

From: [The Vasbys](#)
To: [Bill & Shirley \(Black\) Hartley](#)
Subject: LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER - 3/18/21
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This week's topics:

1. Favorite hangouts. Then and now.
2. Barn memories.
3. How do journalists serve society? Are they doing a good job of serving society now?
4. Been to Mexico? Where? When?
5. Do you think living in the present is more or less challenging than living in the past? Why?
6. That time of year - What kind of lawnmower do you have? Like it?
7. Ever wear a uniform? For what?
8. Memories of bells.
9. What do you think about the speed of change happening in the world today?
10. One of the readers sends this link: <http://thenostalgiamachine.com/> What was your favorite song in High School?

11. Topic for next week?

and responses:

Jean Captain - jcaptain@d.umn.edu

1. Then - occasional trip to the Friendly fountain - just down the hill from Lincoln.
Now - Bent Paddle Brewing in Duluth (MN.)

They have a dog friendly covered outdoor space, local restaurants deliver food. Live music, pre-covid. My favorite cello player is there sometimes on symphony weekends (he's from Omaha.)

4. Spent a week in Teotihuacan with a Toltec studies Group in 2005.

6. Toro. Like most modern equipment it is difficult to work on, but as long as I use off-road premium and run it dry before storage, it performs well.

7 Yes, 6 years, United States Navy.

Gene Santoski - k9utq@solarus.net

#4 Cancun - several years ago at Riviera Maya, an all-inclusive resort

#6 Honda - self-propelled walk behind. Love it - my second one - first one lasted over 20years!!

#7 Yes - U.S. Army National Guard - 6 years

#8 No personal memories of bells but do have a joke about them:

A painter was up in the belfry of a church touching things up .

The long-time bell ringer passed on and the pastor recruited a replacement. He showed up to practice pulling the rope to ring the bell not knowing that the painter was up by the bell.

He pulled the rope hard causing the bell to swing into the painters head. This caused him to fall to the ground immediately!!

Upon seeing this, passers by rushed to the scene assist and found him dead! The pastor, understandably shaken, asked if anyone knew him and someone responded " Don't know him - but, his face rings a bell!!!"

#9 It is getting more difficult for an "Old Geezer" like me to keep up with changes in technology. I used to repair my own ham radio equipment - then the '80s came around with "chips" and "surface mount" circuits and I can no longer read a schematic diagram or understand how circuits work. I still have a lot of equipment with tubes and transistors in them!! I also used to stick my head under the hood and do minor repairs and tune-ups on my vehicles. Not these days- too many on-board computers to screw up!!

Kurt Halverson - kurt2541@yahoo.com

1. Favorite hangouts. Then and now. - Friendly Fountain. Lake Wazeecha. Plover bars-pre 18. Buzz's & Riverside. Now there is more hanging on than hanging out.

2. Barn memories. - Not sure if it was jr. or senior year. There was an impromptu keg party at an old vacant farm house in Portage county. About 30 friends attended. A few started breaking windows and one person cut themselves and went for treatment at Riverview. The Portage county sheriff investigating saw the blood and checked with the hospital for a name. About a week later Sheriff Nick Chek came to LHS. Charlie Schwartz started pulling us out of classes to come to the office. Had to admit guilt. End result was they made us clean up the damage and pay for repairs. Could have been worse.

I remember my father reading about the vandal damage in the Tribune. I hadn't yet told him what happened. After reading the article he looked at me and said "I suppose you were there". Yes Dad.

3. How do journalists serve society? Are they doing a good job of serving society now?

Journalism is not what it used to be; which was unbiased reporting. Now its more left or right slanted editorials. I can form my own opinion thank you. I don't want theirs. I don't trust the media, politicians, or the D.C. swamp.

4. Been to Mexico? Where? When?

I have lived in Arizona since 1974, so yes I occasionally go to border towns.

5. Do you think living in the present is more or less challenging than living in the past? Why?

The present can be more or less as challenging as you choose to make it. Its your decision.

6. That time of year - What kind of lawnmower do you have? Like it?
No lawnmower-desert landscaping. No shoveling snow, no flooding, no tornadoes, no flies, no humidity. The trade off is June, July, August, and September. Heat bothers me less than winters.

9. What do you think about the speed of change happening in the world today?
Very fast paced but its progress. You don't have to watch tv, or use cell phones, or the internet, or take advantage of life saving medical advancements; if you don't want to.

