



ALUMNI NEWS



Volume 22, Issue 3

April 2012

Funded by Luverne High School Alumni Contributors and Friends



Lori Ehde photo/0412 ice arena groundbreaking

Breaking ground on the Blue Mound Ice Arena expansion project April 10 are (from left) Hockey Board Vice President Tom Sterrett, BMIA Expansion Board member Barb Berghorst, BMIA Expansion Board member Lisa Dinger, BMIA Expansion Board member Steve Graphenteen, arena manager Dave Van Batavia, BMIA Expansion Board member Sam Berghorst, Hockey Association Alumnus Don Amos, Hockey Board President Emily Crabtree, Blue Mound Figure Skaters representative Katie Kopp, BMIA Expansion Board member Dale Reverts, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian, Sanford Luverne CEO Tammy Loosbrook and Mike Daly, director of public affairs for the Sioux Falls region of Sanford Health, which is a major corporate sponsor.

Ice arena supporters break ground on expansion

By Brenda Winter

A \$750,000 expansion project is underway this spring at the Blue Mound Ice Arena in Luverne.

Fundraising began "in house" with hockey and figure skating families making their pledges.

Donations are also sought from alumni, private individuals and corporations. The Luverne Hockey Association is a 501(c)3 organization, so donations are tax deductible.

Interior improvement plans include a two-story 112-by-32-foot addition that will be connected to the north side of the existing rink. The concession stand will be expanded to meet code and to provide more serving space for food items and more seating for diners.

Ice arena expansion/see page 8



Honor Roll of *Alumni News* Contributors

Compiled by Johnna Bowron Ahrendt

During this past quarter, December 31, 2011, through March 31, 2012, the *Alumni News* received money in the form of memorials and gifts totaling \$2,625.00.

In the memorial section below the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials.

Thank you for your support!

Memorials

Robert N. Mann, '32

Sally Mann Adrian

Marion Hansen Soehl, '32

Keith Luethje, '49

Betty Hansen Luethje, '50

Helen Tatge Iverson, '34

Grace Loose, '34

Ruth Nielson Eberlein, '34

Grace Loose, '34

Patricia Ryan Hanson, '42

James Wiggins, '42

Dorothy Jean Skoland Foss, '42

Shirley Skoland Ford, '42

Roddey Ford, '66

Linda Ford

Gregory Ford, '68

Fern Ford

John Ford, '72

Mary Ann Ford

Larry Lanphere

Jane Wildung Lanphere, '71

Lorraine Olson

Deanna Vatland O'Toole, '43

Darrell Hemme, '73

Mary O'Toole Hemme, '72

Gary Dahedl

Kathy O'Toole Dahedl, '76

Paul Brehm, '79

Barbara O'Toole, '79 Brehm

Shirley Ahrendt Mundahl, '44

Keith Mundahl, '44

Eldon Gradert, '46

John Krogmann, '45

Imogene Lemke Krogmann, '47

Mel Smook, '47

Winifred Haggard, '50

Gary Golla, '67

Barb Golla

Keith Luethje, '49

Betty Hansen Luethje, '50

John Krogmann, '45

Imogene Lemke Krogmann, '47

Herb Beug, '47

Stan Bagbey, '58

JoAnne Adams White, '53

Stan Bagbey, '58

Michelle 'Mickey' Anderson Perkins, '61

Keith Luethje, '49

Betty Hansen Luethje, '50

Arnold "'Shorty'" Siebenahler, '61"

Laura Siebenahler Sutherland, '69

Lorna Siebenahler Bryan, '69

Sheila Siebenahler Holland, '84

Steve Bagbey, '63

Joe Rowe, '63

Bill Mohr, '62

Susan Reimer Mohr, '63

Lloyd Madison, '63

Stan Bagbey, '58

All 1963 classmates

Joe Rowe, '63

Stan Wells, '67

Terry Gonnerman, '67

Diane Mollberg Gonnerman, '67

Charlie Weber, '67

Terry Gonnerman, '67

Diane Mollberg Gonnerman, '67

James L. Schmidt, '68

Vivian Holst

Schmidt Family & friends

Wade "'Whitey'" Hansen, '73"

John Krogmann, '45

Imogene Lemke Krogmann, '47

Karen Hansen Demuth, '77

Mark Kruger

Kristi Demuth Kruger, '96

Karsen Demuth, '99

Steve VanSanten

Carla Hansen VanSanten, '78

Perry Mogler

Jessica Jensen Mogler, '95

Dawn Maxwell, '73

Karen Briggs Dammann, '73

Dawn Maxwell, '73

Brad Stepp, '74

Barb Frakes Mueller, '74

Sherry Bryan Holtman, '74

Jarvis Boisen, '45

Darlene Boisen

Barb Frakes Mueller, '74

Darla McClure Johnson, '81

Darlene Hitch Woolsey, '62

Milton Schaal

Carol Halverson Schaal, '54

Tim Menning, '86

Terry Gonnerman, '67

Diane Mollberg Gonnerman, '67

Ed Bouwman -

Father of Three LHS Graduates

Gary Papik, '69

Janine Jordahl Papik, '69

Andy Gabrielson

Gary Papik, '69

Janine Jordahl Papik, '69

Tom Arends, '62

Dixie Winge Arends, '63

Gifts . . .

