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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](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net)

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## A NEW DESTINATION IN LUVERNE

What did you call the gravel pit just off Donaldson Street when you were growing up? Over the years we have called it by many names. In the last decade or so, people have been calling it the Creamery Pond.



Well, if you haven't been there for a while you might be surprised at how this area has become a destination! Last year, the Luverne CVB hosted a 4th Of July Parade on the Pond with 300 to 400 people attending. In late February of this year, a great group of guys planned and hosted Luverne's first ice fishing derby. There were over 160 adults and children on the ice fishing that day. They caught over 300 fish, including a 9.1 lb Northern Pike, and \$3,000 worth of prizes were handed out.

Why has it happened? It all started a couple of years ago when Mike and Traci Davis purchased some property down there and started cleaning it up. Through their work and the hard work of many of their friends the area soon sported a beach, patio, fire pit, picnic tables, snack shop, volleyball court and more. The Creamery Pond became the place to go.

The City of Luverne also had some long range plans for the pond they had purchased as part of the deal to site the ethanol plant many years ago. In their work in the development of the Luverne LOOP biking and hiking trail They recognized that redevelopment of this site would benefit our citizens. The Luverne LOOP Master Plan includes the redevelopment of the pond area to include a fishing pier, parking, and park amenities. As the second phase of the LOOP will take the trail from Dodge Street down the west side of Luverne and back to Highway 75, this dream moves closer to reality.

**(Continued on page 13)**

## News

During this past quarter, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials and gifts totalling \$1,761. In the memorial section, **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!**

### NOTE:

**If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. The chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled on March 31. Please watch for the next issue in July 2016 for additional names of Alumni News contributors.**

### Alumni News Financial Summary

Balance 12/31/15	\$ 811.29
DFS Support	\$1,000.00
Donations:	\$1,761.00
Expenses:	
Printing	\$ 919.08
Postage	\$1,808.60
Labels	\$ 529.93
Office Supplies	\$ 112.66
Balance 3/31/16	\$ 202.02

## Honor Roll of Alumni News Contributors

Compiled by  
*Johnna Bowron Ahrendt*

### **Martha (Lunde) Bakken '29**

Richard Bakken - friend

### **Belle (Adams) Hobart '46**

Robert Helgeson '46

### **Donna (Gilbertson) Schmidt '46**

Robert Helgeson '46

### **Howard Emery '46**

Gloria (Schlapkohl) Siekmeier '50

### **Norma (Groth) Lutz '48**

Eunice (Groth) Witry '45

### **Mary Ellen (McRoberts) Emery '50**

Gloria (Schlapkohl) Siekmeier '50

### **Arlene (Jauert) Nadeau '51**

Emery Braa '51

### **Darlene (Braa) Spease '51**

Emery Braa '51

### **Donald Parry '51**

Emery Braa '51

### **Roger Rohlck '54**

Emery Braa '51

Reinhoid Schmuck '54

### **Mary Ann (Toms) Bendt '56**

Larry Engel '56

### **Anita (Godfrey) Cook '60**

Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62

VanBatavia

### **Judy (Hulbert) Larsen '61**

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

### **Wayne Kropuenske '63**

Joe Rowe '63

Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

William '62 & Susan (Reimer) '63

Mohr

### **Esther Weber - friend**

Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69

Papik

### **George Mann - Friend**

Gene Salzman '54

### **Contributions**

Betty (Hitch) Schnettler '73

Eleanor Siebert - Friend

John Remme '56

Lorna (Erickson) Lorenzen '46

Roger '52 & Phyllis (Hagen) '52

Sherman

Sally Ripley '73

Steve Hoiland '59

**What We've Heard**  
**Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere**

**Alumni BOB HELGESON (LHS 1946) sends greetings from his new home in Bloomington, MN. He writes:**

*"My lovely wife Jeanne passed away on April 14, 2015. We celebrated our 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on February 14, 2015. I spent 18 years in radio in Sioux Falls and then 25 years in the advertising department at NSP in Minneapolis. I retired in 1991. Jeanne and I enjoyed many winters in either Las Vegas or San Diego. I miss Jeanne very much."*

