From: The Vasbys
To: Bill & Shirley (Black) Hartley
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 1/7/21
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:30:30 PM

This week's topics:

1. What's your favorite form of social media? Why?

2. If you could travel back in time, what decade would you choose to live in? Why?

3. How many countries have you been to? Which ones?

4. What is something that's really popular right now that will be ridiculous in five years?

5. Tell us about one thing on your bucket list.

6. Have you ever done karaoke? What did you sing?

7. What have you been watching on TV lately?

8. Anyone try to scam you lately? How?

9. Snowmobiling lately? Where?

10. It's a small world"; memories of meeting other Wisconsinites/Americans in far/not so far away places.

and responses:

Barbara Thalacker - bthalacker@comcast.net

3. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Mexico, Canada, England, France, Turkey, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, St. Maarten, Myanmar, Italy, the Bahamas,

7. Watching lots of British mysteries on Acorn, BritBox and Amazon Prime. Also great movies like Queen's Gambit, Midnight Sky, and Uncle Frank.

8. Scams: I got a scam call last week from Social Security. The woman asked for a lot of personal info and said that my Medicare account had been compromised. I asked her to hold. That I was going to get my wife on the phone who works for Homeland Security. She asked me to hold for her supervisor. I repeated myself to him and he said that HS couldn't help me because this was higher than they. I then said it was a scam and to please take me off their call list. He then said...(wait for it) "what makes you think I would ever do anything that you asked me to do?" I laughed and hung up. They haven't called back.

10. My small world story: Many years ago, I visited Germany. While I was there, I visited some distant relatives, Roland Thalacker and family and we since have kept in touch. Fast forward twenty years. In 2004 New Years Day, I went with our son to visit a friend in Chico, a city about two hours from Sacramento. During the afternoon, we went over to meet the friend's mother, Margarete, who immigrated to the US from Germany about thirty years earlier. Upon arriving at her home, I saw a plate on her wall from the town of her birth, Schwabisch Hall. I wrote my last name on a piece of paper and asked her if she had ever heard of that name. She said yes, that she had grown up "playing cops and robbers" with a Roland Thalacker, her neighbor who lived across the street in childhood, and she and her siblings were still friends. I inquired further and we verified that he was a University Chemistry professor from the town of Isny, and the right age. Indeed, it was the same person. Since then we went to Germany at the same time for a birthday celebration and have spent time together there in both her family home with her brother and in Roland and Marlis' home. (Their son works for 3M in Munich and has been to visit us about 5 or 6 times). It was a happy coincidence and the most unusual "small world" incident that I know.

Happy New Year everyone. 2021 will be the best year ever.

Barbara Cammack - barbaracammack@hotmail.com

In Hawaii we met a local high school coach from IL, in France we talked with a Chicago newsman, at the Vatican we asked someone to take our photo and he was from a neighboring town in IL. So don't get into embarrassing situations anywhere because someone there knows you! We are watching "Your Honor" with Bryan Cranston, "Mr. Mercedes" and The Packers, looking good.

Dick Trudeau LHS '64 - dickmerry77@hotmail.com

FAVORITE FORM OF SOCIAL MEDIA -- Face to face with a bunch of friends gathered around a table and several pitchers of beer!

FAVORITE DECADE -- That would have to be 2000 to 2010. I'd give anything to go back to those years. I retired in 2002. My wife, kids, and grandkids were all healthy, the house and cars were paid for, I was still feeling immortal, and a Republican was in the White House for 8 of those years. It doesn't get any better than that.

COUNTRIES I'VE BEEN TO -- Mexico (never again), Canada, and California. Technically, I think California is still part of the U.S., but they're kinda going their own way.

BUCKET LIST -- Two things. An historic cruise of the Mediterranean and hiking in New Zealand. Gotta do the Swiss Alps also.

I'd like to share a story about another guy's "bucket list". In 2010 I was on a backpacking trip in the Sawtooth Mountains of central Idaho. It was about an 8 mile hike with a 2000 feet elevation gain to a couple of high mountain lakes. I spent two nights at my destination and was about to head back to the trailhead. Coming up the trail was an old man who appeared to be in his 80's. He was totally out of place, with no backpacking gear whatsoever. He was shuffling along with the aid of a couple of walking sticks and a pair of sandals for footwear, looking like he'd been walking down the hall of a nursing home and took a wrong turn. How he got as far as he did was a miracle. I chatted with him at length and could see he was totally rational. He pointed at a mountainside off in the distance and spoke longingly about a hidden lake that he visited often when he was a young man. He said he wanted to see the lake one more time. He said the fishing was incredible

and gave me directions. No need to keep it a secret anymore. Unfortunately, there was no way he was going to make it to his lake and back in the same day. He declined my offer escort him. I had to consider the possibility he was going on a one-way trip, but had he told me he was going there to die I'm not so sure I would have tried to talk him out of it.