Continued on page 12

What We've Heard . . .

Helen (Long) Sell (LHS 1938) sends greetings to all friends in Luverne and all her friends that are still alive! She writes how much she enjoys the Alumni News. She is living with son Michael and his wife, Dianna, along with their dog. The Sells live on the bluffs of the Minnesota River. Deer frequent the backyard. Helen is still painting porcelain every day in her studio.

Grace Loose (LHS 1934) sends a note to say how much she enjoyed the stories about basketball in the last issue. She enjoyed seeing the picture of the 1926 team as her brother Earl was on the team and she knew most of the players.

The Mark and Karen Willers family have a lot of news to share:

Brad Willers (LHS 2000) married Catherine (Cate) Noreen in 2010. Brad and Cate live in Coon Rapids where he works as an electrical engineer for Sebesta-Blomberg in Roseville.

Patricia Willers (LHS 2002) married Matt Doyle. Both completed their Masters in Linguistics at the University of Leiden in Leiden, Netherlands. Today they live in Davis, CA where both are teaching English/English Composition to English-Language-Learners at the University of California. Patricia also finds time to be a writer and copy editor for the *Sacramento Press*.

Nicole (Willers) Woodley (LHS 2005) and **Kyle Woodley (LHS 2005)** recently moved from Duluth to Coon Rapids. Nicole is in rotations at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Kyle is a mechanical engineer

Let's Hear from YOU!

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni. Complete and then place this form in an envelope and mail to:

**Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156**



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail _____

Check here ☐ if you wish to have your e-mail address included in the directory.

Year of Graduation _____

Comments: _____

for Lake Superior Consulting, LLC. They have two children: Emmett Kyle born 10-27-2011 and Hannah, 3 ½ years.

Joe Rowe (LHS 1963) writes from his home in Sioux Falls. He enjoys receiving the latest editions of Alumni News. Joe retired from John Morrell & Company after 39 years in sales in July 2010. He keeps busy spending time with his family, training horses and judging horse shows through the upper Midwest. He is looking forward to the Class of '63 50th reunion in 2013. He challenges all 1963 grads to make plans to attend. To the staff of Alumni News he urges everyone to continue providing the great service you do by keeping all Luverne Alumni in touch with each other!

Robert Brandenburg (LHS 1946) sends greetings to his friends and classmates. He continues to live in Dixon, IL after retiring. He misses his wife Arlene who passed away on July 4, 2007.

Marlin Hudson (LHS 1944) shares fond memories of Luverne from his home in Sheboygan Falls, WI. He writes how pleased and thankful for Alumni News for the stories about Luverne and the events there. He continues: "Experiences of my life in Luverne is remindful of a beautiful background that has contributed to an eventful life beyond those years." Marlin also shared his ideas and thoughts on biomass production. These ideas support

Remembering our Classmates

1920-1929

1930-1939

Marion Hansen Soehl '32 died December 24, 2011 in Denver, CO. After graduation Marion attended Minnesota Teacher Training, graduating in 1934 at the age of 19. She taught at a country school located on her parent's farm. She married Harold Soehl in 1938. After their marriage she managed her husband's veterinary office in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She completed her formal education with a Bachelor of Science degree from Sioux Falls College. She went on to teach English at Central Lyon Middle School, Rock Rapids. After her retirement, she moved to Denver. She enjoyed making stained glass pieces, fiber arts and calligraphy works. She also loved gardening, cooking and entertaining friends. Mrs. Soehl is survived by two children, Gene (Jolene) Soehl and Jan (Joel) Boulder; one granddaughter, a brother **Lloyd Hansen '37**; two sisters-in-law, **LaVonne Hansen, '41** and Shaina Hardesty; and many other friends and relatives.

Leslie Elmor Ladd '32 died on August 18, 2011 at the St. Croix Health Center in New Richmond. Following his education he continued to reside at his parent's home and worked on the farm. In 1937 he married Evelyn Oye. The couple made their livelihood from the land while raising their three children. Leslie farmed full-time until 1965. He then went to work at the Rock County Co-op until 1971, along with working at the Co-op Leslie also worked at Blue Mound Catering from 1966 to 1978. Leslie retired in 1978. He and Evelyn moved to New

Richmond to be close to their son and daughter. He enjoyed fishing, reading, crafts and following the Minnesota Vikings. He is survived by his two children, **Kaye '64** (Merlin) Ommnen and **James Ladd '68** six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one brother, **Lauren '55** (Lauretta) Ladd and other family.

1940-1949

Marienne Kopp Mauch '45 died December 26, 2011 at the Hospice Cottage in Luverne. After graduation she attended Minneapolis Business College. In 1948 she married Elmer Mauch in Luverne. The couple farmed southwest of Adrian. Elmer died in 1992. She enjoyed bowling, card club and wintering in the Mesa, AZ area. She is survived by seven children, Jim Mauch, Ronald "Joe" (Marcie) Mauch, Marie (Steven) Erickson, John Mauch (Ruth Hinrichs) Pat Mauch (Norris Thorson) Sue (John) Huckenpoehler and Steve Mauch (Denise Inman), five grandchildren; a sister Lois Thomas and many other friends and relatives.