*"Keep up your great publication. I haven't found anyone who has this kind of information from their old "home town." The stories of The Palace and The Pix brought back a lot of memories. I remember the fun we used to have at the dances at the Armory and the busy nights on Main Street."*

**LORNA LORENZEN (LHS 1946) writes from her new home in Colorado:**

*"I have now moved to Colorado by my three boys. I had a light stroke while working bingo at Mary Jane Brown Home. I sold my home and was moved by my three boys. I like to be alone so I moved in the Good Samaritan Home on the third floor and north front three room apartment. There are lots of things to do and I am enjoying it. Ardean, Rodney and Brian all live here along with my sister Cleo Bloemendaal. I help in the cafeteria at noon taking the menu books off the tables. It is great to be by my family although I miss my friends in Luverne."*

**Iversons: 'Is Luverne ready to be a destination? ... Yes indeed'**

*(This item originally appeared as a letter to the editor) Your article in the Feb. 11 edition of the Star Herald highlighted the work of so many committed citizens in Luverne who have made it possible to ask the question, "Is Luverne ready to be a destination?" From our perspective, the answer is a resounding YES!*

*In June of last year, a group of twelve of our friends from Minneapolis joined us as we all enjoyed Luverne as a destination for three days. We had spoken glowingly about everything the city and the area have to offer, and they wanted to see firsthand what makes our hometown so exemplary. Perhaps they imagined we were exaggerating.*

*Our field trip to Luverne began with Betty Mann's knowledgeable historical trolley tour of Luverne that included a behind-the-scenes look at the Palace Theater.*

*Jane Wildung Lanphere orchestrated the entire trip, including a guided tour and hike at Touch the Sky Prairie, time at the Brandenburg Gallery and the military museum, a tasting at Take 16, and tours of the Hinkly House Museum and the Interpretive Center. We hiked at Blue Mounds State Park and at the quarry and visited Prairie Heights Bison Ranch, thanks to the Bowrons. The Grand Stay was our very accommodating home away from home, and everyone raved about our meals at Sterling's and The Blue Stem. A fun lunch at Vinnie's reminded everyone of the diners we frequented as kids. Everywhere we went, we were welcomed with friendly, kind Midwestern hospitality. Even though we can't begin to name every Luverne resident who made our trip so memorable, we thank all of you.*

*As we prepared to leave town after our busy days, the words we heard from our friends in describing Luverne were "charming," "hometown spirit," "amazing community," "forward thinking," "beautiful parks," "wonderful people." They all pledged to come back again and to tell their friends what they had experienced in Luverne.*

*Our friends no longer suspect us of exaggerating our hometown's charms.*

*Is Luverne ready to be a destination? We enthusiastically say, "Yes, indeed!"*

*Cammy (Martin) and Rich Iverson, LHS Class of '64  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

**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, MN 56156**

**E-mail [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us)**

**Online: [Let's Hear From you Google Form](#)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Please add my e-mail address into the directory. Don't worry, it will not be shared with anyone.**

## Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol McDonald

### 1930 -1939

**Helen Bertina (Borgum) Meyer '33** died on February 22, 2016 in Mankato, Minnesota. Prior to her marriage to Loren Meyer on November 19, 1939, Helen worked for Hansen and Engan Law Office. The couple made their home on Loren's family farm near Ellsworth, Minnesota. Helen was active in Ellsworth schools, church, and community affairs. She served as PTA president, Sunday school superintendent, Sunday school teacher, extension club officer and 4-H leader. She was also active in the Luverne chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Helen was proud to be chosen as Rock County Rural Homemaker of the Year in 1962. One of her unique hobbies was collecting new and used eyeglasses and sending them to "New Eyes for the Needy." After being a homemaker for 25 years Helen began work as a secretary for Attorney Walter A. Tofteland and then became Deputy Clerk of the Rock County court, finally retiring in 1975. Helen and Loren moved into Luverne in 1979. She was active in the Methodist church, a member of the "Pink Ladies" Hospital Auxiliary and a Hospice volunteer. The couple enjoyed wintering in Phoenix, Arizona for over 20 years, as well as traveling to various countries. Throughout her life, she enjoyed getting together with family and friends, dancing, playing cards, crafting, reading and doing crossword puzzles. Loren passed away in 2003 and Helen became a resident at Poplar Creek Estates in 2007. Most recently, she lived at Central Health Care in LeCenter, Minnesota.

