

From: [The Vasbys](#)
To: [i](#)
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 9/29/11
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LINCOLN HIGH nEWSLETTER

It's ILLEGAL to talk on a hand-held cell-phone while driving in the Rapids starting Saturday!

This week's topics:

1. **Community Supported/Sustainable Agriculture** - Any of the readers belong to a group that supports a local farm by buying their products? Editor's daughter belongs to a group that receives a weekly box of veggies from a farm SW of Cambridge. They had some really pungent celery in the last box that was inedible. And who eats Edamame?
2. **Butcher shops** in the Rapids that you remember.
3. **Roach Coaches.** Your memories of those mobile "snack bars" that came to your work-place. Editor's only experience with a roach coach was when I was in Germany. One would come out from AAFES snack bar to the radar site and we would eat lunch, if you could call it that.
4. **Inflation.** The government says that there is little or no inflation. What say you?
5. **Lack of interest.** Editor is having to dip into the principal of his savings account since there is virtually no interest. Anyone else having the same problem?
6. **Slumber parties.** What did you gals really do at those things? Figure out ways to "trap" guys?
7. **Tricks you used to play on others.** The Editor and a friend once attached a wallet to a long length of monofilament line and put it in the middle of the road while we hid in the bushes. When a motorist would stop and back up, he'd find the wallet gone.
8. **Re-gifting.** Are you guilty of giving a gift that you received to someone else?
9. **Fall colors.** What's your favorite place to see them? Editor likes to take a jaunt west of Madison on Hwy 14 toward Richland Center. The "hills are alive" with color if you get just the right day.
10. **Anything else you'd care to write about!** Newsletter is only as good as YOU make it.

and responses:

Sue (Peaslee) Schulte sueschulte3@yahoo.com writes;

Hi Kent,

Thanks so much for all your work with the newsletter. It is great!! My favorite place for fall colors is right

here at home in the Minocqua area and they are really beautiful this year. They would be even better if the sun ever comes out again. It has rained way too many days in a row... I remember when we were first married, Bill and I lived in Colorado. Everyone talked up the "beautiful fall colors" so we went for a ride to see. I was so disappointed because there were only aspens --all yellow and no reds or oranges and in between!

Chuck Hinnars chuck@crgfinancialconsulting.com writes:

4. Inflation. The government says that there is little or no inflation. What say you?

The government's interest in underestimating inflation is self serving. See the website below:
<http://www.shadowstats.com/>

Other than that I have way more to say than anyone cares to read or hear.

5. Lack of interest. Editor is having to dip into the principal of his savings account since there is virtually no interest. Anyone else having the same problem?

The central problem of financial planning is to create an inflation adjusted income from a lump sum of money. The government cannot do it with social security payments and no private retirement program can guarantee that they can provide such an income stream since they government has the power to print money and inflate everything away. Ditto for insurance companies who claim they can provide inflation adjusted income via annuities, bond ladders, variable life insurance, option trading, swaptions, futures contracts or other tricks in the bags of so-called financial planners.

The alliance of government and a privately owned central bank, The Federal Reserve Bank, was created to keep small business owners and the middle class in their place. That strategy is known as mercantilism and it is alive and well in the United States.

You can learn more at Classical Capital's website - <http://classicalcapital.com/>

My friend Wayne Jett has recently published Fruits of Graft which I will send to the first person who:

- 1) Wants to read the book and discuss it with me via email, phone, or face to face, and
- 2) Responds to this offer to Kent Vasby. Vasby's decision as to who is first is final.

Read the description of the book on the website.

Karen (Goetzke) King yaya@discover-net.net writes:

Re: Community sustainable agriculture. I don't belong to a group because we have a huge garden but I certainly support our local growers every way I can including the farmer's market for products we don't grow and just for the fun of being there. But most importantly, I eat edamame! Only discovered it in the last five years. It's great in salads or as a side dish; works well in stir fry or even hot dishes. Eat it hot or cold. It's easy and quick to prepare, shelled or unshelled. Where was it hiding the front part of my life?