Melvin D Smook '47 died December 28, 2011 at the Hospice Cottage in Luverne. After graduation Mel enrolled at Augustana College. He took leave from college to serve his country in the Korean War where he was deployed as an Army Message center chief in Yokohama, Japan. He returned to Augustana College following his honorable discharge. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in business in 1954.

He married Jane Zimmerman in 1968. The couple made their home in Luverne. He continued to operate the family's

Texaco station in Luverne. In 1974 he converted the station into Smooky's Pizza. He sold Smooky's in 1981 and began working for AAA travel until his retirement in 1992. He enjoyed golfing, coin collecting, fishing, reading and playing bridge. He was an avid fan of John Wayne movies with his favorite being "Midway". He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Jane Smook, his children **Brad Smook '76** and, **Margaret "Peg" Knowles '78** and her husband Tom, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

1950-1959

JoAnne Charlene Adams White '53 passed away on July 27, 2011. Mrs. White was a woman of many talents; member of the Winnsboro Humane Society, the Winnsboro League of the Arts and was the first woman to serve on the city council of Dell Rapids, SD. She is survived by her husband Bill White, daughter Elizabeth Chapman, son Mark Clark, sons and daughter-in-law, Adam and Dana Clark, Richard and Karen White, Brian and Mary White, daughters and son-in-law, Marcia and Steve Stahly, Sidney and Bruce Powell, and numerous grandchildren and furry friends.

1960-1969

Michele Anderson Perkins '61 died November 9, 2011 at the Hospice Cottage in Luverne. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Worthington where she participated in the church circle and Bible study. She also volunteered at the Sanford Hospital in Worthington and served on committees for her church and hospital

Remembering our classmates . . . From page 4

auxiliary at district and state levels. She enjoyed dancing, bowling, crocheting, knitting and was an avid reader. Mrs. Perkins is survived by two children Michele "Shelly" (Danny) Deutsch and Paul (Lola) Donth Jr, four grandchildren four brothers, James (Laura) Anderson, Daniel (Becky) Anderson, Stephan (Donna) Anderson, and Thomas (Roni) Anderson; four sisters **Stephanie '65**(Gary) Frackman, **Julie'66** (Cal) Kuipers, **Wendy'67** (Dick) Grill, and Barbara Wise; her mother **Dorothea'40** (Leon) Goembel, and many other /friends and relatives.

1970-1970

Avis Olson Dragstra '77 died December 24, 2011 at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls. After graduation she attended Pipestone Vocational School in Pipestone, MN for mercantile management. In 1978 she married Warren Dragstra. In 1979 they moved to Chandler. Over the years she worked at Glen's Food Center, Huisken Meat Center and was currently working for Ben and Grant Post Dairies, The Edgebrook Estates and cleaned homes for several residents in the area. She enjoyed all animals especially horses, and was known for rescuing animals in need. She also enjoyed trail riding, camping and time with family and friends. Mrs. Dragstra is survived by her husband, Warren; her mother Betty Olson, two daughters Susan (Kent) Sime, and Heather Dragstra (friend Israel Zinns); a son, Joshua Dragstra, two grandchildren, a brother, **Arvin'74** (Carol) Olson, a sister **Mavis '83**(Bryan) Fodness, her father and mother in-law, Joe and Jennie Dragstra and many other friends and relatives.

1980-1989

Michelle Teclaw Meister passed away on December 26, 2011 at Mercy Hospice in Johnston, Iowa after a courageous battle with cancer. She attended Iowa Central Community College in Ft. Dodge on a basketball scholarship. Several years later she attended Upper Iowa University and received her four-year degree. She worked at Principal Financial Group Ins. She was involved in intramural teams of basketball and volleyball. She loved to play golf and watch her team, the Indianapolis Colts. Michelle is survived by her son Derrick Meister; her parents Marion and Margaret Teclaw; sisters **Patricia Teclaw '76**, Bev Teclaw, and Jackie (Nile) Ackerman; brother Greg (Cindy) Teclaw and many other friends and relatives.

Timothy Menning '86 died at his home in rural Flandreau, SD on December 7, 2011. He worked at IBP in Luverne after graduation. In the early 1990's he began working for the South Dakota State Penitentiary as a correctional officer. He then worked for his brother-in-law Paul Arends farming near Luverne and later for Eastern Dakota Specialists. In 2007 he married Cindy (Rentschler) Anderson. He returned to work at the penitentiary in 2009 and also worked part time at the Cenex station in Flandreau. He enjoyed racing, NASCAR, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, playing pool, the Minnesota Vikings and spending time with his grandkids. Tim is survived by his wife, Cindy, five children, Tricia (Rex) Schwartz, Tatum (Sarah Thiner) Anderson, Toby (Blake) Anderson and Tyler (Rachel) Anderson, seven grand children; his parents, Clyde and Ginny Menning, two siblings, **Teresa '88**(Paul) Arends, and **Jon '96** (Erika) Menning; his parents-in-law Charles (Sharon) Rentschler and many other friends and relatives.

1990-2000

2000-2010

Online Alumni News goes green, saves green

Have you checked out the
Luverne Alumni News at
www.alumninews.info lately?

A new update is here:
You are able to read your
Alumni News online.

Now that it is available,
let us know you would like to
discontinue the hard copy to go green
(save postal expenses and a tree).