Helen is survived by daughters Carol (Tom) Goretzki of Scottsdale, AZ, and Donna (Joel) Michalson of Waterville, MN; six grandchildren, Lindy (Scott) Pfaltzgraff, Jared (Alison) Michalson, Ross (Tina) Michalson, Jamie (Justin) Rutledge, Mark (Brandy) Goretzki, and Brian (Jennifer) Goretzki; three great-grandchildren, Connor, Logan and Meyer. Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Loren; son, Dale Meyer; and a great-grandchild, Hayley Pfaltzgraff.

**Lloyd S. Hansen '37** died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 98 in Boulder, CO. Lloyd lived a joyful and adventurous life. After high school, where he was actively involved in football and all sports, he attended Augustana College, playing football there as well. Lloyd volunteered for the U.S. Air Force at the start of WWII. Captured by the Germans, he was a prisoner of war for 581 days until he was liberated by General Paton's forces. He remained in the U.S Air Corps and retired as a Lt. Colonel. Lloyd and his wife Carol began a second career in real estate in

Boulder, CO. For a hobby they enjoyed playing bridge and were highly ranked players.

Lloyd was preceded in death by his wife Carol, one sister and six brothers: Melvin, Paul, Edward, Vernon, Herbert and Ray.

**Dorothy Selma (Hunsdal) Ask '39** died January 1, 2016 at the Edgebrook Care Center in Edgerton, MN. After high school Dorothy attended a two-year ag program at the University of Minnesota. She married James Ask on August 30, 1941 and they settled into life on the farm. After Jim's death in 2005, Dorothy moved to The Oaks in Luverne. She eventually moved to the Poplar Creek apartments and later to Edgebrook Care Center. Dorothy was active in the Blue Mound Lutheran Church as a member of the Ladies Aid, a youth group leader and a member of the church choir. She also served as a 4-H leader and helped with the Magnolia Red Cross Blood Bank. Dorothy loved music and enjoyed sewing. She was a member of the Sons of Norway and Holiday Rambler Club with her husband, Jim. They also belonged to the bowling league in Luverne, a couple's card club, and enjoyed dancing. They spent winters in Arizona and Texas in their later years together.

Dorothy is survived by two daughters, Doris Nelson, Kenneth, and Cherylee Ask, Cold Spring; a son, Loren (Lucille) Ask, Kenneth; her grandchildren, Pendra (Edward) Bell, Nelson Bell, **Lori (Stan) Ask Witte '84**, **Leslie (Rachel) '94**, and **LeRoy (Laura) Ask '94**; and twelve great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, James; two sisters Kathryn (Stan) Garrison, and Sonia (Aldberto) De la Peno; and brothers and sisters-in-law Charles (Arley) Ask, Evelyn Grayson, Grace Kinley, and Hans (Amelia) Ask.

**Herbert Judge Jones '39** died August 4, 2014. A celebration of Herb's life was held on October 25, 2014 in Maplewood, MN. Preceded in death by his wife and navigator, Sally, Herb was a WWII Veteran, a long time Unisys employee, avid traveler and he loved to read. He is survived by family: John (Jeanne), Daniel (Marcy Nelson), Alison (Doug Nelson), Suzanne Carter, Kathryn Challeen (Michael); grandchildren Benjamin, Zachary, Aubrey, Matthew, Eric, Alexa, Blake, Peter, Jessica, Briana, Kelsey, Raina, Claire and Anthony; and one brother David.

