kent: Here is one for this week's News Letter, and, thanks for keeping us connected.

Deep Sea Fishing:

Last March Kathy and I went down to the Florida Keys to visit snow bird friends of ours from Ft. Atkinson. They have a very relaxing place in Big Pine Key which is just one Key short of the tip of the Keys which is Key West. For those of us who remain quite active, there isn't much to do other than eat, fish and shop at flea markets. Their home was on a channel that led out to the Gulf side of the Keys. My primary reason to visit the Keys was to do some fishing and to visit the hippie capital, Key West.

The 2nd day down there my host and I went out in the flats to check his crab traps and collect some crabs if large enough. On our way back Al, my host, asked me if I would like to go out later that afternoon and do some shark fishing.

Since I had never fished shark and because I enjoy fishing very much, I said lets do it. For those not familiar with shark fishing, the best place to fish for them is not deep sea fishing but rather, shallow fishing in 3 to 4 feet of water and the flats of the Florida Keys is one of the best places to fish for sharks.

For bait we worked the shoreline of a couple small islands, casting baits that attracted barracuda. I caught 6 of them averaging about 33 inches in length. We chopped them up creating what is called "chum" and tossed the chum in the water to create a scent trail. We also baited our hooks with a big chunk and tossed our lines in about 20 to 30 feet from our boat.

After about 30 to 40 minutes a dark shadow about 1 o'clock slithered its way right at our chum field off the front of our boat. It was a 7 foot lemon shark and sure enough, he started eating the chum chunks and went down on my bait, slowly turned to my right and began swimming off with my bait in his mouth. I jerked hard on my line and the battle began. Since I had a light tackle spinning rod and reel with 20 lb test line, we had to start the motor and try to keep up with him as he tried to get free.

After about a half hour or more, I said to Al, "this is crazy, what are we going to do, land him in our boat and take him home?", we had a 16 foot flats boat and this shark was almost half as big as our boat. So, we decided to try and get him to break water and show his head above the surface. To do this I had to stop giving him line, hold on as tight as I could and make it real difficult for him to have his way. Well, needless to say he did not like my intentions. The instant that I stopped giving him line and tugged on my rod, he put it in high gear and almost pulled my arms out of their sockets. The 20 lb test line snapped instantly and I almost went out of the boat backwards. We both enjoyed the battle and didn't mind losing this one.

(On a side note, a couple days later when we were tarpon fishing I accidentally hooked on to another shark but this one was a Nerf shark, bigger then the lemon shark but not as much fun, he went down to the bottom and stayed there.)

Don Solie - dq.solie@hotmail.com

3. Yes, I've been locked out twice. As a result of extensive traveling I didn't always return on the flights that I identified for my wife, and sometimes I didn't return on the designated day. She would assume that I had my house key (normally I did), but in two instances I used limo services so I didn't have my keys. I used limo services most of the time, but she made an erroneous assumption twice. The first time I climbed over our 8' privacy fence and selected a log (firewood) and threw it through our glass backdoor leading in from the pool. The second time (about ten years later) I opened the garage door with our combination electric opener only to find the reentry door linking the house to the garage locked. So I kicked in the door which required replacing not only the door but also the door frame. Since no one knew when I'd be home the kids locked the door accessing the garage. In the first instance we had to keep the rear door locked because of pool security despite having an 8' foot fence. Obviously no one was at home in both occurrences.

As some might guess I blamed everyone else for the issue! Needless to say I was in a minority of one, but after the second time it never happened again. And we started hiding a house key outdoors for emergency access.

To this day no one else sees the humor!

5. We didn't buy fixer uppers, however we did remodel three homes and lived in it twice. It was filthy despite all the precautions the contractor employed. Replacing old tile is filthy, dusty work, and contractors can't avoid it. The third time we remodeled we waited to move in until all of the work was completed. In all three instances we replaced everything in the kitchen as well as flooring throughout the home.

This is better than being locked out.

We lived in Atlanta in 1984 and I drove a huge ghetto cruiser, a Cadillac Coup de Ville. I think the trunk was as large as most cars on the highway. My wife took our kids to Lutheran School everyday and would open her garage door as well as mine.....it was automatic, like clock work.

On this particular day I was focused on a contract negotiation conference call, and I was rehearsing all of my points in my mind which meant I was running on automatic pilot. Upon leaving the house I jumped in, started the car, put the transmission in reverse and hit the gas pedal. I heard this loud bang and looked in my mirror to discover I had backed

THROUGH the garage door, it was still down, sort of. I couldn't raise the door so I had to drive my wife's car to my office. She called the builders who were still in our development so they came right over to see this big back end sticking out of our garage. They had quite a laugh telling my wife this was a first. Luckily they only had to replace one horizontal panel.

I've never lived this one down! And my wife says I never will.

Bill Hartley - TOYGUY5538@aol.com

It's been a while since I've taken the time to write for the newsletter, but that doesn't mean I don't appreciate all of the hard work Kent does coming up with interesting topics and publishing it each week. You keep us connected, Kent, and that is greatly appreciated.

4. A what? I guess I haven't.

I still use a CB radio occasionally. I'm on the road a lot in my retirement job, so it helps pass the time talking to the truckers while I'm driving. It still provides insight into upcoming traffic hazards as well, such as accidents, construction slowdowns, etc. I often hear about slowdowns on the CB long before (if ever) I see it on my GPS traffic app. Travel safe, Good Buddy!