Charles Harshner of Wisconsin Rapids passed away on Sunday morning, Sept. 18, 2011, at Maplewood Nursing Home in Sauk City.

Charles was born May 31, 1916, in Marshfield, to Thomas and Jennie (Hiller) Harshner. He graduated in 1935 from the Wood County Agricultural High School. From early youth through high school, Charles

refined his musical abilities on numerous instruments including the trumpet, piano, and guitar. Upon graduation, he traveled with an entertainment group lead by Red Blanchard, comedian and host of the WLS radio show, "Barn Dance". Charles performed as Mr. Blanchard's "straight man" and orchestra musician throughout the Midwest and beyond.

After a life-altering faith experience, Charles left entertainment and returned to Wisconsin Rapids to work on the Green Bay and Western Railroad, followed by Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company. He retired from Consolidated in 1979 after 43 years of service.

Charles Harshner and Agnes Parker were married in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sept. 11, 1940, after which they took up residency in Wisconsin Rapids for three years prior to serving in the U.S. [Army](#). In 1943, Charles was invited to serve his country in the South Pacific and for three years was a surgical technician at the 122nd Station Hospital. At the conclusion of [World War II](#), Charles returned to Wisconsin Rapids and to his beloved wife, Agnes, to begin a long-anticipated family. In the years that followed, Charles and Agnes were blessed with a son, Paul, and daughter, Joy.

Charles is survived by Agnes, his wife of 71 years; his son, **Paul jensam@hotmail.com (LHS 65) (Kim) Harshner**; his daughter, Joy (Dwight) Pulsfus; grandchildren, Samuel (Amber Wichowsky) Harshner, Jennifer (Corbin Treacy) Harshner, David (Kara) Pulsfus, Ben (Danielle) Eithun, Cora (Derek) Kruzicki; and was great-grandfather "Bumpa" to Seth Wilson, Benjamin and Carter Eithun. He is also survived by a sister, Vera (Austin) Petersen, and many nieces and nephews. Charles was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Carol Barto, Mabel Dupee, Helen Florence and Treva Messner; and a brother, Lerone Harshner.

Services will be held on Friday, Sept. 23, at 11 a.m. at Evangelical Free Church of Wisconsin Rapids, 611 Cook Ave. The Rev. David Kurek will officiate. Burial will be in Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Sept. 22, from 4 p.m. to 7p.m. at the Taylor, Vollert and Jennings Funeral Home; and one hour preceding the memorial service on Friday at the church.

To be in the presence of our husband, father and grandfather was to experience a gentle spirit of kindness, a mind full of riches and a heart of boundless generosity. His humble, unpretentious personality was truly the authentic person he was at all times. He was steady, unflappable, and grounded in faith, providing wonderful stability for family, extended family and friends. We are indebted to Charles for the unconditional love he gave to all. In honor of this life may we aspire to the same ideals.

Bill Hartley toyguy5538@aol.com sends some Wisconsin Rapids memories:

"I Never Thought I'd Be Trimming My Palm Trees With a Guy From New Zealand" and Other [Ramblings](#)

Our son-in-law is a native Kiwi who's been here in Dallas for 7 years, and he recently came over to help me trim the dead leaves off our palm trees. That got me to thinking, "what did I think I'd be doing after growing up in Wisconsin Rapids?" I realized I didn't really think about that in those days, but in many ways my future was shaped by the experiences and lessons learned growing up in Wisconsin Rapids. It was such an enjoyable experience, and full of valuable life lessons. Some I recall are listed below:

Police Are Our Friends

This was proven many times over when I was growing up, and helped form an attitude I passed along to my kids.

I remember going to the WR PD office and talking to Fred Bonow. Fred often worked the "front desk" and talked on the police radio a lot. He used to say "KSB-935" at the end of every transmission. I think he was a relative of Gary Kester, my buddy growing up. Fred was always friendly and happy to see us. I think he got lonely on the night shift.

