

**From:** [The Vasbys](#)  
**To:** [Bill & Shirley \(Black\) Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER - 5/13/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 6:09:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Speech.docx](#)

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Responses to previous topics:

Ward Weiss - [wweiss@centurytel.net](mailto:wweiss@centurytel.net)

I have a couple responses to Dick Trudeau's posts. Charter Schools in Wisconsin: My daughter is the administrative assistant of a charter school in the Ozaukee School District. The school is located on a nature preserve called River's Edge.

<https://theriveredgeschool.org/>

They have classes for Kindergarten through 5th grade and are hoping to expand to middle school levels. Each class has a limited number of students and there is always a waiting list. There is no cafeteria or bus service. Each class is housed in a yurt(Sp?). Students spend as much time as possible outside with their academics tied to those activities. Because of the type of curriculum and setting, this school was able to function safely during the covid. A few events were cancelled this year because they draw large crowds. However, the public is welcome to visit the preserve most any time. This is true dedication on the part of the parents to provide this wonderful opportunity for schooling and has proved to be successful.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/communities/northshore/news/port-washington/2018/07/25/riveredge-nature-center-open-nature-based-charter-school/825619002/>

Dick mentioned riding bikes around Rapids with his friends. I remember one time when they invited Lou Anderson and myself to go coon hunting. We were to meet behind the library and dress accordingly. We were prepared to hunt for raccoons. Turned out the guys the coons were earthworms. Bikes got us everywhere in Rapids. Those were the days. Now I am enjoying my ebike. If any of you wondering whether or not to get one. My response would be, why not? My brother, Ron Davis, has written an excellent article on ebikes and had it published. You can find it at

<https://volumeone.org/articles/2021/04/12/275044-afraid-tackling-wisconsins-hilly-terrain-an>.

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Gary Kegler - [gkarchit@yahoo.com](mailto:gkarchit@yahoo.com)

I'm a Newsletter virgin, as far as writing in, though I do enjoy reading what my classmates write. I thought that this week, there being no topic, would be a good opportunity for me to finally write something. So, hopefully, I'm not too late to have it included.

While at Lincoln, I was rather quiet & shy, just an average student, & not an athlete. I was unremarkable in looks & deathly afraid of girls. Upon seeing my senior picture, my wife remarked that I looked like Eddy Haskel. (That's a lovely dress you're wearing Mrs. Cleaver.) I had a very small circle of close friends, so many of you might not even remember me.

This could get long-winded, so if you don't know who the heck I am & aren't really interested, please skip this & go on to the next person writing in.

As with many of you, High School had a huge impact on developing life-long friendships & shaping the rest of my life. I still have stress dreams; not being able to find my locker; not remembering my class schedule or being able to find the rooms they're being taught in; or forgetting my Gym locker combination & having to wear my Gym shorts to class.

Another experience that had a huge impact on my life was my Military service & my deployment to Vietnam. I also had dreams & flashbacks related to my time in Vietnam, but these were cold-sweat dreams. The flashbacks were mild; just smells & sounds that would transport me back to a particular place & time. In the movies of the day, these flashbacks were depicted as being very violent, showing some Vietnam Veteran going berserk & killing someone. My college roommate at UWM

was afraid I would have a flashback & murder him in the middle of the night.

The difference between High School & the Vietnam experience is that you arrive In-Country as an individual & leave as an individual, never to see the men you served with ever again. There are no reunions.

So in my round-about, meandering sort of way, here is where my story begins.

My wife, Dianne, & I are on a Washer Toss League held at a tavern located in the countryside outside Elkhart Lake. In July of last year, between matches, a number of us from the League & a few patrons from the bar were sitting behind the tavern in a covered building used for smoking. Somehow we got on the subject of professional athletes kneeling for the National Anthem. A friend of mine from the League, sitting in one corner of the building, said "Being a Vietnam Veteran, this really pisses me off." One of the tavern patrons asked "How many of you here are Vietnam Veterans?" A guy sitting in the corner across from me said he was a Vietnam Veteran. I indicated that I served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. The guy said he was also with the 101st in the 3rd Battalion of the 506th Infantry Brigade in 1969 & 1970. I said I was also in the 3rd/506th in 1970 & 1971. We discovered that we were both in the same Company & both involved in the Cambodian Incursion in May of 1970. I sat there in shock, staring at him, trying to erase 50 years from his face. Finally, the fog cleared, & he started looking familiar. It turned out Pat lives in Florida, but summers with his brother, who lives in the Elkhart Lake area. He's always there on the same night our League plays because that's the night his brother tends bar. I told Pat I was pretty sure I had photos of the two of us together & that I would bring them along the following week. When I showed him the photos, he confirmed that it was indeed him. The next number of weeks, during League play, we caught up on all that had transpired in our lives since leaving Vietnam. I'm looking forward to getting together with him again this summer when he comes back in May.