Please email
Patti Pierson at
piersonprp@frontiernet.net

Thanks for the memories

Formerly known as "Tid-Bits"

One of the greatest things about Alumni News is sharing the experiences of growing up in Luverne and Rock County. All of us have memories of things we did, people we knew, events we shared and what we witnessed. Alumni News staff introduced a new column in the fall 2011 edition called "Tid-Bits."

The column is composed of a selection of comments and writings submitted by LHS Alumni on specific topics that are introduced in previous Alumni News editions. The October 2011 column, now called "Thanks for the Memories," featured memories of the late Frederick Manfred. In January, the topic was LHS basketball memories (see page 9 for a late submission). For April, our topic is prom. Our July edition will feature memories about Luverne High School track and field.

Great prom stories, as told by LHS alumni

There are all sorts of memories about prom. **Rita (Kafka) Robinson (LHS 1968)** writes about her date for senior prom. Friends or not...it didn't exactly turn out as Rita had hoped.

As Rita did not have a date for her senior prom, a male friend a few years older offered to be her escort.

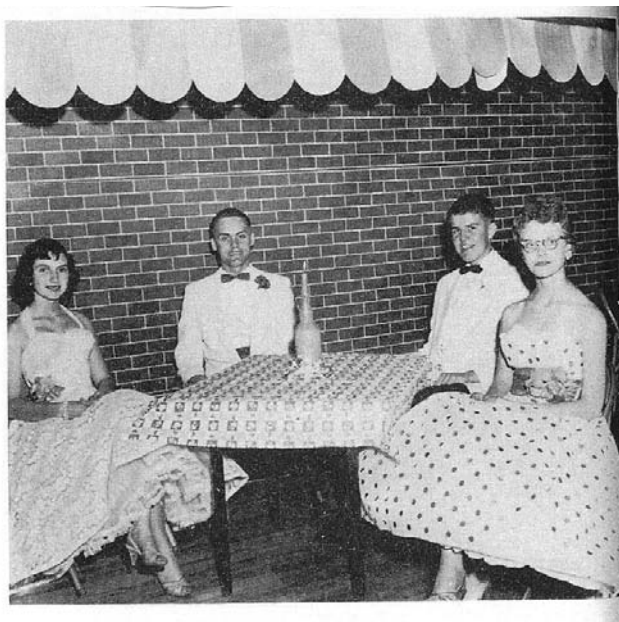
This man had entered military service and just returned from army field maneuvers. Field maneuvers were a 24-7 duty... in the heat and in the sun ... in a southern state.

When he arrived at her door to pick her up, all Rita could think about was: "I am going to prom with the red lobster; this will surely impress my classmates."

The night didn't go as well as Rita had hoped. Because of his pain and discomfort from the sunburn, Rita was home by 8 pm. A short night and a lifetime memory!

When **Ardis (Ormseth) Mickelson (LHS 1967)** read about sending stories on Prom to the Tid-Bits column, she dug out her old Annuals. She





No one can forget their prom. The Alumni News Staff thought you might enjoy taking a look at Proms from yesteryear. Can you guess the dates of these fashionable events in these photos?



said there was a smile on her face when she opened them up to see “how stylish” everyone was at Prom.

Those were the “good ol’ days,” she writes. The music was live. She also adds that we probably didn’t appreciate the musicianship at the time, but 3 of the groups that played at her proms were inducted into the ***South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Fame***.

Prom 1964 Theme: Mystic Isle
Band: Myron Lee and the Caddies

Prom 1965 Theme: Blue Heaven
Band: Embers

Prom 1966 Theme: Oriental Gardens
Band: Pilgrims

Prom 1967 Theme: Mardi Gras
Band: Marlys Roe and the Talismen

She also adds that you really can’t forget about their “own” musical group – **The Empty Set**.

NEW NAME FOR TID-BITS....

Thanks to the intelligent Luverne High School Alumni...the Tid-Bit column now has a much more interesting name. Look for stories in**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!**

HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF LUVERNE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD?

[You are invited to share your memories for
SUMMER 2011 ‘THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES’

The focus of our next column will be
HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD.

Take a few minutes to share your memories of that special time of year when competition took place rain or shine, and friendships formed around relay teams and shot put rings.

Deadline for submission is June 15, 2012

Send your thoughts in written form to:

Thanks for the Memories
213 East Luverne Street
Luverne, MN 56156

Or e-mail: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us



Ice arena expansion/continued from page 1

A hockey dryland training room will allow for off-ice workouts for stick handling, plyometrics and cardiovascular work. Two handicap-accessible restrooms will be constructed off the lobby.

The expanded lobby will create better travel into and out of the building and an upper mezzanine area will be available for community gathering or as a workout area for athletes.

The expansion plan also includes additional locker rooms that will allow boys' and girls' varsity teams to leave gear at the facility.

Exterior plans include improving the outdoor ice with a more solid, clay-type material to be put down as a base. The drainage flow from the building will also be redirected and the new outdoor rink will be regulation size with newer boards.

Expansion committee members said an overall goal is for the new addition to bring some of the current problem spots up to code.

They also said they hope visitors will have a hospitable experience when they come through the door in an enjoyable environment that is comfortable and makes them want to come back.