Roger Krumrei didn't kill us after the "siren in the garage" incident.

Charlie Kirchner used to have a bar by the west side viaduct. He was always friendly when we went in there for a few drinks. I remember hating him in the morning, though.

Wisconsin Dells area police set up drag races for us. They would time our cars with their radar guns. I guess they felt it kept us off the other streets.

When we went to Anoka, MN to the drag strip, we used to leave when Riverside closed on Saturday night, drive about 4 hours to Anoka, park in the loop in front of the Anoka Police Department, and sleep for a couple of hours in the car until the drag strip opened. They were always nice to us and didn't wake us up and ask what we were doing there.

Kids Can Do Good Things:

Just when you think the younger generation is going to Hades in a hand basket, remember your youth, and give them a chance.

I was a member of the Untouchables Car Club for several years. We used to have rallies with other car clubs around Wisconsin. I remember several in the Green Bay area that involved driving around looking for clues to help you find the next check point. We met a lot of interesting people from all over the state in those days. I don't remember ever winning one of those rallies, though.

We had some "Untouchable's courtesy cards" printed up. I think the high school printing class did them for us. We would give them to anyone in the community who we helped with anything, like changing a tire for them, pushing them out of a snow bank, or whatever. I guess we were trying to tell the community that car club guys weren't all bad.

We learned team work in those days by working together on our "club car", a 1951 Henry J made into a dragster. We put a Chevy V8 engine with 3-deuces in it. We used to work on it in John Sawaska's dad's cement plant garage. Ron Dykstra used to tow it to the drag strip behind his '58 Olds. It was a great experience in working together for a common goal – winning a drag race. I don't think we ever won anything with it, but it was a blast and a great learning experience.

Other memories....

Kit Marceil taught me how to tell when you were coming to a bump in the road, and how severe it was. You look at the size of the dark spot on the pavement. That's caused by the oil that drips off cars and trucks when they hit the bump,

and the darker and bigger the spot, the more severe the bump. That was good to know when traveling on unfamiliar roads at high speeds with old cars...

Speaking of Kit, he was my good friend, business partner, and we were college room mates my freshman year at Stevens Point. We lived at 205 Prentice Street in the upstairs of a big old house with three other guys. The owners lived downstairs. They had a lot of rules, like no parking on the street in front of the house, no noise late at night, and so on. We rented a driveway across the street so we didn't have to park on the street. There was an old tan Jaguar sports car in that garage – probably an early '50s 120 model . I wonder where that car is today.

Junior Lepinski lived in one of the rooms. He had a pink and black Rambler Ambassador that was pretty fast. I remember he found a note in his room one Monday morning reminding him of the rule “no battery charging in the room”. Guess we missed that one when we signed in.

We also missed the “no overhauling carburetors in the kitchen sink”. Kit got that note one day. It must have been the smell of that old toxic carburetor cleaner we used to use.

Kit and I tuned up a sociology teacher's Chevy for her. I don't think it ever helped our grades, but she was very appreciative, I learned a lot, and the car sure needed it.

We figured out that in the late 60s, unmarked Wisconsin State Patrol cars all had license plates beginning in “Y10”. We also learned that if you were doing something bad and were close enough to read that license plate, you were probably gonna get a ticket.

I'm sure all of these lessons and experiences helped shape my adult life somehow, although I never was very good at philosophy so I'm not sure how. I do know that most of my youth experiences had to do with cars or drinking. The love for cars led me to a very rewarding career in the automobile industry that is still paying dividends today. The drinking part, not so much.

Ed note: You can connect with Bill at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/toyguy5538> and his wife, Shirley (Black) Hartley at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/profile.php?id=100002594229567>

Jack Sultze jsultze@verizon.net writes:

Hi Kent,

You come up with some excellent suggested topics for us to comment on.

