

**From:** [The Vasbys](#)  
**To:** [i](#)  
**Subject:** Lincoln High Newsletter - 8/12/10  
**Date:** Thursday, August 12, 2010 1:30:49 PM

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## *Lincoln High Newsletter*

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### **This week's topics are:**

1. **Beauty salons in Wis Rapids back when** - Where did you gals go to get gussied up for the prom in the 60's?
2. Speaking of proms - **where did the guys get corsages for their dates?** What kind of flower did you order?  
Anyone buy an orchid?
3. **Prom memories!** Nowadays kids go to a motel before & after the prom! What did you do?
4. **Speaking of motels** - your best & worst memories of staying in one. My parents stayed in one of those "individual cabins" type of motel when we went to Naples, FL for a winter vacation back in the 40's. Are any still in existence? Maybe on Route 66?
5. **Eyeglasses** - Editor gets his from the dollar store these days. 2.5 magnification. You buy "dime-store" glasses?
6. **Songs of the 60's that bring back really strong memories! Editor remembers "Bridge over troubled waters" when he met Judy in the Brig** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYKJuDxYr3I> and the rest is history!
7. **Guns!** Is it just a guy thing? Anyone care to comment on the 2nd amendment? Editor accumulated a bunch of pistols, rifles, shotguns when I ran the USAF Rod & Gun Club in Giebelstadt, Germany back in the 60's. Hey! We only charged 10% above cost and had access to some of the foremost gun manufacturers of Europe & the US. Merkel, Fabrique Nacional, Sauer, S&W, Colt, etc. A big seller at the club in the Nam years was the stainless steel S&W .38 revolver. A lot of chopper pilots that were heading for Viet Nam bought that model. It didn't rust in the SE Asia weather.
8. **Lincoln High newspaper memories! Did LHS have a monthly newspaper?**
9. **Memories of FFA** (Future Farmers of America) at Lincoln High.
10. **Anything else you care to write about!**

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### **And the responses:**

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Barb Thalacker [bthalacker@comcast.net](mailto:bthalacker@comcast.net) writes:

Yes. Lincoln did have a monthly newsletter. Sue Miller and I were in Carol Broker's class and worked on the

publication called Lincoln Lines. We avoided a lot of study halls and assignments by hanging out there for hours.

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Just got your suggestions for the next newsletter and felt compelled to write back immediately. Your question was **"Beauty salons in Wis Rapids back when....."**

I don't know how many of you will remember this but here goes. Where the Wood County Telephone Co. (if it's still called that) sits is where I lived in the early to late fifties. Next door was Haney Drugs. We lived in an apartment above my mother's beauty salon which was called The LaGrand Beauty Salon.

Probably the only person who saw the total torture chamber known as a beauty salon back in those years was my best friend Dawn (Siewert) Vladic '63. In the back, the place looked like a movie set for Vincent Price. The "perm machine" was totally sci-fi to me. There were no plastic rods and smelly chemicals back in those days; a perm was given via the (drum roll here). . . "perm machine." It was a tall contraption that had wires spewing out of it and metal rods attached at the ends. It kind of looked like an octopus. The hair was curled around the rods and then electricity was run through the whole thing which inevitably curled the hair. It sort of sounds like "Old Sparky" down here in Florida doesn't it? (God, I'm getting old.)

Around 1957 along came the phone company's plan to build a new office so down came the building that housed The LaGrand and our home above it. My parents bought a home kitty-corner from the court house and my dad, a contractor, (White Bros. & Norman - my dad, his brother and Al Norman's dad) built my mother a small salon (Bea's Salon) in our basement. By the early 60's my mother trusted me, along with my friends, enough to let us horse around down there when I had slumber parties. We would do each others hair and sometimes even put a tad of peroxide on our bangs but were very careful because we didn't want to look "slutty." One time Butch LaChapelle even came downstairs and we fixed his hair and made him sit under the dryer. I'm sure he's looking over my shoulder right now in disbelief that I would tell on him like that.

