

From: [The Vasbys](#)
To: [Undisclosed-Recipient::](#)
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 9/4/08
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2008 4:38:32 PM

Lincoln High Newsletter

Don Solie dg.solie@hotmail.com writes:

Kent,

I too had a Vega, and for me it experienced a short life cycle. I purchased it when I first moved to Atlanta in 1976 and used it for commuting from home to the airport and back home. It was a hideous orange color, and if I remember the engine was built on an aluminum block? I think I kept it for less than a year and traded it for a Datsun soon to be Nissan. The Vega didn't have air conditioning and that was and is a must have in Hotlanta! I didn't have mechanical issues, but then again I didn't put many miles on it since it sat at Hartsfield International most of the time.

As for near death experiences, our family had a close call with natural gas over exposure during the Christmas Holiday of 1963. My sister and her family (husband and two nephews) were visiting my parents and I had returned to Wi Rapids for the holiday break from UW Madison. My folks had just acquired a new gas furnace and the installation had just been completed. I recall being awakened in the early hours by my brother-in-law telling me to assist my mother and get her out of the house....something was wrong and she had lost muscle control! Apparently my youngest nephew (less than two years old) had awakened and raised such a crying fuss that my sister and her husband were awakened. They immediately knew something was wrong and woke my parents. My father said it must be related to the new furnace and having some experience with natural gas all concluded that we should immediately evacuate. Our neighbors opened their house to us, called the fire department who immediately recognized the presence of a dangerously high amount of natural gas....they were concerned that turning on a light switch could result in an immediate explosion! Dr. Norbert Arndt was called and came to our neighbors to check everyone out (would that or could that happen today) and got everyone out in fresh COOOLLLLLLDDD Wisconsin air. I believe oxygen was administered to my mother. Two of us lost whatever was in our stomachs too! The next morning we were informed by the Fire Chief that we had avoided certain death by less than 10 minutes do to gas poisoning. Needless to say a new furnace was installed on 24th, and being superstitious my lucky number became "23" (we survived on December 23rd) which remains the same today! No one was hospitalized and the furnace vendor covered all expenses for removal of the equipment, installation of the replacement mechanism, air purification, etc. and I believe provided notice to my parents that our home would never incur future maintenance costs. My father, being less of a litigious individual than I have become accepted this resolution. Me, I would have funded my retirement at the early age of 18!!!!!!!

I did serve in Viet Nam and used to escort prisoners from Da Nang to the USS Ranger CVA 61 (attack carrier), Top Gun of the Pacific Fleet. I was present for incoming grenade and rocket attacks, witnessed a young girl detonate herself, but never really felt immediate life threatening danger. As for the prisoners, I turned them over to CIA people during the return flight to the carrier....., and I will support a real American, John McCain in the upcoming 2008 Presidential elections.

Global warming.....did Al Gore invent that just before or after he invented the internet? We experience Texas warming every year, this year we've had a typical summer with more than 25 days over 100 degrees, but it's been a long way from setting records! And I kind of like it because my golf ball flies further in low humidity and hot air.

Hi Kent...my dad died early Monday morning. He was 93, and while that is a life well-lived, it seems too soon for me...a hole in the sky and in our hearts. The visitation is Thursday night at Taylor's and the funeral at 11am on Friday at Grace Lutheran Church out on Whitrock Ave. Their home at 4051 Sampson St. is for sale with Century 21. Thanks for all that you do to keep us informed. We do appreciate it.

Barbara Thalacker bthalacker@comcast.net
Class of '64

Harold W. Thalacker

Harold William Thalacker, 93, of Wisconsin Rapids, died Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, in Fond du Lac.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 5, 2008, at Grace Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids. Private interment will be in Harrisville Cemetery, Harrisville.

Respects to the family will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008 at Taylor, Vollert, and Jennings Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids.

Harold was born Aug. 31, 1915, in Dakota, Waushara County, to Paul and Ida (Wagner) Thalacker. He married Dorothy Elizabeth Rickman on April 23, 1942.

Harold moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 1921. He attended Two Mile Grade School and graduated from Immanuel Lutheran School. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1932 and later in life attended Madison Business College.

He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Camp Cavour after high school and was a member of the National Guard artillery for seven years, attaining the rank of staff sergeant.

Harold was employed by Consolidated Papers Inc. for 40 years, served as justice of the peace and municipal judge for the town of Grand Rapids for 13 years, as town supervisor for three years, and chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals until just before his death. He also served on the Height Limitations Committee of the Airport Commission. He helped to organize, served and held offices in the Grand Rapids Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years.

Harold was chairman of the Aid Association for Lutherans Branch 3419 for 12 years, and served as chairman of the Federation of AAL branches for two terms.

Harold and Dorothy helped to develop St. Luke's Lutheran Church, and more recently, as charter members of Grace Lutheran Church, laid the groundwork, helped to build the structure, and served as first chairman of the church board. He also was a board member in subsequent years.

He was a partner in Thal-Acre's Realty for 35 years with his wife, Dorothy, who built their house from on-site trees, built the roads with their sons, planned lots and worked with surveyors to develop the 40-acre subdivision in the town of Grand Rapids.

Harold was predeceased by his parents; brothers, Chester, Arnold, Arbie, Paul, Edwin, Russell and Lloyd. His sisters, Loretta and Hannah, also preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of 66 years (currently of Fond du Lac); his daughters, Barbara (Terry Reed) of Sacramento, Calif., and Bonnie (the Rev. Peter Raquet) of Mound, Minn.; his sons, Brian (Paula) of Fond du Lac, the Rev. Bruce (Janet) of Rapid City, S.D., and the Rev. Brent (Susan) of Fairfax Station, Va.; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Ruth and Arnold Rotermund of Wisconsin Rapids, and brother-in-law, Max Specht of Monticello, Iowa. Harold and Dorothy also have 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and 31 nieces and nephews who brought great joy to his life.

Harold was a man of great faith, integrity, intellect and wit who deeply loved his family and cared for his friends. He will be dearly missed. Memorials may be made to Grace Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.