From: The Vasbys
To: Bill & Shirley (Black) Hartley
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 12/17/20
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020 5:33:56 PM

This week's topics:

1. Best guesses for when the pandemic is gone?

2. Have you gotten one or more of those $1,200 checks from the government? What did you spend it on?

3. Have you had Covid or do you know anyone who has had it? What were your symptoms? I have talked to people who temporarily lost their sense of taste and smell and said it was SO weird. There are also reports that some people's senses of taste and smell have not returned.

4. Anyone (men or women) have or tried to grow a beard?

5. What are your major ailments (physical or mental)?

6. Does God have a sense of humor? Why or why not?

7. Is anyone keeping track of who and/or how many of your classmates are still here? Who is doing it? What class?

8. What's the hardest thing you had to do at work or school?

9. What's most likely to bring about the extinction of the human race or world?

10. Plans for Christmas?

11. Whatever else, maybe a topic for next week?

<u>and responses:</u>

Gene Hafermann - enehafermann@charter.net

1. I don't think we will be clear of the pandemic until the end of 2022.

2. My wife and I each received the $1200 stimulus checks. On one hand, for 2020 these checks mostly compensated us for the annual loss of $3000 due to Trump's tax reform law (the problem being the limit on the deduction for state and local taxes which was changed to $10,000 … ours are almost twice that much). That said, we have donated most of this stimulus money to people and businesses who needed it worse that we did.

3. Neither my wife or I have had covid, but we know people who have had it. So far no one we know personally has died, but we know 3 who came very close to dying and we have no idea what long term effects they may be dealing with.

4. I grew a beard twice in my life. Once was in the early 70's. It was pitch black and didn't match my hair at all. It was very wiry and I didn't like it. Then in the early 80's I grew one for the role of Bill Sikes in a local theater production of Oliver. This time it had a lot of grey in it and had to use shoe polish to color the grey to black. But when the show was over, the beard was removed. I haven't had more than a 2 day shadow since then because I was too busy to shave.

5. Since 2001 I have had double heart bypass surgery along with an artificial patch on an artery that broke when they tried to do an angioplasty. In 2015 I had surgery to remove my cancerous prostate followed by 38 radiation treatments. In 2017 I had a TAVR procedure to replace my aortic valve. I have also had a couple falls that bruised some ribs in a fainting case and tore something in my right thigh in a fall on a steep slope when mowing lawn in May 2020. And I have had a couple trips to the ER in 2020 related to a blocked urinary tract (which is still related to the prostate surgery and radiation). But all is good for now. I can still mow lawn and blow snow. I can still ride an e-bike. I can still golf if I use a cart (and am actually scoring better than I ever have, just can't hit is as far anymore). I can climb steps again after 7 months of healing in my thigh, but I still need to use the railing. I skipped deer hunting this year, but think I may be able to do that again next fall. I am much more fortunate than many as I have good health insurance and am able to do most things I want to do, albeit with a few adjustments. I have a wonderful wife.

I do seem to need at least 8 hours of sleep per night and sometimes an afternoon nap. My mind is fine and I can still do research and figure out how to fix or build things. I struggle remembering names at times, but I think that is normal for folks my age. So I am happy with my situation right now and God has richly blessed me.

6. Yes, God has a sense of humor, but I don't think he's too happy with a lot of what's going on now.

7. Aren't you keeping track of all the deaths for classes you do the newsletter for?

8. I really liked my career as a geodetic engineer and I loved solving technical problems. The hardest thing was sitting through meetings with a boss I didn't respect in the last 5 years before I retired.

9. I think greed will be a heavy component in the extinction of the human race.

10. I know we will not be traveling or have a large gathering for Christmas. Hopefully we will be able to have a dinner with a couple in our family bubble. But a lot of our family is in California so that involves a lot of packing and shipping of gifts and probably a lot of video chats.

Barb & Bill Cammack - barbaracammack@hotmail.com

Connections, remembrances ,friendships-they are so important. By chance, Sue and Pete Parsons called us last week to say they were in FL and could we get together. It worked out that we went to a live show, "Plaid Tidings" and for dinner. It was fun to see them after a few years and talk over Rapids and Door County people and events. To me this was the best Christmas gift-unexpected and a warm and fuzzy. Thanks for the connection, Pete, and to you Kent, for the weekly chats through this newsletter. And thanks to all of you who have sent personal remarks to me at different times-love you for that.

Roger Fritz - fritzcat11@yahoo.com

#4: I'm attempting one now. (I'm also attempting to write this reply with our new cat/kitten walking on the key pad and chasing the mouse). It's to be a mustache - chin thing. Past attempts were called off early due to many gaps. This time It will

get a full trial or if my wife walks actuality walks out on me. Strange to look in the mirror and not know who is looking back. My guess in the "man or women" reference " would apply to any cross-overs out there?

#5 & #7: My memory is going to hell! (I may have written about this earlier??) Always wanted to go to Peru and see Machu Picchu. We went about a year ago and I don't remember a thing. We have a few photos so it must have happened.

Finding my way to places often visited before is also sometime a big challenge. Good thing we live in a small town. Phone calls and Christmas cards often make me have to stop and think who is this?

As for the classmate list, it would be handy so I'm not calling or sending a card or text to someone no longer taking messages. Wish the advertising world had such a list so they would stop sending me things addressed to my Mom who died and I'm sure is not interested. Hope the classmates keep writing so I know you are still there. I'll look you up in the yearbook to see who you are.

#8: Quit working. I loved working in construction for the same company for 43 years. Lots of travel and worked on world class projects.

#9: 9. What’s most likely to bring about the extinction of the human race or world? - Another Democratic administration! If not complete extinction, at least a trip back to the stone age.

June Collman Stuhr LHS '64 - jstuhr@me.com

10. Plans for Christmas?

We usually travel out of state during the holidays but his year we'll remain in Minnesota, spending Dec. 23rd - 26th at a ski resort on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Lutsen will have plenty of man-made snow, in case we don't get any of the real stuff. All the restaurants are closed for indoor dining so we'll bring our own food, our books and cribbage board, some movies. We'll probably have peanut butter sandwiches for Christmas dinner. I'm preferring to consider this a Christmas Retreat. "Merry Christmas", everybody!

Toni Weller Olsen -LHS '64 - tonicrafty@gmail.com

1 - When will the pandemic be gone? - The vaccine is a hopeful sign that life may look more normal sometime in 2021. Sure hope so. One of my sons works in a lab at Houston Methodist Hospital, and he is scheduled to be vaccinated on Saturday. My daughter-in-law is a nurse at a hospital here in Reno, and she will be getting the vaccine soon.

I've been reading that Christmas tree farms across the country are selling more trees this year because people need to be cheered up. I know I'm enjoying our Christmas tree more than ever.