Personally, it's not dying that bothers me as much as living my last few years unable to do the things that make life worth living. The old guy was in that stage of his life. If seeing that lake one more time before the end was his last wish, who was I to deny him. On two occasions I've run into families on the trail packing Grandpa's ashes to his favorite place. It's a concept that appeals to me. The following picture was taken the day before I met the gentleman on the trail. Could you blame him if he wanted to end it all in such a place?

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING ON TV LATELY? -- It's what I HAVEN'T been watching lately that's noteworthy. I no longer watch the news on ABC, NBC, or CBS. Unbiased reporting is not their game.

ANYONE TRY TO SCAM ME LATELY? -- Every time I try to sell something on Craigslist someone tries to scam me. You'd think with all the imagination the scammers exhibit, they would be able to make an honest living.

SNOWMOBILING LATELY? -- Just about to get the sleds fired up. We're getting a lot of snow in the mountains. It should be good!

Sharon (Solberg) Mahoney - mahoni66@wctc.net

10. Last January our son and wife took Jim and I on our first cruise. So got to see a little of the Bahamas and Haiti. But one day relaxing in the library watching people we struck up a conversation with a man who had a new scar on his knee and Jim was ready to get a knee so asked about it. In the visit he mentioned he had a cabin at Phillips, Wisconsin where my folks had a cabin for 40 years. Wouldn't you just feel connection!

Roger Fritz - fritzcat11@yahoo.com

#3: How many countries? 35ea:
* USA, (48 of 50 States)
* Canada
* Mexico
* Bahamas
* Costa Rica
* Galapagos Islands
* Ecuador
* Peru
* Iceland
*Norway
* Ireland
* England
* Wales
* Scotland
* Netherlands
* Germany
* Czechoslovakia
* Austria
* Romania
* Bulgaria
* Greece
* Turkey
* Italy
* Yugoslavia
* Spain
* Russia
* Egypt
* Saudi Arabia

* Kenya
* India
* Nepal
* Thailand
* China
* Hong Kong
* Japan

#10 Unusual meetings ? - About a year ago while driving home (Union Hall, Va), about a 1/2 mile from my house, I saw a truck in the yard of an old friend who had moved away. Knowing some unusual things about the property, I pulled over to talk to the guy and discovered he had Massachusetts license plates, where we had just moved from and had spent many years as our kids were growing up. Turns out he was a lifelong resident of the same small Mass. town (Lakeville) and his house was just on the other side of a cranberry bog from where we had lived. What are the odds? We both had to moved 713 miles just to get acquainted.

Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64

7. - What I've been watching on TV lately

The sad spectacle of protesters storming the U.S. Capitol today was a black day in our history. To think we have a sitting president who refused to condemn this violence is beyond belief. The capitol police were overwhelmed. Since Trump had been encouraging protesters to come to D.C. today, there should have been a strong police presence to protect the Capitol and the people inside. There have been other protests in D.C., but I don't remember anything like this.

Terry Stake - mrtbass7106@gmail.com

1. I use facebook and twitter

2. I would choose the 60s I would be able to use my high school years with better study habits and my early college years to start off in communications rather than as an afterthought

5 i would like to go to Australia and attend the Master golf tournament

7 i watch sports as much as possible I also wish Hulu would put Fox sports Wisconsin back on their Programming. I also like to watch movies

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In Memoriam

On Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, at the age of 80, Larry Lee Jorgenson passed away at Arborview Court in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. He retained his stubborn nature, his sense of mischief, and pride in his Norwegian heritage until the end. A native of Blair, Larry studied to be a teacher at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. He worked at Heileman's Brewery while he was in college and spent his summer breaks driving a beer truck. Following his graduation in 1962, he began his 38-year teaching career in the Wisconsin Rapids school district. Upon retirement, he continued substituting for 15 years.

In addition to teaching, Larry served on the Wisconsin Rapids City Council from 1980—2001 and was president for two years. He also served on the Wood County Board of Supervisors. He loved good eats, collected shoes (especially penny loafers), enjoyed "old time music" (his favorite song was "Livet i Finnskogarna," and spent time restoring antique tractors and trucks, both full-size and toys.

Larry met his wife, Susan, when she was a teller at the bank in their hometown. In Larry's version of the story, he dropped a pencil in the bank lobby, she bent down to pick it up, and the rest is history. Together, they had two daughters and four cats. He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters, Ingrid (Aaron Dawes) and Signe (Rob Pockat); cats, Olaf and Otis; niece and nephew, Matthew and Bethany Vinson; and surrogate granddaughters, Caitlyn Huls, Erin Zinda, and Lindsey Olson. He was preceded in death by his parents, Florence and Lester Jorgenson; and his cats, Oscar and Ole.

A small, private funeral will be held at Herman-Taylor Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids. Online condolences may be shared at www.hermantaylorfuneralhome.com.