The ice arena is used by 90 figure skaters and their families, 150 hockey players and their families and by community members enjoying open skating.

Visiting teams, physical education classes from area schools and other groups and organizations use the facility, as does a community adult open hockey league and a community adult town team.

The arena also hosts hockey



clinics and figure skating lessons.

Use of the outdoor ice is free and open to the public.

The project is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2012 in time for the fall skating season that begins in September and goes until mid-June.

Arena supporters have been fundraising for the project for several years, garnering thousands of dollars from hockey and figure skating families within the programs.

The City of Luverne has agreed to loan 750,000 to get construction costs paid until fundraising dollars come in. That loan was approved at 1 percent interest for 30 years, although the group has indicated it will be paid well ahead of that time frame.

In addition, the city will grant \$20,000 per year for the next five

years to support ice arena operations.

Mayor Pat Baustian voiced his support for the facility, saying that it's important the city lend financial help to a project that fits so well within the community's interest.

In the past several months, fundraising efforts for the arena project have expanded to the community and corporations for donations.

Sanford Luverne is among the donors recognized during the April 10 groundbreaking.

Luverne alumni - particularly hockey and figure skating alumni - will also be contacted in the coming weeks.

For more information about the project or how to help, Emily Crabtree can be reached at 507-227-6841, or Lisa Dinger at 507-220-0809.

the development of new and creative energy sources in the county.

Leonard Hansen (LHS 1945) and **Irene (Lapic) Hansen (LHS 1945)** send greetings from their home in St. Peter, MN. Len wanted to correct the information about the 1945 Regional Track Champions from the last issue. John Reimer was injured running the high hurdles during the competition. The 880 relay was to decide the championship. Len was put in John's place and along with Eddie, Alan and Howard ... who won the Regional Championship. John healed from his injuries in time for the two of them to play football for Augustana College.

Ken Vos (LHS 1948) of Sheffield, VT., completed the first draft of his memoirs which he has titled: Up The Hayloft Ladder. Publishing this book for his family and friends remembering significant events of his life, he wrote to share a story of the 1946 basketball season. Although a little late for the Tid-Bit column about basketball, the story is worth sharing:

"Pipestone was our greatest rival in those years. While the necessity of farm chores kept most of us farm boys from participating in sports, we were eager spectators at evening games. I drove our family car to the game at Pipestone, accompanied by my friends and classmate, James (Jim) Welch. As Luverne pulled ahead near the end of the game, there arose some taunting and heckling between Jim and a group of Pipestone fans. When one of them challenged Jim to a fight after the game, I was astounded when he agreed. We poured out of the gym and drove to an open area about two blocks from the school.

About fifty Pipestone partisans formed a circle in the half-light. Jim's challenger was a young man whose name was McGurdy. (We learned later that he was a regular participant in the Golden Gloves Tournaments at Slayton.) McGurdy was slightly older than Jim, and in boxing terminology was a welterweight (135 lb

class), while Jim was a lightweight (127 lb.) with no formal boxing experience.

As I surveyed the circle eager to witness a fight and saw not a single familiar face, I was seized by a feeling of panic for Jim's safety, and ran back to the school to call the police. When I arrived back at the outdoor arena about ten minutes later, the lights of a police car were blinking, the crowd was dispersing and the two antagonists were shaking hands.

I deeply admired Jim's courage and resolve. As we drove back to Luverne on highway 75, Jim kept fingering the broken tooth and complained that McGurdy had not removed the rings from his fingers.

Two conclusions can be drawn from this post-game fistfight. First, it is a cautionary tale which warns that the loyalties and intense feelings generated by sports must not be allowed to spill over into violence. Such conflicts do not always end so amicably.

Second, it was a window into Jim's personality and mine. Jim was not a troublemaker by nature, but was fearless when provoked. In our senior year, we were both accepted into the South Dakota School of Mines and Engineering. However, I changed course and attended Central College in Iowa. Jim wrote to me when we were college freshmen, and told me that he had taken up Golden Gloves boxing at his school with fair success. While I missed our 20th Luverne High class reunion in 1968, I learned afterward that he had become a very successful pharmacist, and was recognized at the reunion for having more children than anyone else in the class.

Because I had been the object of some mean bullying in both elementary and high school, Jim inspired me to seek confidence in self-defense by engaging in some Golden Gloves matches as well. Boxing, like professional football, has come into question because of its potential harm to the body. When I eventually became a Professor of Philosophy and was on sabbatical at Stanford University where I joined an aikido dojo, I learned that the martial arts are a much better alternative."



Herreid Military Museum to expand. Committee seeks help from LHS alumni

Terrie Gulden, chair of the Herreid Military Museum, announces plans for an expansion.

In cooperation with the Rock County Historical Society, plans are being developed to expand the Herreid Military Museum to the third floor of the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building.

The exhibit on the third floor, now called the Heritage Gallery, will be relocated to a site designated by the RCHS.

Freeing up this space allows for expansion and the ability to focus on additional periods of military service.

Areas of display expansion include the focus on Civil War, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, War on Terror and other stories of military service.

Presently, the second floor is dedicated to the stories of service personnel from WWI and WWII.