What a small world! What are the odds of something like this happening? It seems like something out of a movie.

I belong to the local Lions Club in Elkhart Lake & one of our projects was to erect a Veterans Memorial for the Village honoring our local Veterans. I donated my Architectural services to design the Memorial & now am in charge of setting up the annual program honoring our Veterans & coordinating the engraving of their names on the granite pavers covering the floor of the Memorial. The program always includes a speaker who is either a Veteran or active military. This year, because of my reunion with Pat & the direction this Country seems to be heading in, I decided to put my fear of public speaking aside & give the speech myself. Speech attached.

For anyone who is interested, I have included a photo of Pat & myself in Vietnam.



I would like to thank all the Veterans from Lincoln High School, their children or grandchildren who are Veterans or Active Military, and all those who support them & our Country. I would also like to thank the Police & First Responders. (My son & daughter-in-law are Police Officers. My son is also a Marine Corps Veteran.)

God bless all of you. I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion this year.

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This week's topics:

1. What did you do with your incentive check(s)?
2. How did you celebrate Mother's day?
3. If you could revive 2 businesses on Main Street, what would they be?

4. Favorite "parking" places in high school.
5. One room school memories. Teacher? Transferring to city school.
6. What does the Native American title of your high school annual mean?
7. Getting senior discounts anywhere? Military discounts?
8. Used your vaccination form to gain entrance to anything?
9. Any strange critters in your yard lately? What?
10. Ever fight with an animal? How?
11. Should the newsletter have controversial topics? Why or why not?

and responses:

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Jennifer (Johnson) Lemke (63) - [jenniferjlemke@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferjlemke@gmail.com)

f by "Main Street" you mean West Grand Avenue, I would definitely have to bring back my Dad's store, Johnson's Jewelers, and either the Wisconsin Theater two doors down, or Country Inn, formerly Wilpolt's, for a booth to hang out with a Coke and fries, or a fish fry, or just lunch.

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Kathy Gotter - [gotterkd@yahoo.com](mailto:gotterkd@yahoo.com)



Save the date: LHS Class of 64  
57th Reunion-July 24th. 2021

Hope to see you then.

4. Favorite "parking" places in high school? - All I can say about this question is that if you lived in the country there were so many parking spots, they are too numerous to mention! Ha Ha

5. One room school memories. Teacher? Transferring to city school. - I attended Lone Pine School on County Trunk F on the way to Vesper from 3rd to 7th grade. It was a fabulous time. Marilyn Krekowski Witt was my only same grade classmate and we are still friends even though she attended Assumption which alot of us from class of 64 transferred from. Mrs. Kronsted was our teacher and I still count her as my all-time favorite.

6. What does the Native American title of your high school annual mean? - Ahdawagam means two-sided rapids. The 2 cities came together around 1900 and became Grand Rapids.

7. Getting senior discounts anywhere? Military discounts? - My husband gets senior discounts wherever he shops and eats if it is available.

11. Should the newsletter have controversial topics? Why or why not? - I say why not be able to talk about any subject? It's gotten to the point that there cannot be 2 sides to every topic without upheaval. My kids tell me I have no filters and I say that I've lived long enough to be able to express my opinions. Who is happy with what has happened in the last few months? Hold your seats...the ride will be rough.

11. Topic for next week? - Was your Doctor pushing you to get vaccinated?

My GP, Cardiac and Surgeon (had double hernia 6 weeks ago), all told me to not rush into getting the shots. What I surmise is that they are concerned about the shots impacting my immune system. Maybe we will all be in a class action lawsuit in 10 years if we are still around. Not sure if anyone else heard that. FYI: I went on my own to the VA in Fort Myers and had the J&J vaccine with my hubby so we could attend both of our class reunions in Wisc. in July.

Again, I cannot say thank you enough times for all you do every week. Just remember that most of us appreciate your hard work but we don't say it often enough. I think the only person I know who maybe would follow in your doorstep is Bill Hartley but then he is still working so who knows.... You just keep up the fabulous job!!!

