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Lincoln High Newsletter

This week's topics:

1. It's Memorial Day - Is there an Armed Forces veteran you would like to remember?
2. Remembering Memorial Day in the Rapids in the 60's - Did you have a parade, go to the cemetery? What do you remember?
3. Did you ever have anything built to your specifications? Car, house, whatever.
4. Did you take over a business that your parent(s) started?
5. Did you ever bet on a horse?

and responses:

Pete Smullen - AHS 67 - pete_smullen@hotmail.com

Since this is the LHS newsletter, I only feel comfortable sending you "stuff" when a Lincoln alum is involved. In this case, that alum is my brother Bill, who graduated from LHS in 1955. Here's my story:

My wife and I were visiting my brother Bill and his wife in Wisconsin about 20 years ago. Bill suggested we go to the race track for the day. After discussing the schedule, we departed for Arlington Park for a day in the wild.

I have never been a gambler. I suspect it's because I understand the math too well to be suckered in. I play nickel-dime-quarter poker with a group of friends on a regular basis, but that's less about gambling and more about friends. When I go to a casino - about once every ten years because someone else invited us - I pull out my \$20 bill and head for the floor. After that \$20 is gone, I'm all about people watching.

Anyway, we had nine races to watch, so my wife and I decided we would place a \$2 "show" bet in every race on the favorite horse for that particular race. With that bet, if the favorite finished 1, 2 or 3, we would win ... not much, but we would win. I remember in one race, we "won" \$2.20 for a net gain of twenty cents. For us, the bet was all about minimizing losses while giving us someone to root for.

After the last race, my brother admitted he has lost a little over \$200, then asked my how much we had lost. It turns out we were lucky that day; I said we had netted \$21 profit. His comment? "Well, that just shows you didn't bet enough." I guess he understands the math too.

Reinold Boettcher - reiniejb@charter.net

It's Memorial Day - 3 Generations of Veterans: (Grandfather) Emil E Boettcher (WW1); (Dad) Erwin R Boettcher (WW2); (Dad's Brother) Paul Boettcher (Korean War); (self) Reinold J Boettcher (Vietnam War)

Did you ever have anything built to your specifications? - 2 houses, as a woodworker some furniture and lots of small projects and gifts

Did you take over a business - No, Started my own tool design business at age 61 after being laid off in 2007

Ursula Nogic - unogic@yahoo.com

Vets To Remember: My cousin's son Ryan who was killed by an IED in Afghanistan at tail end of war. My close friend Gilda's son Alex who died of injuries and burns resulting from a exploded grenade in his tank. Also in Afghanistan in earlier stages of the war. In another category: The high percentage of traumatic brain injured vets who have died their former pre-injury lives and are now hollow shells and those with PTSD who can't function normally in personal and societal arenas.

Built to Specifications: An extra week of vacation added on to the normal 2 weeks for first 5 years of employment.

Bet on Horse: My maiden voyage into gambling at Charlestown WVA Racetrack - Bet on #2 who won. First and last bet on horses.

Ward Weiss - wweiss@centurytel.net

Building to specs: We are building an Insulated Cement Foam house (energy efficient) and handicap accessible. The house is nearing completion and we should be in by June.

This build is a result of the house fire on the home farm. We are selling our present home and acreage to our daughter's family and bought out my husband's brother to take over most of the home farm. The houses are a field apart from each other on the Wolf River in Fremont. Some of the things we did were skip troweling on the walls, custom cabinets, a root cellar, and polished cement floors. Perhaps, I should write again after we live there to give a report on how we like things. We did our floor plan but still needed the architect's drawings. It is a one story home with a future finished basement with egress windows. We welcome visitors and invite you to write with other questions.

Hopefully, this is our last build/remodel and can spend our time finishing projects, doing general maintenance, and enjoying life.

Jim Nickel (LHS '65) - jnickel206@aol.com

Regarding betting on a horse, I did once years ago at a horse track in Ohio. We had a group meeting there and everyone was putting at least one \$2 bet on a horse. I usually don't bet on these things; but I thought, why not try this once.

Well, time for the race and my chosen horse got hung up in the starting gate. It didn't get out until all the other other horses were at least a block ahead of him. There went the chance for even a shot at being close to the winner. That cured me of horse betting. Instead I threw money into airplanes and that was probably just as crazy :)

Sue (Christensen) Weimer - sjweimer09@gmail.com

My 2003 Dodge Stratus was the first brand new car I bought since 1968. My 1968 Pontiac I bought off the car lot. It had 7 miles on it. It was a great car. It was a 2 door hard top and was just right for me at that age....single and looking for fun. Then I got married and my husband bought a Jeep and there went my Pontiac. There were lots of cars between my

Pontiac and my Inferno Red (I bought it after my divorce) Stratus. I picked out everything on that car and ordered it. Believe or not, I just sold my Stratus.

After my Mom died, my sister and I inherited the beauty salon my Mom owned and operated. We became the owners of M. E. Christensen Salons. We had managers to run the salon and we did the business bookwork end. Later on, we were approached to buy the building that housed not only the beauty salon but also a dental office. A rental house behind the salon was also a part of the deal. We became landlords too. At that point, the 2 managers approach us to buy into the business. We agreed and formed HKLS Enterprises. The 4 of us ladies worked together very well. Maybe it was because both my sister and I didn't work in the salon. We had full time jobs elsewhere. After 5 years we were approached by Walgreens to sell them our place on the corner of 8th Street and Airport Avenue. They made us an offer we couldn't refuse and Walgreens now stands where New Look Beauty Salon use to be.

Gene Hafermann - genehafermann@charter.net

While I always think about my dad and uncles who were in the military during WWII and the Korean War, I once heard a sermon that said Memorial Day can also be used to remember loved ones who have passed on whether they were involved with the military or not.

I remember more about Memorial Day since I moved to Mazomanie where they have an active American Legion that has an event at the local grade school and cemetery the morning of every Memorial Day. I have sung for that in little groups on several occasions.

One of my jobs when I worked for WisDOT was writing specifications for survey software development. After the initial development, I would beta test the resulting code and ultimately train users to work with the programs. I have also drawn plans and detailed specifications for multiple home building projects. Some were for friends and some were built for and even by me. In fact, I am in the middle of doing this one more time for the last home I plan to build (working with a general contractor this time).

Karen (Goetzke) King - yayaec@ymail.com

I have actually bet on horses, if you can call a \$2 bet a real bet, at the track in Shokopee, MN. The Derby and The Preakness. Never won big but never lost big either. I don't study the racing forms; I pick the horse based on its name or if I know the jockey or if it's a woman riding. Totally arbitrary. Not such a fan of the races, but my husband is and I know the horses are pampered and well cared for. Do they really like to run those short distances at incredible speeds as the announcers always say? Guessing they'd rather be in a pasture.

Here's something to think about.

I recently was assigned a new primary care doctor under Obamacare.

After two visits and exhaustive Lab tests, he said I was doing 'fairly well' for my age. (I just turned sixty-five).

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, 'Do you think I'll live to be 80?'

He asked, 'Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer, wine or hard liquor?' 'Oh no,' I replied. 'I'm not doing drugs, either!'

Then he asked, 'Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued Ribs?' 'I said, 'Not much... my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!'

'Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, boating, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?' 'No, I don't,' I said.

He asked, 'Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lots of sex?' 'No,' I said...

He looked at me and said.. 'Then, why do you even give a shit?'