The expansion to the third floor will allow the development of interactive kiosks, hands-on displays and life-size exhibits to tell the stories of

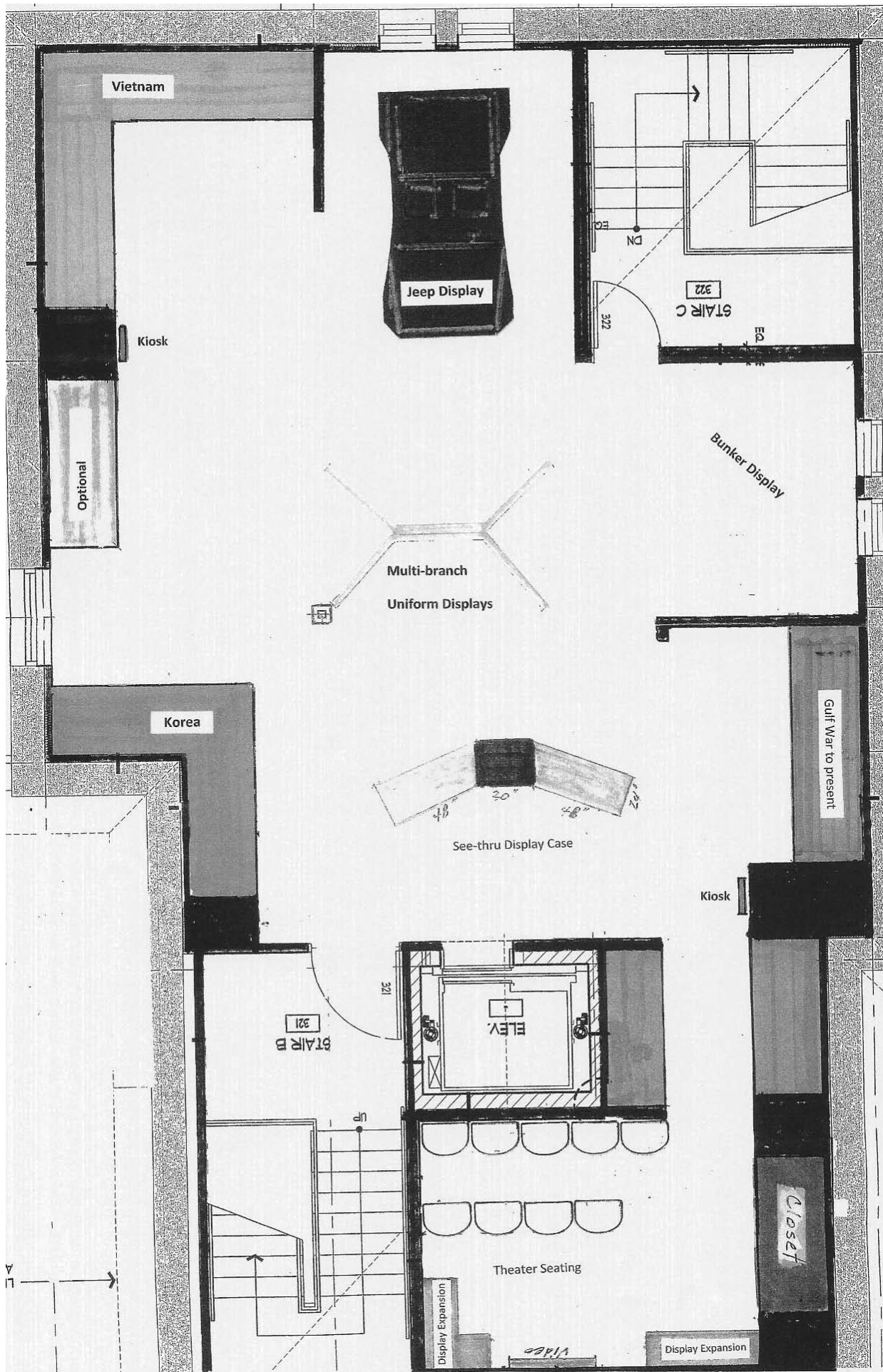
the brave men and women from Rock County who risked everything to serve this country.

The space will be refurbished to include locked and secure cabinetry to provide a place to exhibit precious military hardware. Gulden has plans for a 3-D gun display, bunker installation, life-size uniformed mannequins and a full scale Jeep Willy (WWII, Korea or Vietnam era.)

In order for this effort to be successful, the Herreid Military Museum Task Force is asking for your help! If you have material, artifacts or stories you are willing to share, please contact: 888 283-4061 or e-mail luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us.

Some of the items needed are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Jeep Willy | Field Gear |
| Weapons | |
| Souvenirs | Nursing Uniforms |
| Medical Service Gear | |
| Combat Uniforms | Replicas of IED's |
| Communication Equipment | |
| Letters | Pictures |
| Videos | |
| Personal Stories and Testimonies | |
| Replicas of Booby Traps | |



Gifts . . .
Continued from page 2

Gordon Gits

Darlene Hitch Woolsey, '62
Keith Bromley
Mary Jo Bromley
Ralph Watts, '52
Lorna Hawes Watts, '54
Gary Papik, '69
Janine Jordahl Papik, '69
Gary Mann, '63
Marlene Kindt Mann, '64
Keith Luethje, '49
Betty Hansen Luethje, '50
Larry Nelson
Janice Nelson
Joyce Thode, '77
Mary Odland
Anna DeGroot VanBatavia, '60
Del Brakke
Hal Paulson, '60
Donna Paulson
Wes Pierson, '58
Patti Kirby Pierson, '63
Jane Wildung Lanphere, '71
Lorna Siebenahler Bryan, '69