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Roger Fritz - [fritzcat11@yahoo.com](mailto:fritzcat11@yahoo.com)

#8 Vaccination Form: I carried it with me since I've gotten the shots thinking it would act as proof that I was now OK to act normal again but have never found it useful. All places seem to be playing it "safe" and still requiring masks. I get real fired up on this one (see #11) and don't wear mine until pressed and confronted. If I don't need their services, I tell them to take a trip.  
If you are dumb enough to not get the shots, YOU, not me, have a problem.

#11: I'd like to not think the country is not in trouble but look at the beliefs of the ruling party. Facts and history don't seem to matter. There are enough misguided ideas, the discussion of which, could fill this newsletter and keep you in topics for years.

Watch the "Longmire" series on Netflix. Everyone I know loved it.

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Joe Kosek 'LHS 65 - [bubsbear01@gmail.com](mailto:bubsbear01@gmail.com)

Reply to #11: That would be nice and hopefully helpful provided the comments are not censored as is so commonly found on the social media platforms lately. The question I have is "What isn't controversial in recent times?"

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Chad Lewis - [chad.a.lewis@comcast.net](mailto:chad.a.lewis@comcast.net)

1. Bought 4 cartloads of groceries so far & gave to a local food bank. Gave some to horse rescue, then paid off the rest on my truck.

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Dick Trudeau LHS '64 - [dickmerry77@hotmail.com](mailto:dickmerry77@hotmail.com)

REVIVING TWO BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET -- If we're talking about Grand Avenue in Wisconsin Rapids it would be Perry's Sport Shop and the Friendly Fountain.

We'd often stroll through Perry's just to see and handle all the stuff we could never afford to buy, particularly baseball equipment. I'd try on a new baseball

glove and imagine how much better a player I could be. Fondling a new baseball was like having the Holy Grail in one's hand. I think owner John Lepinski (?) liked us kids, but he certainly wasn't the grandfatherly type. Kind of a smart ass actually.

The Friendly Fountain was the gathering place for us grade school kids. It seemed like Eric Sydanmaa had an endless supply of nickels to play the pinball machines. He was the King. I'd give anything to have a video of me and my old classmates hanging out at the Friendly Fountain. It's hard to imagine how the owner could make a living relying on kids who didn't have any money as his source of income.

If given the opportunity to reminisce, I have to include the Rapids Theater in my memories. We typically gathered there every Friday night. Who can forget owner Tom Polis? Tom also owned the Sugar Bowl Restaurant. He was one of the hardest workers in town. He always had a stub of a cigar hanging from his mouth. When it came time to open the theater Tom would dash over from his restaurant duties and duck into the ticket booth, sell us a ticket and then meet us at the door and take our tickets. He'd tear the ticket in half and give us the stub. We'd always greet him with a "hi Tom". Tom couldn't remember all our names so he'd return the greeting with "hi Tom". We were all named "Tom". I believe the theater building still stands, but I'm not sure it's operated as a theater.

ANY STRANGE CRITTERS IN THE YARD? -- We live on six acres with a substantial population of gophers. Every once in a while, one makes its way into the lawn. Fortunately, we have a neighbor who takes pride in trapping them.

EVER FIGHT WITH AN ANIMAL? -- Just a couple of angry rattlesnakes. Some say I should leave a rattlesnake alone, they're part of the natural world. B.S., I kill every one I see. There is certainly no shortage of them and it can be a slow miserable death for a dog that's bitten by one. It's no picnic for humans either!

SHOULD THE NEWSLETTER HAVE CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS? -- Of course, it can/should. We're adults. We can discuss things intelligently, although at my age I'm pretty well locked into my beliefs and I've never been able to convince a liberal in the error of his/her ways.

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Kaaren (Berg) Brehmer - [kaarenknits@solarus.net](mailto:kaarenknits@solarus.net)

Our incentive checks have paid bills, the biggest one to the dentist. We also replaced some furniture that was old enough to vote.

We celebrated Mother's Day by going to our (separate) churches and then to a local bar for dinner. Our daughter and son in law had given Tom a card with a gift certificate in it, she called to make sure he delivered it. Our son called later in the day. No word from any of the grandchildren.

Our main street in Boulder Junction is really changing. A lot of places either closed or are for sale. The bait shop and the hardware store continue to do well. Our gas station/convenience store seems to be booming. Several of the merchants have decided to retire, one new business from last year has bought property right on Main street and will be tearing it down.

Our favorite "parking" place was right in front of my parent's house. People were used to seeing the car there.

We have all sorts of critter's in our yard up here. The newest addition this year is Mrs. Seymour Fox and her kits. We had a great time watching the kits play. They have moved on now. I imagine we will soon see fawns and maybe a snapping turtle or two. We have had snapping turtles lay eggs in our gravel driveway several times.