My favorite this week: "The government says there is little or no inflation". That's right up there with, "I am from the government and here to help you". Give me a minute to climb up on my soap box....

This is an example of government officials looking our citizens right in the face and blatantly, with no

shame, lying to us. Remember, "I did not have sex with that woman"? Most of them think that the average American is stupid and that lying to us is perfectly acceptable if it supports their personal agendas. They think that the dumbasses are going to re-elect them anyhow so what's the problem? And the voters very often prove this arrogant attitude to be true. The policies of the current administration have hurt fixed and low income people much more than higher income folk. The government subsidizes the ethanol industry, turning food into fuel and driving the price of corn through the roof, but refuses to suck much of our massive oil supply out of the ground. When fuel and utility prices go up, or prices double on basics like sugar, meat and cereal (\$5.00 for Corn Flakes?!?), higher income folks cringe but still make their purchases. Fixed and lower income Americans, even the ones who still have jobs, are forced to do without. But come November, large numbers of them will vote for Obama because they have been convinced that it is all George Bush's fault and their lot would be much worse under a Republican administration.

So, why do so many continue to sip the Obama Kool Aid while the stability of our country crumbles? Maybe, for some, it's just habit. I was raised in a family of Democrats, but my parent's political attitudes were, as I recall, pretty much what mine are today. My father-in-law, after retiring from the Rapids mill, moved to California. Here was your typical hard-working farmer/mill worker who thought that he was a Democrat. He just always saw himself as one. It took awhile, talking with him and getting him to pay attention to politics, for him to realize that he had little in common with Liberal/Democratic positions. So, in my point of view, many people who claim to be Democrats either rely on the government for their existence or aren't paying attention. Over time, both parties have certainly shifted to extremes. The Republican party looks more like our parent's Democratic party. Today's Democratic party has gone European Socialist, and we know how well that has worked out. The Republican party, as an organization, cannot seem to grow a backbone stiff enough to stand up for Constitutional Conservative principles. This is why, in my humble opinion, the TEA party has emerged. And, for the "progressives" out there who believe the demonizing of Tea Party Conservatives that goes on in the media, I suggest that you find a meeting, open your mind and just sit in the back of the room and listen.

On the subject, "Lack of interest": OK... when it comes to Economics, I probably don't have a clue. But looking at how our economy has been managed in the past (regardless of which political party has had the upper hand in Congress), I have serious doubts that anyone has a clue. Sometimes common sense trumps what passes for knowledge. To me it all looks like a series of experiments at our expense. Probably the problem is that the government controls it all, but that is a whole separate discussion.

I do not understand why low interest rates are a good thing. It discourages savings, encourages people to buy stuff that they can't afford and probably don't need, caused inflated housing prices which had much to do with the collapse of the economy and, as Kent and others are experiencing, has a huge negative impact on retirees who were counting on interest and dividends for a comfortable retirement. I am not talking about Jimmy Carter interest rates but, it seems to me that if interest rates were at a reasonable 6-7% level, our whole economy would be lot healthier.

I have a conspiracy theory to share; Low interest rates drive small investors and their 401(k)s to Wall Street, a place that the majority of them have no business being. Wall street heavily influences the government's economic decisions, including their setting of interest rates. Many of the bureaucrats who run governmental financial policy came from Wall Street, or trust the advice they are getting from the "experts" on Wall Street. They become convinced, then try to convince us, that it is in our best interest keep interest rates low. And the winner is.... Wall Street!

I have the majority of my nest-egg in Double-Tax-Free bonds that throw off about 4% (tax free). They are California bonds (a bit scary), which is why they are double tax free in California. I assume that residents of other states can get the same benefit. In a high-tax state like California, tax-free is a big deal. In a no-income tax state, not as much of an advantage. I would be interested, as I am sure others would, to hear from classmates who know about these things. Are these double-tax-frees a good thing or not? I know that there is great satisfaction in receiving tax-free money. I feel like I am legally cheating the government.

Jack Sultze