Of course my mother always did my hair which I always wore short. When the pixie came into vogue she immediately had me in one of those which was a bit of a shock it was so short. Mr. Spees pulled me aside, in the hall, and said I was his little pixie which in today's world would have garnered him a jail sentence. Too bad teachers and students can't have the same relationships today that we were able to have without everything being turned into something sexual. We are truly blessed to be the last generation raised with common sense but also for being raised in such a wonderful place.

My mother's clientele were mainly the older set but she also did quite a few of Lincoln's students too. I'm trying to remember some of the ladies who were my favorites that came to mother's shop and off the top of my head I remember she did Coby's hair, Miss Nairn, Phoebe Sund's mom, the Nelson twin's mom, Mrs. Mead. It was fun for me because I would sit in the shop and yack with the ladies. My mother worked in her salon until three weeks before her death in 1994, she was 82. She loved her shop.

I cherish all of the memories I have of being raised in Rapids. Often, both of my sons tell me they too are so thankful they were raised in Rapids because it afforded them a truly carefree childhood. Nowadays, kids can no longer play outside or ride their bikes from dawn to dusk like we and our kids could. As long as we, and they, showed up for supper all was right with the world. We have been gone from Rapids for 25 years already but it's never far from our hearts. Someday, we will return to spend eternity there near my parents and grandparents which will complete yet another family circle of life.

**Linda (White) Sullivan '64** [lasully@aol.com](mailto:lasully@aol.com)

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**Don Solie** [dg.solie@hotmail.com](mailto:dg.solie@hotmail.com) writes:

Eighty seven days and at least we can prevent the anointed one from doing further damage to our country and economy. Actually the idiot, elitist will attempt to ravage us for the remainder of 2010 with a lame duck congress

and Grandma Goo Goo leading the House of Horror.

Lincoln did have a newspaper but I can't recall the name. Or at least I think we had a newspaper, but back then I wasn't concerned with high school papers! I was focused upon the "good times", and they were plentiful!

I appreciated Chuck Hinners comments on the Golden Arches. I too remember seeing a sign that stated 1,000,000 served, and it was in Wausau. And speaking of Smidlkofer (sp), Big Mike was a Big Man on campus when I was a freshman at UW. As I recall he did suit up for Johnny Erickson's Badgers, but he had little playing time. Keith Fisher and I attended the full state tournament when Wausau won the state championship, and I recall Big Mike had a great hook shot that looked like a shot put stroke! I also recall seeing him several times while conducting business with then Employers Of Wausau. I sold them their life administration system! I assume Mike worked for them since I ran into him on several occasions. One memory difference with Chuck, as I recall they had a big "red head" that was about 6' 4".

And I believe Jack Torresani (JA's son) was their coach. I believe one of those starters lives in the Dallas area and has been here for years.

I can't resist ticking off the lefties receiving this letter. You all need to get ready for Change That Makes A Difference because it's finally coming and this country will get back on the RIGHT track. What kind of BS was BO (he really does stink) attempting with his comments about putting your car in D to move forward and R to move backwards? He's had us in D and is moving forward OVER THE CLIFF!

Got to sign off as grand kids are arriving to join me in our "iced down" pool. Water temp exceeded 92 yesterday so I got a block of ice this morning! We're approaching double digit days of 100 degree temps and looking at another week of more of the same. I love it, great for golf!

GO NEWT!

P.S.

Just watched America's team win a pre-season Hall of Fame opener. If anyone watched the ceremony last night, Emit Smith showed his class as a teammate, showed what commitment can accomplish, and demonstrated his christian values recognizing family and God ahead of his profession. How 'Bout Them Cowboys!

