

From: [Chuck Hinners](#)
To: [The Vasbys](#)
Cc: kdengel@wctc.net; [Bill Heilman](#); [S L John Schultz](#)
Subject: RE: Lincoln High Newsletter - 7/21/11
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2011 3:42:59 PM

Kent

Thanks for including the memories of 61 from Dave Engel. He is a great Rapids treasure!

I was well known by officers Galganski, Wettstein, Spencer, Krumrei and Chief Exner

Eldon's daughter Susan was a member of the class of 64.

Eldon played golf at Bull's Eye and had a good eye for the better balls in my shag bag.

Heilman pulled off the best Lincoln prank--EVER

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From: The Vasbys [mailto:kvasby@smallbytes.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 3:03 PM
To: ;
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 7/21/11

Hi all,

Judy and I had a great & interesting time in Winona, MN last week at the Methodist north-central "archives & history" conference.

Hadn't been to Coulee country for many years and the scenery along the Mississippi is great.

We started out with a presentation from a couple who have been restoring an old Methodist cemetery.

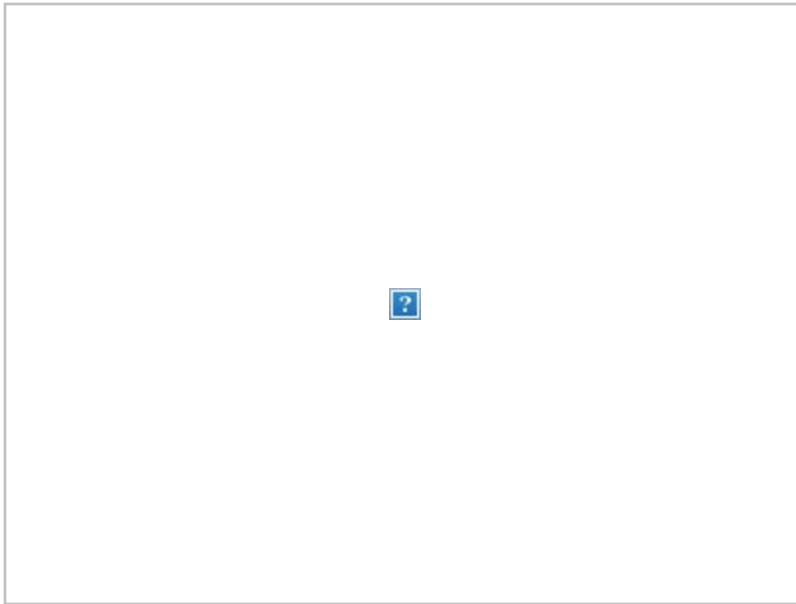
http://www.oldprairievillecem.org/Site/Old_Prairieville_Cemetery.html

We also toured the Winona County Museum. A "must see" if you're in the area. Great local history.

<http://www.winonahistory.org/sites/armory.html>

We toured several Methodist churches in far SE Minnesota built in the 1850's. I'm sure we startled several Amish farmers when a big tour bus passed them on a gravel road!!!!

The first one we stopped at was the Lenora church

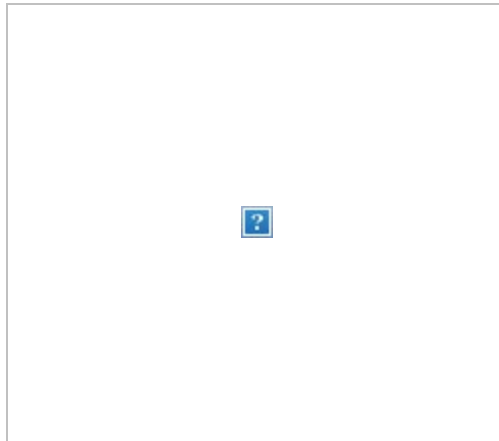


<http://lenorachurch.wordpress.com/about/> .

We sang some very rousing hymns to the accompaniment of an old pump organ. 40 good Methodist singers rattled the rafters! Really impressed me!!! The "Holy Spirit" seemed to be present!

The second one was the Portland Prairie church which was founded by Scottish immigrants from Rhode Island.
<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sandlier/portland-pr/portland-prairie-ch2.htm>

We stopped for lunch at the Newburg Methodist church in Mabel, MN. The church was founded by Norwegian immigrants and we enjoyed a meal of "Norwegian" meat-balls, glazed carrots, mashed taters & gravy.