(Continued on page 7)



***Luverne Dollars for Scholars  
Did you know?***

The Luverne Dollars for Scholars Chapter is a non-profit organization involving local volunteers who are interested in providing local students with financial assistance to pursue higher education. All of the funds raised by Luverne Dollars for Scholars remain in the community and are awarded to Luverne High School graduates. The purpose of the program is to raise money for a permanent endowment fund and to annually disperse its income in the form of scholarships to Luverne High School graduates. Since its origin in 1983, Luverne Dollars for Scholars has awarded a total of \$3,000,475 to 1,596 LHS graduates.

It is not just the big donors who are the heart and soul of this organization. It's the countless individuals, including LHS Alumni, who have given donations ranging from \$5 to \$50,000 who have filled the organization's coffers. Since its inception, the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program has been the benefactor of more than 220 perpetual scholarships with a total endowment of slightly over \$8.3 million. The uniqueness of an endowment gift is that it allows a scholarship to be given each year and every year, forever, to a fresh qualifying LHS graduate.

Gifts of \$249 or less are placed into the general fund. No designation is made on a scholarship. Gifts that are greater than \$249, but less than \$2,000, are also placed into the general fund. With this type of gift, the principle amount is dispersed as a one-time scholarship, and the name requested by the donor is attached to such a scholarship. A gift of \$2,000 or more becomes a perpetual scholarship. With a perpetual scholarship, only the earnings during a one-year period of time are awarded each and every year thereafter to a most recent LHS qualifying graduate. Incidentally, additional amounts may be added to a perpetual scholarship at any time.



*If you would like to contribute to, or receive more information, please write:*

*Luverne Dollars for Scholars*

*PO Box 822*

*Luverne, MN 56156*

*Email: [luvernedfs@gmail.com](mailto:luvernedfs@gmail.com)*

*Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)*

*Or visit: [www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org)*

**ATTENTION!**

**Parents of Luverne Graduates**

Have your children moved from your house, do you still get their Alumni News? After 5 years of their graduation the postal service is starting to return their Alumni News stating unable to forward. Could you please help save the Alumni News money because those returned copies cost us and we still don't have a forwarding address. Thank you ... email [piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net) or call and leave a message at 507-669-2371.

## Hardwick will be 125 years old

We are once again getting ready for another celebration in the town we all love.. HARDWICK!! Our much loved little town will be celebrating 125 years in 2017!! It will be **June 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. 2017**. We are trying to gather some interesting things for a memory book. It has been 25 years since a Hardwick Book has been done! It takes a lot of time and we need your help.

This will be OUR Memory Book! We are the last of the HGS Alumni... so let's make this a book of OUR Hardwick Memories! Whatever you'd like to contribute would be appreciated! You can send in your family's history, your folks, you and your siblings, a biography of your life and family, or a bit of each! Or share stories from growing up in Hardwick. Any pictures are always fun! Some examples that

I thought of: The Anderson Crew—biographies and pictures of your families now, or growing up. Stories from Anderson Hardware. Pictures of ads, or receipts, anything like that, that you'd like to share. A picture of Orrin in his dad's shirt!



We need history updates since 1992... for the biographies from that book. And info/stories of businesses since that time. Can you help with this?

We would appreciate any old things you'd like to put in the book, maybe old advertisements? Or receipts? Do you have some old report cards yet? It seems everyone has fond memories of the fire escape.. or "the Big Hill"? Any pics or stories you'd like to tell us? Maybe a school or teacher tale? Or fishing at Anderson Bridge? The "Old Bridge" (did we ever have a "new" bridge?) Or do you remember Devil's Run? Kirby's Hill? Does anyone recall "the turntable"? How about Nicknames? What else comes to mind? I'm just trying to stir up old memories of growing up Hardwickian!!

Could you please spread the word to friends, and siblings, classmates, old neighbors.. the more people all excited about this, the better the book can be. It is OUR book... something we're going to treasure.

Another thing we'd like to do to help offset some of the cost is.. we will be selling ads in the book.

Ads from old Hardwick Businesses or New ones! Or one for yourself! Whatever you want to have in the book. Ads for: In Memory of... or In Honor of... Hardwick Businesses... your ancestors...