I was running errands before grilling (weekend duties) and had the radio tuned to XM Channel 6, the 60's. Cousin Bruce was interviewing Connie Francis and she mentioned the importance of visiting the troops in Vietnam. I can't claim I was a Connie Francis fan, however I was among 5000 sailors on board the USS Ranger, CVA 61 Top Gun Of The Pacific fleet in 1968 when she visited us for Christmas. For that I will listen to her songs and recognize her as she respected and still respects Vietnam and Vietnam era vets. We were in the Tonkin Gulf launching air attacks against the VC and North Vietnamese regulars in 1968. And the song he played was "Where The Boys Are" written by Neil Sadaka or Neal Sadaka, or however he spells it.

Speaking of recipes, I'm not going to share one this time other than anyone who likes to barbecue needs to consider acquiring a Big Green Egg. These are outstanding, work with lump charcoal, cost more than gas grills, and deliver unequalled flavor. The Green Egg is a porcelain grill and maintains flavor no matter what your cooking skills may be. I prefer my steaks (all beef) well done, always have, and when using the Big Green Egg the juices and flavor remain despite cooking to well done. They really are great, cost is about \$1000, but they are guaranteed for life!

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**Dick Dent** [richard.dent@delphi.com](mailto:richard.dent@delphi.com) writes:

Sorry for not being very prolific.

#### 1. Last week's subject – Operettas

I enjoyed the sporting side of high school but the winters were reserved for the choir and the operettas that we put on. Bob and I played modest parts in all of them we could. I cannot thank Mr. Cleworth enough for all his coaching

and patience. The operettas were a blast, a real rush to put on. All the work, the practices, the 'out-takes' were a lot of fun. I think I enjoyed South Pacific the best.

### This week's subject – Music of the 60's

Bob and I painted a lot of picket fencing in our garage (Dad paid us a whole \$0.50 each or something silly like that) and blasted our hearing with the radio tunes of the times. One of my fondest memories was dancing with Joann Miller to Andy Williams 'Moon River'. I find it amazing that he and we are still around.

May the Lord bless you and keep you all . . . .

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#### **Linda Mitchell Leitzke [gradLHS@Gmail.com](mailto:gradLHS@Gmail.com) writes:**

**Beauty Salons:** Remember a salon on East side of river on the first street. Several blocks up. A Assumption h.s. friend Karen Peters Mom was a beautician (Grace I think). Have always wondered what happened to that family. Anyone know? They lived on 15th Ave North I think. Biggest memory I have is going for prom up do's and a bee hive once.

**Prom:** Remember one prom going to eat at a place on South 8th Avenue. Quite a ways out it seemed back then. Was very popular place to go. Geez can't believe I can't rem a thing about what I did at the other proms after dance. Sophomore prom rem my white dress with black velvet design. When I walked out on the stage to come down steps heard the big gasps and knew I had a beautiful gown (on loan from Nancy Adams whose Mother had a wonderful closet of gowns). Rem going to my Jr. prom with Dan Bevins ('64) who had recently moved to Rapids from Vermont and he chose me to be his girl Rem I wore a T-blue satin form fitting dress. Was so elegant (another loaner from Nancy A). We rode in Dan's car cruising back and forth through town. He was tall, blonde, and such a gentleman. Shy actually. Treated me like a princess. Remember my senior prom in white dress with red roses on skirt. Felt like a princess. Still have that dress! Sadly my only daughter did not inherit my tiny waist and could not wear. She was bumped. (Still have the whoop that went under it too. lol) Maybe someday a granddaughter will enjoy. :) Still have pics of those 3 dresses....wish i knew how to send pic from cell phone to gmail. (didn't work when I tried to send a pic to a email address yesterday) I am not technically inclined!

**Hotels:** Remember staying at the Fountain Blue - was that in Washington D.C. (Spelling was different I think) Was in my 20's and thought that was the cats meow! Stayed at a suite at Ambassador 4 in Miami in 1976 for a IBM career reward "100% quoto achieved trip" . Was awesome also. Huge full sized kitchen, large living room, 2 bedrooms'2 baths., a sittling room "Parlor" to look out over ocean. Can still see that suite in my minds eye! Went on to Paradise Island/Bahamas from there and stayed in a great hotel. Loved the beach/water there better than those in Hawaii on a later trip. Stayed at a swanky hotel in downtown LA for another IBM award trip but forget the name. That was 1978. Went on to Hawaii to two Islands after. Been other greats ones but those stand out the most. Recently went to Catalina Island and stayed at the neatest Bed and Breakfast one block from beach/harbor. Can't wait to go back there again! Was my first B & B and will look for more in future trips.