Gene Hafermann - genehafermann@charter.net

1. My favorite hangout spots from the rural setting of my youth were:
 - a. The woods, usually hunting something.
 - b. My dad's workshop where I had a basketball hoop inside.
 - c. A little field next to our house where cousins and neighbors played football and softball and dad would hit me fly balls.
 - d. My large bedroom above the garage where I read books, shot dart guns, played with plastic blocks and my erector set, and listened to Brave's games.
 - e. At any number of relatives homes where I played games with my cousins while my parents visited with their counterparts.
2. Barn memories include feeding and milking cows, cleaning animal pens, watching the bull breed cows, listening to the radio, and learning to pitch softball against a concrete block wall.
3. I prefer human interest stories that are touching or funny and I have favorite journalists who do that ... like Dave Berry or Bill Stokes.
4. Was only into Mexico once when we visited my aunt and uncle in San Diego and drove down to Tijuana and did some bartering for junk.

5. Every time of life has it's challenges and well as it's fun. I liked the simpler life from my youth, but I enjoy the technology in the present.
6. I currently have an MTD self-propelled walk behind rotary mower I bought at Menards at least 10 years ago. It has served me well and I know how to maintain it.
7. Only uniforms I ever remember wearing were for sports teams and for Lutheran Pioneers (boy scout like program).
8. My parents had an old schoolhouse bell that dad mounted on a structure he made out of cement blocks. They used it to call us into dinner from wherever we were in the neighborhood.
9. I enjoy the challenge of trying to keep up with the changing times. But I also still enjoy unwinding out in the woods hunting, biking, hiking, or golfing. And I still enjoy creating things in my woodworking shop or singing with a men's chorus. The speed of change is fine and I choose whether to escape it or embrace it at different times.
10. My favorite song was from the show Brigadoon in which I had one of the leads opposite Judy who played Fiona. The song I always liked was "There, But For You, Go I".

Roger Fritz - fritzcat11@yahoo.com

#2, Barn Memories. As kids, my cousins and I would play in my grandfather's hayloft , swinging from a rope and dropping into the hay. Once I dropped right next to a pitch fork whose tines were sticking up. I still have that pitch fork.

#3,#5 & #9: How did we get into this mess? I'm a right wing conservative and could go on about this all day. We were making such good progress sticking to the principals of the Founding Fathers. Journalists are taking sides and that is most of the problem. They need to shed light on the full consequences of the actions the politicians are taking. If the country does not wake up to the direction we are heading and our real problems (eg. National Debt, China, education, too much government,etc), my kids and grand-kids are in for a bad time.

Dick Trudeau LHS '64 - dickmerry77@hotmail.com

FAVORITE HANGOUTS. THEN AND NOW. -- In grade school it was the Friendly Fountain. In high school Art's Restaurant was the gathering place. During college I hung out with my wife and two sons in our trailer house. These days I hang out with a multitude of wildlife in the remotest corners of Idaho.

BARN MEMORIES -- Bucking bales of hay in Marv Wallach's (Assumption High) hay loft. It was not the best experience for a teenager with serious hay fever!

HOW DO JOURNALISTS SERVE SOCIETY? -- For a country that was founded on the principles of "free speech" journalists should be the life blood of our society. There's room for improvement.

First of all, consider the fact that every journalist in the country is a product of our colleges and universities. It was those institutions that were the first to reject the concept of "free speech". It's either accept the liberal agenda or shut the heck up. Can we expect unbiased reporting from professional journalists who have spent the first four years of their adult life under the influence of educators who have never spent a workday outside the classroom?

Now take into consideration that all the media networks and newspapers are owned by billionaires and corporate conglomerates with their own political agenda. It's crystal clear that we are not getting unbiased reporting from our news sources. If you want the conservative slant, you watch Fox. If you want the liberal side of thought you watch everything else. Furthermore, it's not only what journalists report that reveals their political leanings, it's what they DON'T report that is even more significant. If a news development is embarrassing to the Democrats, it's not going to see the light of day on CNN, NBC, ABC, or CBS. Of course, me being a conservative, Fox tells me everything I want to hear.

Where is Walter Cronkite when you need him?

CHALLENGE OF LIVING IN THE PAST VS. THE PRESENT -- When I was young, I worried that everything that took place in the world was going to have an impact on my life. At age 74 the challenge is deciding which fly will catch me a five-pound trout.

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

9. Speed of change - I'm pretty slow to embrace new technology, but I LOVE the Echo Dot Larry bought me for Christmas. Technology is never free, and to hear

music on the Echo Dot you have to pay the yearly fee for Amazon Prime.



Sometimes on the car radio I hear a new song I like, and now I can ask computer voice Alexa to play it on my Echo Dot! So nice. My grandkids have had this tech device for a while, and probably many of your readers have it too. I also like hearing oldies on my Dot, like songs by Stevie Wonder or Smokey Robinson.