Parents, Classmates, Siblings, Teachers, and Classes. Please share this and stir up some excitement for the HGS All School Reunion!

So put your thinking cap on, scan a few pictures for us and send your stories, pictures or questions to:

Joni Petersen, 715 W. Main, Pipestone, MN 56164 or email: [jonipete@iw.net](mailto:jonipete@iw.net). Please get your memory book items to us by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

We are updating our database, if you know of any addresses (email or mail) of classmates or family, please send them to: Patti Pierson at: [piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net). Looking forward to hearing from you..

GO WILDCATS!!!

### The Hardwick All School Reunion Committee

Lorna Siebenahler Bryan   Dianne Lorenzen Ossenfort   Patti Kirby Pierson   Joni Petersen   Bill DeBates  
Colleen Obermoller Deutsch   Jolene Obermoller Halsne   Kristi Obermoller Weinkauff   Terri DeBates Siebenahler

**1940 – 1949**

**John Corwin '46** died April 8, 2015 in Southwest Ohio. After graduating from high school, John entered the University of Minnesota, later leaving to take a job with the John Morrell Company. He was drafted into the military and served in Alaska. John married Hazel Larson and during their 25 years together, they had three children. Following her death, he married Wanda Daly and became stepfather to her six children. John's career in the meat business took him to a number of cities. As he and his family moved frequently, John became adept at buying and remodeling houses. He enjoyed woodworking, gardening, golf and hunting. He is survived by his wife Wanda; his children and stepchildren; and his brother **Dave Corwin '42**.

**Velma (Ralfs) Grant '47** passed away on December 13, 2015 in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduating from high school with honors, Velma married Vernon A. Grant on January 1, 1950 in Luverne, MN. Work took the couple to many places including Outlook, MT, Sebeka, MN, Litchfield, MN, Hardwick and Humboldt, SD. Vernon died in 1971 and Velma returned to waitressing in and around Sioux Falls. Health issues forced her retirement, but she continued to enjoy her yellow roses, fern-leafed peonies and the garden she shared with her daughter, Claire. Velma gave generously to the blood bank and volunteered at the VA. She was an avid reader and was especially interested in current world events. Velma was also an avid Indy and NASCAR fan, cheering on her favorite drivers.

Velma is survived by daughter, Claire (Paul) Sieverding, Humboldt, SD; grandchildren Jennifer Kierstead, Asia Nelson, Hailey and Zack Kierstead, all of Sioux Falls, SD; brother Harold (Dorothy) Ralfs, Canton, SD; aunt, **Viola Lafrenz '40**, Minneapolis, MN; sisters-in-law Doris Grant, Sebeka, MN, Elsie Robinson, Prescott, AZ and brother-in-law Richard Anderson, Mankato, MN. Velma was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon; son, David; sisters Helen Siebenahler and **Julie Ann Anderson '66**.

**Norma Jean (Groth) Lutz '48** passed away on January 22, 2016 in Petaluma, CA. After graduating from high school as valedictorian, she took a job as a secretary at the University of Minnesota Dental School. From there she applied for a job as a secretary for the US State Department. She became a secretary for the United States Embassy in Yugoslavia and it was there that she met her husband of fifty years, Jim Lutz, who was a Marine Corp sergeant and

Embassy guard. Norma was also a secretary at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma for over 25 years. She enjoyed traveling in their motorhome as far as Alaska with the grandchildren and for many years she and her late husband Jim would spend winters in Yuma, AZ. Norma loved reading books among enjoying other hobbies.

Norma is survived by her children Tim Lutz (Paula), Dan Lutz (Laurie), Paula Gibson and Pam Curtis (Alan); and grandchildren Justin, Zack, Kyle and Jason Lutz, Melissa Gonzales (Daron), Morgan Rycerski (Tommy) and Sam Friedman. She was preceded in death by her husband Jim.

