

“That’s the Latest” Introduction



Emery Kleven

A new local newspaper started in my hometown of West Concord, Minnesota back in early 2017. I made an offer to the editor and publisher of the West Concord Messenger Terry Campbell to write a column. He hesitantly said ok as long as it’s interesting. Well here it is that as of March 2020, I’m starting my fourth year of writing this column. People have asked me how much I get paid for doing this. My answer is I have to pay Terry \$21 a year for the privilege but I do get a copy of the paper for that.

For the most part, the columns reminisce about the ‘good old days’ of West Concord as I remember them. I sometimes can’t remember what I did last week or where I’m supposed to be next week or even why I walked into the next room. I know I came in here looking for

something. But some things from my youth, which gets a little further away each day, I can remember like it was yesterday.

Some of the columns reminisce about my work in radio and farm broadcasting. Some of the columns I enlist the help of friends. My recovering dairy farmer friend Jerry Nelson from Volga, South Dakota wrote about a long lost relative who actually grew up in the town of Kenyon, MN, just north of West Concord. Another column had me enlist the help of a classmate of mine from West Concord High School, Class of ‘71’. That’s 1971. Not 1871 as some would suggest. Joan Rundquist Lindstrom was a niece of my kindergarten teacher Mrs. Osborn and she wrote a very nice remembrance of her Aunt Bet.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories as much as I enjoy writing them. I include pictures with many of the columns and they are included where possible. So we begin with the first column written in March, 2017. The column is called ‘That’s the Latest’. My introductory column explains where the title comes from.