George Mann

Gene Salzman, '54

Gladys Mann

Gene Salzman, '54

Contributions

Class of 1938

Helen Long Sell, '38

Class of 1944

Marlin Hudson, '44

Class of 1948

Dorothy Dibbern Anderson, '48
Ken Vos, '48

Class of 1951

Lee Petersen, '51

Class of 1952

Roger Sherman, '52
Phyllis Hagen Sherman, '52

Class of 1956

Larry Engel, '56
John Remme, '56

Class of 1958

Kenneth Bjerk, '58

Class of 1959

Patricia Hatting Phillips, '59

Class of 1970

Shirley Madison Cook, '70

Class of 1973

Jim Petersen, '73

Class of 1977

Debra Lindblom Solis, '77

Class of 1996

Melinda Blashill Ohlenkamp, '96

Alumni News Financial Summary

Previous Balance:

Dec. 31, 2011 **\$2,490.65**

Expenses for Jan., 2012, issue:

Postage \$1,886.25
Labels 217.18
Printing 919.07
Database Subscription . 147.00

Total Expense \$3,169.50

Donations: Dec. 31, 2011, through
Mar. 31, 2012 **\$2,625.00**

Current Balance \$1,946.15

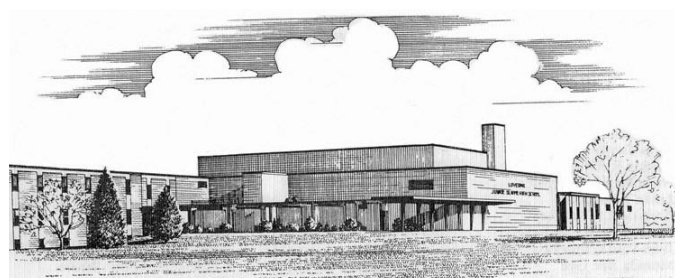
*The cost of the April, 2012, issue is unknown,
but the estimated cost is \$3,400.00.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
c/o Johnna R. Ahrendt
504 Michael Street
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the *Alumni News* and your name does not appear in this section, please let the staff know. The chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled (April 1, 2012). Please watch for the next issue, July, 2012 (Volume 22, Issue 4, for additional names of *Alumni News* contributors.



Community mourns loss of longtime Luverne Public Schools teacher and mayor

By Lori Ehde

Luverne lost a long-time local leader and beloved schoolteacher in March when Gordy Gits died at the age of 80.

Gits was most widely known as the energetic high school English teacher who was quick to correct his students' grammar.

He taught in the Luverne School District for 34 years, from 1955 to 1989. He was 58 when he retired, and he shared thoughts on his career in a June 29, 1989, Star Herald story.

"It makes me feel like a million bucks when I actually see a kid learn," Gits said. "That's the reward of being a teacher."

This passion in the classroom was felt both ways, according to his students who shared memories on the Hartquist website.

Several said they remembered reading "A Tale of Two Cities" under Gits. Particularly the opening line, "It was the best of times and it was the worst of times," held meaning for them.

"Our life was all ahead of us, and other than vocabulary tests to dampen a festive Friday mood in English class, Mr. Gits was the epitome of a true mentor," Bruce Kurtz wrote on the Hartquist site.

"We had dreams, and he did his best to help us find the guidelines to make our youth 'the best of times.'"

He offered sympathy to the Gits family, and added, "Thousands more unseen members of your LHS family share in your loss. He taught, we learned. Today is the 'worst of times.'"

Gits started in the district



early enough to see the "new" high school under construction in 1955-56.

"In the evening some of us would go up to look at that new building rising out of the cornfield on the west edge of town," Gits said in that same 1989 Star Herald story.

"There are some footprints in the cement somewhere in that building. Sometimes we would step where we weren't supposed to."

Gits was already two years into his first term as Luverne mayor by the time he retired from the classroom.

He served three terms as mayor, from 1987 through 1992, following 12 years on the City Council, from 1968 through 1979.

In June 1992 the Star Herald featured a story about Gits not seeking another term as mayor.

Gits' said his primary goal as mayor was to get Luverne moving again. He said he felt Luverne had stagnated and was sitting still.

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- Bruce Kurtz post on the Hartquist site.

At that time he saw empty storefronts, dilapidated buildings and slow growth in the industrial park and believed he could help make improvements. He said small details like rotting window frames in City Hall were symptoms, to him, of an unwillingness to do things.

Luverne's major achievements during the Gits years as mayor include the Minnesota Veterans Home locating here and the establishment of the industrial park.

During that same time, the hospital expanded and the city purchased the building for Berkley Information Services.

He described successful local leadership as "aggressive."

