

From: [The Vasbys](#)
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Lincoln High Newsletter

Address changes:

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This week's topics:

1. **Remembering the production of Showboat back in 64.** A lot of the readers were in the show. Your memories.
 2. **Remember terrariums?** They were popular back in the 50's, 60's & 70's. You still have one?
 3. **Alzheimers.** Any drugs, like Aricept, that you've found to be effective for you or your parents?
4. **Critters revisited.** Editor's two squirrels evidently got fed well enough over winter to reproduce. Now there are 7 of them. The youngsters are fun to watch developing their climbing and jumping skills - although when jumping they occasionally fall flat on the ground. Doesn't seem to hurt them much. Any critters that you're watching?
5. **IBM punchcards.** Remember when? I'm sure many of the readers dealt with them back in the 60's & 70's. Your memories?
6. **Primetime TV.** Any shows that you watch that are worth a hoot? Gals seem to like to watch "Dancing with the Stars" altho why escapes me. "House" seems to have gone off the deep-end.
7. **Anyone want to predict who will be the GOP's presidential candidate in 2012?** Editor kind of thinks that Rick Santorum might be it with "dark-horse" Paul Ryan as VP?
8. **A number of teachers have chosen to retire recently.** Would any of you like to expound on the differences in kids, schools, parents and the classroom between when you started teaching and when you quit?
9. **You traveled to the Middle East?** Care to tell the readers of your impressions of Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and how they might relate (or not) to the unrest found there today?
10. Controversial question? **Should we continue to have troops in Afghanistan?** Historically speaking, no "occupying power" thruout history has ever made a whit of difference there. Your thoughts.
11. **Anything else you'd care to write about.**

and responses:

Gene Hafermann genehafermann@charter.net responds to last week's topics:

I guess I didn't see the topics for this week before. So I'm going to complete the sentences now.

1. 37 years ago I was 3 years into my first marriage, 3 years into my work with WisDOT (40 years on 6/14/2011), and had just built my first home and moved to Mazomanie.
2. My pet peeve is contractors who don't do things the right way. Not sure if it is cutting corners, incompetence, or what.
3. Gas is \$4 a gallon so I work at home when I can, walk around the local town, try to combine errands into one trip, etc.
4. God should have thought twice about giving people a free will.
5. I lost weight by eating fewer sweets and exercising more (when I tried to do that the last time).
6. My favorite Grand Avenue store was Hokamps Drive-In
7. Conservatives and Liberals differ in that conservatives make judgements based on how it will affect their pocketbooks and liberals try to help everyone without being fiscally responsible.

Gene Hafermann
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37 years ago I was still teaching. My pet peeve is working with people who don't listen. Only drive when necessary. Taken a vacation from all this mess lately. Not eating. As if.

Mr. Cleworth clewco@wctc.net

Linda (Edwards) Barick lbarick@hotmail.com writes:

The only shows I watch on a regular basis are NCIS and The Good Wife.

Regarding punch cards...when I was hired as a computer programmer at Sentry in 1968, we were all about punch cards. I worked with a client who used credit cards in their business. I had to sort the cards on a machine before processing. (Back in the day, we handled everything: programming, operations, handing input and output, etc.) The cards were extremely slippery fom the carbon paper which was needed for imprinting. Needless to say, I dropped many of the cards, usually after they were sorted.

I was the first female programmer hired by Sentry and the good ol' boys didn't care much for me. So... when I submitted my first program for assembling I was suprised at the comments I found in my printout. The boys decided to insert a few comment cards into my deck such as "I couldn't follow your logic even on roller skates!" Of course, the cards were removed when I arrived at work. It was a hoot and seems like good, clean fun compared to today's workplace (unless you're a congressman, of course).

Barb (Martin) Cammack barbaracammack@hotmail.com writes about Showboat:

Well, yes, I was in that show! Even though I knew Elaine's father could sew, I was amazed at what a beautiful red satin dress he made for my best friend. And then she sat on the piano and sang the lovely song, "Just My Bill". We,

in the choir, had some really fun times.....Elaine, Sheri, Sally, the Dents, Jim Heilman to name a few. Mr. Cleworth clewco@wctc.net put a lot of effort into the productions and gave me a lot of happy memories.

I remember **IBM punch cards**. My first job at Nekoosa Papers was in data entry (1969). All our data was typed into punch cards, and then trays of punch cards were taken into the computer room (which was huge by today's standards) and then the cards were fed into the computer. When my first Christmas in the department approached.....we could take down outdated boxes of cards, bend the corners of one end in, staple, then staple the card to a pizza cardboard. When you stapled enough cards around the circle, you had a 'rough' Xmas wreath. Some of us would spray paint them or drizzle glue on them and add sparkles.

Ah the simple life!

Patricia D. Barton-Loveseck, Class of '64 pdb@pearlengineering.com

Editor's note:

A mini-ice age on the way?

Rick Moran 6/15/11

Why not? Climate hysterics have kind of worn out the global warming scare. Now it's time to reverse gears and scare the bejeebus out of us by positing global cooling.

Actually, this has a little bit more basis in science. Sun spot activity is disappearing, which has led in the past to "The Little Ice Age" and other cold snaps lasting a couple of [centuries or more](#).

What may be the science story of the century is breaking this evening, as heavyweight US solar physicists announce that the Sun appears to be headed into a lengthy spell of low activity, which could mean that the Earth - far from facing a global warming problem - is actually headed into a mini Ice Age. The announcement made on 14 June (18:00 UK time) comes from scientists at the US National Solar Observatory (NSO) and US Air Force Research Laboratory. Three different analyses of the Sun's recent behaviour all indicate that a period of unusually low solar activity may be about to begin.

The Sun normally follows an 11-year cycle of activity. The current cycle, Cycle 24, is now supposed to be ramping up towards maximum strength. Increased numbers of sunspots and other indications ought to be happening; but in fact results so far are most disappointing. Scientists at the NSO now suspect, based on data showing decades-long trends leading to this point, that Cycle 25 may not happen at all.

This could have major implications for the Earth's climate. According to a statement issued by the NSO, announcing the research:

An immediate question is whether this slowdown presages a second Maunder Minimum, a 70-year period with virtually no sunspots [which occurred] during 1645-1715.

As NASA notes:

Early records of sunspots indicate that the Sun went through a period of inactivity in the late 17th century. Very few sunspots were seen on the Sun from about 1645 to 1715. Although the observations were not as extensive as in later years, the Sun was in fact well observed during this time and this lack of sunspots is well [documented](#).

This period of solar inactivity also corresponds to a climatic period called the "Little Ice Age" when rivers that are normally ice-free froze and snow fields remained year-round at lower altitudes. There is evidence that the Sun has had similar periods of inactivity in the more distant past.

Global cooling actually has a lot more potential to cause massive problems for humans than global warming. People thrive in warmer weather, grow more crops, eat better, and are in better health. Global cooling brings shortened growing seasons, more virulent bugs, less arable land, and a drier climate. At least, that's been the pattern in the past.

As [Ed Morrissey](#) presciently points out:

Of course, if those AGW advocates suddenly convert to Maunder Minimists, why do I have the sneaking suspicion that the same solutions - central control of energy production and usage, [elimination](#) of fossil fuels - will be pushed?

Gee - could be because they don't care a whit about saving anybody, only their own drive for power and control.

Also see: <http://www.nso.edu/press/SolarActivityDrop.html>