**1960 – 1969**

**Judy L. (Hulbert) Larsen '61** died February 22, 2016 at Sanford Hospice. Following high school, Judy attended Nettleton Business College in Sioux Falls, SD. On March 12, 1988 she was united in marriage to Russ Larsen in Sioux Falls. She started working for the Billion Chevrolet dealership, retiring in 2009. She went back to work at Sioux Falls Ford in 2010 and was forced to leave due to health in 2015. Judy loved planting flowers, cooking, spending winters in Tucson, AZ and having lunch with her girlfriends. She especially loved riding as a passenger on the Harley, shopping with her daughter and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 28 years, Russ, of Sioux Falls, SD; her daughter Kelley Mitchell (Rick Esparza) of Sioux Falls; her step daughter Mandy Larsen (Wade Miller) of Sioux Falls; stepson Jacob Larsen of Shreveport, LA; grandchildren Heather, Ashley, Zachary, James; great grandchildren Hailey, Kaden, Parker, Jameson, Bentley, Declan, Gavin, Cade and numerous other family and friends.

**Wayne Kropuenske '63** passed away on December 15, 2015 at Avera-Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD. After high school, Wayne enlisted in the National Guard. For a time, he sold Hansen Silos with his father and other agriculture equipment for Gehl/New Holland and New Idea. He eventually opened Kropuenske Implement in Tyndall, South Dakota, operating it for several years. Wayne also worked for Powermotive in Colorado and Murphy Tractor in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. In 2010, he once again made his home in Tyndall. Wayne is remembered for his love for his family and friends. He was a very familiar sight around town in his beloved 1996 Ford Explorer. He loved telling stories and his routine breakfast at the Corral. Wayne's family will remember him as the best dad, grandfather, and selfless friend that anyone could ask for. He was a daredevil who was never afraid to live his life to the fullest.

**(Continued on Page 8)**

Wayne is survived by his daughters: Dawn E. (friend Jerry Hansen) Kropuenske and Jessica W. (Dustin) Kropuenske Stanton; grandchildren, Addison, Alex and Avery Stanton; mother Thelma Leslie Kropuenske; brother **Duane E. (Linda) Kropuenske '61**; former wife Kathy Mount Kropuenske; and several nieces, nephews and relatives. Wayne was preceded in death by his father, sister-in-law Patsy Kropuenske, and many aunts and uncles.

**1970 – 1979**

**Darla Gail Green '75** died December 31, 2015 at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage. Darla was raised in Luverne and attended Crippled Children's School in Worthington and graduated from Luverne High School in 1975. She lived in Sioux Falls for a time, but moved back to Luverne after two years. She was a greeter at the Hinkly House, and she called bingo and sold pulltabs at Luverne American Legion and Luverne Eagles Club. Darla was diagnosed with cancer in 2006. She enjoyed smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee, talking on the CB, taking rides and trucking. Darla loved to gamble, playing poker and slots with her family. In 2011 Darla learned how to drive. It was a new found freedom for her.

Darla is survived by her siblings, **Verne (Janet) Green '66**, Gregory, South Dakota, **Roger (Marti) Green '69**, Owatonna, **Elnora Hemesath '70** (and friend Duane Eink), Ossian, Iowa, **Wayne Green '73**, **Jerald (Evelyn) Green '76**, Adrian, **Bernard (Beth) Green '78**, Bemidji, **Orvin Green '80**, Adrian, **Charlotte '81 (Daryl) Dammer**, Rushmore, **Denise '83 Sprecher**, Luverne, **Reva '84**, Luverne, **Roxanne Green '87** (friend Terry Reisdorfer) Luverne, special uncle and aunts, Orville (Karen) Dreesen, Ellsworth, **Aleida Meyerhoff '58**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Dolores Dreesen, Luverne; and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and nieces **Deanna Green '99** and Jennifer Green.