Had planned to come to Reunion but looks like I will miss it . Misplaced info to plan. Took in another senior (84) into my home end of June. (also have 90 yr old who has me take her to do Karaoke/dancing 3-6 night for the last year - thats how I lost almost 50 lbs in last 9 months! )

I just started singing solo's a few months ago. (Make me your baby, Will you love me tomorrow, Chain of Fools, Give me your best shot, Slow hand, Locomotion, Lollipop, Twilight Time, Walking after Midnight, You've really got a hold of me, Achy Breaky Heart, ... working on The Look of Love, Hopelessly devoted, Muskrat Love, Do it to me one more time, Sweet home Alabama..... I like variety :) Any one else doing Karaoke regularly : )

I hardly have time on computer any more so I have just rambled :) (still have to read all the newsletters since April - went to Tennessee in April/Florida and Catalina Island in May/ Santa Barbara, Ca for a week in June and then right into additional caregiving. May do LasVegas in Oct. with Karaoke friends.) I am beginning to feel like just out of college and "playing" again. :) (Of my 12 years of senior care I worked 24/7 doing care giving for four years until last year so I feel like I deserve some fun now while I still can! : )

You all have a wonderful reunion and I will look fwd to seeing pics.

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## **Grim Natwick & Betty Boop remembered:**

It was 1949 when Port Edwards resident Don Krohn got the chance to watch a "local celebrity" put pen to paper.

Wood County authorities already had spent days searching for a lion on the loose in the Wisconsin Rapids area, to no avail. The few who were "lucky" enough to catch glimpses of the beast were not quick enough to snap a photo, leaving residents with little but a description of the animal.

Enter Myron "Grim" Natwick, a Wisconsin Rapids native whom history would come to know as "undoubtedly one of the most influential animators who ever lived," according to the ASIFA-Hollywood International Animated Film Society.

"He was visiting family in the community and stopped by the newspaper," said Krohn, a Daily Tribune photographer at the time. "Someone -- I don't recall if it was an editor or a reporter or who it was -- said, 'While you're here, could you do a drawing of this lion?'"

Armed with only a few descriptions of the animal, the almost 60-year-old artist sat down in Krohn's office and drafted two vivid depictions of the giant cat, all within a few minutes.

"In doing 8-by-10 prints and retouching them, I was not a great artist, and to see somebody whose hand just flowed - - zip, zip, zip -- and do it from memory," Krohn said. "I guess I'll never forget that."

The third-eldest of eight children, Natwick was born Aug. 16, 1890, to James and Henrietta (Lyon) Natwick in what was then Centralia, now known as the west side of Wisconsin Rapids, according to a genealogy published by the South Wood County Historical Museum.

His childhood home, 665 Third Ave. S., still stands today, near the intersection of First, Third and Eighth avenues.

It was there that Natwick copied pictures out of books his mother had in her library, said local historian Dave Engel, who interviewed Natwick for multiple installments of the River City Memoirs series. At about 7 years old, Natwick began drawing pictures on the concrete in front of his father's store, J.W. Natwick's Furniture and Undertaking, located near where Book World stands today on West Grand Avenue.

The family regularly attended services at the First Congregational Church, where Natwick and his younger brother, Albert "Buff," were students in George W. Mead's Sunday school class, according to photographs included in "Home Mission," Engel's 1987 church history.

Just like Grim and Buff, all the Natwick men had nicknames, said Nancy Natwick Fey, Grim's great-niece.