"Too many cities wait for things to happen," he said in 1992. "They buy 40 acres and wait for businesses to come. You can't do



Lori Ehde photo/0112 new year baby klosterbuer

LHS alumni have New Year baby

Sanford Luverne welcomed its first baby of the year Friday night, Jan. 6. The New Year baby, a girl, arrived at 7:38 p.m. weighing in at 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and measuring 21 ½ inches long. Parents are James (LHS '85) and Tashia Klosterbuer (LHS '90), Luverne. Emersyn Lynn joins a sister, Ashley, 19, and a brother, Kinser, 2. Grandparents are Dorothy Klosterbuer, Luverne, and the late Jerry Klosterbuer and Eileen Siebenahler, Luverne, and Eugene Siebenahler, Copperas Cove, Texas.

Gordon Gits/continued from page 13

that and be successful."

Asked why he served the city for 18 years as an alderman and mayor, he said, "A lot of reasons, not the least of which is ego."

He said he enjoyed being involved.

"I don't want to sound corny or trite, but this community has been good to me. I had a good job for 34 years. I've got a nice home, a wonderful wife and family and a good place to retire in," Gits said.

"I think you can't just take. You have to be a part of things."

Gits continued participating in his community well into his retirement years.

Among many other volunteer projects, he played an integral role in launching the Alumni News, a quarterly newsletter for Luverne High

School alumni.

Gregg Gropel, who founded the Alumni News, reflected on Gits' contributions this week.

"Without Gordon, I don't think the paper would have happened," Gropel said.

"I knew he had experience with newspapers and, of course, I considered him an expert with grammar. He was the strength I used to build the popular paper in keeping LHS graduates connected to both the school and community. I do not consider myself an expert writer by any means, but I personally learned a lot about story writing from Gordy. ... He will be missed."

Gits and his wife, Barbara, had five children, Theresa, Paul, Stephen, Mary and Elizabeth.

Reunions in the Making

Compiled by Gregg Gropel

Class of '57 - 55th Class Reunion

When: Sept. 28 - 30, 2012

Location: 28th - Brandenburg Gallery

Time for socializing and enjoying the

Gallery

Heavy Hor 'Douvres

Wine, Beer and Soda

29th - Coffey Haus

Dinner and Formal Reunion

30th - Green Lantern

Sunday morning-Breakfast

Buffet at Green Lantern (Hardwick)

Contact: Karla Brummer Tildahl

770 Odsila Way

Fontana, WI 53125

Phone: 262-275-3852

Email: karlabrent@tildahl.com

Karla Tildahl says, "We don't have times yet but will be sending another notice to everyone. If you need anymore information be sure to let me know."

Class of '62 - 50th Class Reunion

When: August 17 and 18, 2012

Location: Loren and Joyce Forrest's Farm, Rock

County Veterans Memorial Building and other

Luverne locations. More details will be sent in the spring of 2012.

Contact: Darlene Hitch Woolsey

Phone: 763-595-0314

Email: DARGW@aol.com

Class of '65 - 47th Class Reunion

When: August 3 - 4, 2012

Friday: 7:00 - Informal Gathering

at Sharkee's

Saturday: 5:30 - Social Hour

followed by dinner/program

at the Luverne County Club

RSVP: To determine the number of people attending, please RSVP to Jeanne or Randa by July 15, 2012.

Co-contact: Randa Smith Gangestad

Phone: 507-283-8288

Email: rgangestadaz@hotmail.com

Co-contact: Jeanne Boone Bowron

Phone: 507-283-8136

Email: jjbowron@myclearwave.net

Info: Look for future issues of the *Alumni News* for further information

"Class of '65 turns 65"

Class of '67 - 45th Class Reunion

When: June 1 - 3, 2012 "Buffalo Days Weekend"

Friday: 4:00 - Hospitality Room, Comfort Inn

(Kris Fitzer)

6:00 - "Cruise-In" Main Street,

Goebie's Goldies

(DJ Larry Goebel)

Saturday: 9:30 - "Parade" line up, main street,

(Elaine Van Belle Boergerhoff)

12:00 - "Arts in the Park."

Lawn chairs reserved just for us

5:30 - "Social hour and dinner,"

Luverne Country Club, Cost \$25

Sunday: 11:30 - 3:00 -

"Old Fashioned Hoe-Down,"

Fund-raiser for Historical Society

at fairgrounds

Co-contact: Elaine Van Belle Boergerhoff

Email: elaine21@comcast.net

Phone: 612-850-7132

Co-contact: Kris Fitzer

Address: PO Box 49725

Blaine, Minnesota 55449

Note: "Join us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information. Search LHS Class of 67. A fun weekend is planned, mark your calendar!"

Email Bio to: Luverne67Reunion@gmail.com

More details will be mailed.

Class of '72 - 40th Class Reunion

When: July 28, 2012

Location: Luverne Country Club

Co-Contact: Paula Wendt Rose

Email: paulajoyce@ymail

Co-Contact: John Smith

Phone: (605) 360-9272

Email: odie1953@yahoo.com

Note: A detailed letter is on the way.

Class of '82 - 30th Class Reunion

When: Aug. 10-11, 2012

Location: Eagles Club

Contact: Carrie Van Santen

Phone: 507-220-1123

e-mail: bluemoosvtv.com

Class of '87 - 25th Class Reunion

When: Aug. 10-11, 2012

Contact: Cris Oeltjenbruns

Alumni News Staff: Cindy Arends, Lori Ehde, Gregg Gropel, Rhonna Jarchow, Jane Wildung Lanphere,
Carol McDonald, Patti Kirby Pierson, and the Rock County Opportunities.

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