Dave Engel's kdengel@wctc.net River City Memories

Lately I have wondered why, if I lived outside the city limits, it was a city cop, Leon Galganski, who drove me home after curfew that night in 1962.

Though I had spent my first months in a West Side apartment, my youth was misspent in the unincorporated area south of town, where my associates and I attended a "country" or state-graded school.

What I recently found is that 50 years ago, I was in the process of returning to the city of my birth, or, better said, Wisconsin Rapids was returning to me.

According to the June 1, 1961, Daily Tribune, a referendum in the Grove-Woodside-Two Mile School District approved annexation, followed by the Wisconsin Rapids Common Council's adoption of the resulting ordinance then being considered by Circuit Judge Herbert Bunde.

Before you knew it, there would be fluoride, garbage pickup and kindergarten.

The same June 1 Tribune contained other items of interest on the front page.

» Vocational School: in the process of the metamorphosis to Mid-State Technical Institute, the Wisconsin Rapids Board of Vocational and Adult Education hired Eldon C. Everetts to succeed long-time director W.A. Sprise.

Everetts, a native of Minnesota, was a graduate of Stout State College, Menomonie, and had been director of Stoughton vocational and adult education for four years.

The Rapids Vocational School and directors Everetts and Sprise are profiled in the history book, "Building for the Future: Mid-State Technical College 1907-2010" by Dave Engel and Holly Knoll.

» Also depicted in "Building for the Future": Wood County Teachers College, adjacent to the Vocational School.

The 1961 Tribune reported that, in a joint graduation ceremony with the student teachers, receiving eighth-grade diplomas from Warren J. Lensmire, president, were five graduates of the college Model School: Kathleen Ironside, Jack McGraw, Allen Macha, Betty Parsons and Lois Skerven.

Included was music by Mrs. Dorothea Johnson, Model School principal, and the college trio of Carolyn Ralston, Judy Collins and Nancy Swope.

Of 30 Teachers College graduates, 22 had accepted positions in elementary schools, two would be "homemakers" and the others would move on to Wisconsin state colleges at Stevens Point and River Falls.

» Assumption High School: entering its numerical prime as it graduated 121 seniors, including valedictorian Marlene Rezin and salutatorian Rosemary Lepinski.

» Badger Plastics Corp.: Hope for a brighter future expressed by president J.J. Nimitz and officers Darwin Blanke and Jay G. Somers at the company's annual meeting.

After numerous conflicts with out-of-town directors, Badger showed a loss after its first year but hoped to break even in 1961 on the way to prosperity.

Badger Plastics planned to manufacture a variety of items out of a site at Pepper Avenue and 16th Street in the town of Grand Rapids.

Nimitz also was vice president and director of purchases for Preway, Inc., a local manufacturer of stoves and other metal items.

» Photo on Page 2: Mrs. Lawrence Marcoux, attended by Wood County Telephone Co.'s general manager, H.B. Flower, making the area's first direct-dialed long distance call.

» Last train to Rudolph: In 1961, 85 years after the first passenger train into the Grotto village, 200 passengers rode aboard Milwaukee Road No. 203 for Wausau.

The junket carries a ton of children who can't sit still and a hundred pounds of pretty girl with an accordion who plays "Beer Barrel Polka," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Red Raven Polka."

The passengers join in singing, and the conductor can't resist a few jig steps down the aisle.

At Wausau waits a television cameraman as the crowd detrains for a nearby restaurant and mass quantities of "pop," before returning en masse on to a southbound back to Rudolph for the last stop ever.

» Peacock: stolen from municipal zoo and recovered by police in a car parked on Drake street where the bird had been placed, apparently as a prank -- Lincoln's head not being available.

» Lincoln's head: and the foreign exchange Dutch girl tainted with guilt by association in theft of same during the following school year.

Hendrika Van der Harst, chosen in the summer of 1961 to enjoy a portion of her life adventure right here in River City.

Dave Engel is a Wisconsin Rapids native, local historian and author of books in the "River City Memoirs" series. His column is a regular feature in the Daily Tribune.