10: I've had an awesome life since high school by my standards. I've enjoyed very good health, and never required any kind of surgery.. Shirley (Black '64) and I have been married 48 years and have lived in some great places with my career. After a year at UWSP, I worked for some auto dealerships in Rapids for a couple of years. Remember Clark Chevrolet when it was on 4th Avenue? How about George Nimitz Buick on 8th Street and C&R Olds International on West Grand? I worked in the parts department at all of them. Then we moved all the way to Wausau where I worked at Kay Oldsmobile Cadillac right downtown. The infamous Sam Bartus (of local race track management fame) worked there as a salesman. He was a fun and interesting character.

In 1970 I accepted a parts rep position with Cadillac Motor Car Division and we moved to Edina, Minnesota. I was with Cadillac for 16 years, serving in various parts and service positions and living in Edina, Eau Claire, WI, Arlington, TX, and the Detroit area. I traveled a lot in most of those jobs, and really enjoyed it. I picked up a degree in Automotive Service while in the office in Detroit.

I left Cadillac in 1986 and accepted a position with Porsche Cars North America at their headquarters in Reno, NV. I was there 5 years, most of it as National Technical Training Manager, when I left to help some Cadillac friends start Saturn Corporation in little Spring Hill, TN, about 30 miles south of Nashville.

I retired there 11 years later as manager of field service engineering at age 57. After retirement, we moved back to the Dallas Ft. Worth area to be close to our two children and their families. They both live in the area, and we're only about 15 and 30 miles apart. While this wasn't our first choice for a retirement home, it certainly is nice to be close to our kids and 4 of our grand children. Wouldn't have it any other way.

I'm currently conducting product liability investigations for the auto makers, handling hazardous materials shipments for them, buying, driving, enjoying, and reselling late model muscle cars, and continuing my long-standing eBay business. Our eBay company's mission statement is, "To find and procure cool and unusual objects and to provide them to those most desirous of them at a humungous profit." It keeps me busy enough and most of all, is fun.

I know some people who are retired and sit around and look back on their lives and regret this or that - wish I would have or wish I wouldn't have, and it makes them miserable. Me, I'm happy with all of the decisions we've made career-wise and location-wise, and can't think of anything I'd have done differently. Hope you all are feeling the same.

Gene Hafermann - genehafermann@charter.net

1. I have always gotten a flu shot since my heart surgery and it has never caused a problem. I thought I had the flu one year a while back, but it turned out to be mono.

2. My first year at the UW Center in Wausau cost \$105 for tuition/semester. Costs are way out of line now for students and we do need to do something so everyone can afford a couple years if they wish.
3. Who hasn't gotten locked out? I have been locked out of houses and cars several times. Only once required a locksmith.
4. Yes, I participated in a shivaree (spell checker doesn't like that word, but it is correct) when I was about 10 years old. It was for a neighborhood couple starting their second marriages.
5. I have fixed up many older homes for others, but I never bought such a home and don't plan to. I have only lived in houses I have participated extensively in building and plan to do that one more time while I am still able.
6. Yes if you count the Gulf of Mexico as deep sea fishing. I have done that a couple times and really enjoyed the catching and the eating.
7. We never stayed in motel rooms as kids. My parents couldn't afford that. We had a pop-up tent camper.
8. I never road in a sleigh, but have ridden in horse drawn carriages several places.
9. I never had a CB radio.
10. After HS I went to UW Center in Wausau for 2 years and then on to the UW in Madison for 4 more years and a summer. I graduated with BS degree in civil engineering structures in 1969 and an MS degree in geodetic surveying in 1971. I went right to work as a civil engineer for Wisconsin DOT in June 1971 and worked there almost 43 years before retiring on Feb 4, 2014. Over the course of these years I was married to my first wife from 1971 to 1991. We met in Wisconsin Singers at UW and we raised 2 wonderful daughters who have their own families now. After divorce in 1991 I was single for 15 years as I co-raised my daughters and worked. Work included being a member of a national task force related to survey software development from 1989 through 2011. That work allowed me to see most of the country traveling to task force meetings. In 2006 I married my current (and last) wife whom I met on Match.com in 2005 (we will celebrate our 10th anniversary as a couple this Feb 11). I have also built 4 homes and remodeled many others to help family and I have been very involved with area music and theater groups, the Mazomanie United Church of Christ, and many hobbies including hunting, fishing, golf, woodworking, and singing. I am currently working to convert old family VHS and 8 mm tapes (with footage that dates back 31 years) to DVD to preserve the memoires and share with family. And I do hope to build my 5th house this summer in addition to traveling to keep up with kids, grandkids, and friends. It's been a very nice life so far.

Linda Leitzke - gradlhs@gmail.com

To all my classmates..and Kent...hope I/we all see each other at next reunion. If ever coming to San Diego love to see you :)

Joke

The Psychologist and Proctologist - sharing an office as partners . . .

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel.

Dr. Smith was the psychiatrist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist; they put up a sign reading: Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: Hysterias and Posteriors. The town council was livid and insisted they change it.

The docs changed it to read: Schizoids and Hemorrhoids. This was also not acceptable so they again changed the sign to read Catatonics and High Colonics - no go. Next they tried Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives - thumbs down again.

Then came Minds and Behinds - still no good. Another attempt resulted in Lost Souls and Butt Holes - unacceptable again! So they tried Nuts and Butts - no way. Freaks and Cheeks - still no good. Loons and Moons - forget it. Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with:

Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones - Specializing in Odds and Ends.

Everybody loved it.