

From: [The Vasbys](#)
To: [Undisclosed-Recipient::](#)
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 5/29/08
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2008 3:13:14 PM

Lincoln High Newsletter

New readers:

Nancy Olson Whitlock (64) - THENANC@aol.com

Dave Engel (63) kdengel@wctc.net wrote the following for "River City Memoirs" in the 5/19/08 WR Trib:

Half-century of schooling concludes

Despite the company of my fifth-grade mentor, Paul Murgatroyd, I was scared to death.

In 1951, at age 6, I matriculated with great reluctance at the four-classroom "state graded" Two Mile school, then at the corner of Two Mile Avenue and Highway 13, about a half mile walk from my home, at which I wished I could have stayed forever in my mother's arms.

Actually, the Two Mile building used five rooms for educational purposes, if you counted the basement all-purpose area being used for Paul's class due to the effects of an influx of young families like ours to the town of Grand Rapids.

I said "goodbye Two Mile" after four years under Mrs. Schmidt and in 1959 graduated from principal Palmer Budahl's Grove school, also then a rural-graded institution. Ours was the last eighth-grade class at Grove.

The next year, my sister's was the first eighth-grade class to graduate from Woodside.

Twelve years after I entered Two Mile School, I graduated from "old" Lincoln High School, now East Junior High. During my checkered career in the hallowed halls, beginning under legendary principal Aaron Ritchay, I learned a few things and had a lot of fun.

My sister started at Two Mile a year after me, to begin what was (with the exception of sports) a distinguished career. Upon her graduation from LHS in 1964, the former Wood County spelling bee winner was a National Merit Scholar and co-LHS valedictorian.

A brother came along five years later than me. He enjoyed school and became a varsity wrestler on one of Lewie Benitz's early teams. My youngest brother never outgrew his shyness and suffered through it all.

By the time the last of my siblings graduated from Lincoln in 1973, our Engels had attended local schools for 22 years.

Then, the next generation.

My first daughter started kindergarten at Woodside in 1978 and I got to know "our" neighborhood school pretty well again. Mrs. Reichert was more than happy to have me sit in kindergarten classes with both my first and second daughters.

From 1978-1994, the two girls racked up 16 more years for our family in Rapids schools: at Woodside, East Jr. High, Assumption High School and Lincoln, reaching 39 years for the family.

My third daughter started kindergarten in 1995 at Rudolph Elementary (naturally on Knowledge Avenue) where my wife became the school librarian.

Daughter three moved on to West Jr. High and the now-venerable but then "new Lincoln." She graduates this year and that ends it.

Adding her 13 years, I count seven graduates of Lincoln and a collective 52 years that a member of my family has been enrolled in a Wisconsin Rapids school.

We were typical products of a mill worker's family culture and of local schools. How did we fare in the thin air of high education?

Among the four in my generation, we count four master's degrees among three persons and for the fourth a bachelor's degree. In the second generation, each of the two older daughters have also garnered master's degrees.

For both obvious and perverse reasons, I have often been proud of being "from" Wisconsin Rapids and Lincoln High School and never felt a scholarly disadvantage moving to the next level of the Ivory Tower, whether it be Two Mile to Grove, Grove to Lincoln, Lincoln to UWSP or UWSP to Wyoming, for example.

The graduation of my third and last daughter this year brings the tradition to an end. Her career in the local schools, especially at Lincoln under the disciplined encouragement of retiring principal Gus Mancuso, has been productive, although she is more than ready to move on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Her story, one of 444 stories in the class of 2008 and for me, the last chapter of an era.

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

Kathy Willems Gotter gotterkd@sstelco.com writes:

Better late than never.

Dr. Spaeth was our dentist. Our family started going to him in 1952. He was the kindest and gentlest man. This is coming from the memories of a 6 year old. To this day, the dentist doesn't concern me at all. (all thanks to him!!)

As far as driving is concerned. We have gotten worse not better. I use to live a minute and a half from work and now since we have retired to the lake, I drive 53 miles round trip. Not very good timing for a move. The nearest Walmart is over 30 miles away and the nearest grocery store is almost 20 miles away. That is what happens when you move to the boonies!!! I still love the place and don't spend money on other things - just gas.

Tom Sparhawk will do what it takes to make the business work. He has the brains to work through the tough times. If the trucks come to a stop, we will really feel the backlash. If you think groceries are high now----think about shortages!!!

Mark Suckow marks54545@centurytel.net writes:

Just noticed your 5/22 newsletter. Thanks again. One of the reasons for the low turnout on the LHS mascot vote was that, as I understand it, to vote a person had to actually be in town, stop at the school and cast their ballot. Ideas for the mascot could be submitted by email to the District but voting was only in person. There was no internet (or snail mail) voting which would seem to have been easy to do. They effectively eliminated a great deal of potential voters. Job well done.

And to Ron Feutz, I hope to hell Roger Hornig didn't know about what they were doing.

Editor's notes!

Sorry, but I really, really don't believe in "man-made" global warming!

A new book, out this week in English - "[Blue Planet in Green Shackles](#)" by Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic.

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/printpage/?url=http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/05/blue_planet_in_green_shackles.html

Please, please, at least think about the implications even if you believe in global warming!

=====

Next week, the Senate will vote on the Lieberman-Warner cap-and-trade climate control bill. The proposed statute is a nightmare that would devastate our economy. The [Wall Street Journal](#) calls it "the most extensive government reorganization of the American economy since the 1930s."

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives2/2008/05/020620.php>

Please contact your Senator!