### **A developing artist**

A self-proclaimed poor student, Grim enjoyed playing sports and was a member of the Lincoln High School football team his senior year, according to Daily Tribune archives. Soon after graduating in 1910, he enrolled at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"My mother had gone to school with Isaac Witter, who owned the bank across the street from the store," Natwick told Engel in an interview for River City Memoirs. "She persuaded him to loan me \$1,000 to go to art school."

In 1913, Natwick designed the iconic American Indian-brave cover of "a little booklet" called "Ahdawagam," which became Lincoln High School's annual publication.

By the end of that decade, Natwick had moved to New York, where he became an established sheet-music cover artist. After serving in World War I, Natwick returned and tried his luck at animation, before traveling to Vienna in 1925.

"My career began at that moment," he told Engel decades later. "I did nothing but study, study, study. I learned to draw."

Meanwhile, Natwick maintained ties with his hometown, drawing cover illustrations for "Consolidated News," a monthly company publication of the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Co. He would continue the gig through December 1930.

After three years in Europe, Natwick returned to New York, where he met up with Max Fleischer, for whom Natwick drew the sex symbol that later became one of his most well-known works: Betty Boop.

## **On to Hollywood**

Walt Disney saw Natwick's work and tried to persuade him to go to Hollywood, but Natwick declined, instead going to work for former Disney animator Ub Iwerks. In 1934, Natwick moved to Hollywood, despite Iwerks' offer to make him a business partner, because Disney was working on a feature-length film based on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

There he became the project's lead animator -- one of three men credited with drawing the film's iconic lead character. However, a dispute about payment for his work on the film caused Natwick to leave upon the project's completion and rejoin Fleischer at his new Florida studio, according to ASIFA-Hollywood.

World War II brought difficult times in the animation industry. Natwick returned to Hollywood, where he began working on animated training films for the War Department.

Natwick continued animating as television began to replace theaters for entertainment, drawing such characters as Mr. Magoo, the Sinclair Dino and the Exxon Tiger, but he never forgot where he came from, family members said.

## **Returning to the River City**

In an interview Thursday at the South Wood County Historical Museum, Fey recalled her "Uncle Grim" often returning to his hometown when he lived in New York and Hollywood.

"When I was little, he would come to Wisconsin Rapids to visit and draw for us kids," said Fey, 69, now of Silver Spring, Md. "He didn't talk about his work, but how many people had an uncle that could draw Mickey Mouse?"

When visiting, Natwick would draw for friends and family, also offering his services to carnivalgoers at Witter Field -- a site named for the man whose investment made Natwick's education possible. However, money was never Natwick's focus, Fey's brother, Jim Natwick, said.

Neither Fey nor her brother had heard about their uncle's lion rendering, but it didn't surprise them.

"He was not a businessman; he was an artist," said **Jim Natwick (65)** [jnatwick@solarus.net](mailto:jnatwick@solarus.net) a 63-year-old Wisconsin Rapids resident.

"He lived the way he wanted to live."

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## **Editor's Corner**

**1. Hotter than heck here in Wisconsin this week. Good thing we have all those wind turbines generating electricity for our air conditioners! Why is it so hot? There's no breeze! Maybe they could collect all the blasted mosquitoes and put them in front of the turbines to "fan" the air?**

**2. Federal employees earn \$123,049 annually in salary and benefits. Private employees get about 1/2 that much. Who pays the federal employees?**

**3. November 2nd will be a "Jet Blue" election. Everyone is frustrated!**

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## **MEN ARE JUST HAPPIER PEOPLE**

### **NICKNAMES**

If Laura, Kate and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah.

If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Godzilla and Four-eyes.

### **EATING OUT**

When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in \$20, even though it's only for \$32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.

When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

### **MONEY**

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

### **BATHROOMS**

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel .

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

### **ARGUMENTS**

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

### **FUTURE**

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

## SUCCESS

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.

A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

## MARRIAGE

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

## DRESSING UP

A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the trash, answer the phone, read a book, and get the mail.

A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

## NATURAL

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed.

Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

## OFFSPRING

Ah, children. A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favorite foods, secret fears and hopes and dreams.

A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!