**1990 – 1999**

**Shelli (Swenson) Larsen '94** passed away on January 11, 2016 at Sanford Hospital. After high school Shelli attended Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls and graduated with a degree in horticulture in 1996. On April 14, 2007 she married Aaron Larsen in Valley Springs. She was employed at Valley Springs Farmers Co-op. Shelli was active in her community as part of Bottoms Up Pink Ladies and as a member of the First Lutheran Church. She loved children. Shelli also enjoyed going to the family cabin in the Black Hills, spending time at Lake Madison, going all out for trunk-or-treat, enjoying Booster Day activities and making sure every child was on the float. She hosted an annual Christmas cookie Saturday, and loved decorating for every holiday.

She is survived by her husband, Aaron; a son, Grady, and a daughter, Addison; her parents Larry and Phyllis Swenson; a sister, Sheri (Mike) Hoss; two brothers, **Shawn (Jill) Swenson '93** and **Jeff (Amy) Swenson '05**; her nieces, Lexy, McKenzie, Sabrina and Macie; parents-in-law, Roger (Kathy) Larsen and Carmen (Keith) Braun; a sister-in-law, Amber Larsen; and her best friend, Suzie Weir.

**Edwin & Donna Deutsch Family Scholarship**

Eddie and Donna Deutsch lived in Luverne for 58 years from 1957 to 2015. Although neither attended Luverne High School, their two children Joan and Don graduated from LHS in 1976 and 1978, respectively. They also had two grandsons graduate from LHS, Brad '04 and Brian '06.

The Deutsch's loved watching their children, grandsons and their friends in various school functions. They were active members of this community and spent many hours volunteering. Eddie was a greeter at the school for several years and was a charter member of the Luverne

Dollars for Scholars program. This scholarship was established after Eddie's death in 2015. Since Eddie spent 55 years in a wheelchair, the recipient is to be, whenever possible, someone with a handicap.



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Visit [www.alumninews.info](http://www.alumninews.info) and click on the  
donate button.*

*Thank you for your support.*



# Reunions in the Making

## Class of 1951

### 65th Class Reunion

September 23 & 24, 2016

Friday—Get-together at Pizza Ranch –5pm

Saturday—TSBF Parade—9:30 am

Saturday—Reunion at Sterling's Café & Grille  
(Happy Hour 5 pm & dinner to follow)

For more Reunion Info Contact  
Barb Boll: [ball\\_56156@vastbb.net](mailto:ball_56156@vastbb.net)

## Class of 1961

### 55th Class Reunion

June 3-4, 2016

FRIDAY NIGHT CRUISE-IN: At Minnwest  
6 pm: Car Show & Dance

SATURDAY REUNION DINNER: Bluestem  
5 pm or later: Eat on your own

For more Reunion Info Contact  
Tom Serie 507-220-0808  
[tomserie@comcast.net](mailto:tomserie@comcast.net)

## Class of 1966

### 50th Class Reunion

September 23 & 24, 2016

Though time, distance and age may have separated  
classmates, there are precious memories to share!  
Registration packets will be mailed soon!  
Join us for the celebration during Tri-State!  
Contact: Jennifer Holsen [jenholsen@gmail.com](mailto:jenholsen@gmail.com)

## Class of 1976

### 40th Class Reunion

June 3-4-5, 2016

Friday Gathering at Buffalo Days Cruise-In

Saturday Gathering at Luverne Country Club

For more Reunion Info Contact:  
Deone Hemme [hemmes4@frontiernet.net](mailto:hemmes4@frontiernet.net)

## Class of 1981

### 35th Class Reunion

July 23, 2016

At the Eagles Club—Luverne

Info: Terri Lorenzen Taylor  
[mtaylor1@iw.net](mailto:mtaylor1@iw.net)

## LUVERNE'S 150th—Celebrated All Year!

Special Events—July 14-15-16, 2017



Info: Luverne Area Chamber Office  
507-283-4061 [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us)



## Hardwick's 125th June 23-24-25, 2017

In conjunction with Hardwick Jubilee Days, Including Hardwick All School Reunion

For info: Lorna Siebenahler Bryan [lorna@frontiernet.net](mailto:lorna@frontiernet.net)

Luverne will celebrate 150 years in 2017. Throughout the next two years, Alumni News will feature some interesting facts about our hometown. Featured in the last edition of Alumni News was a history written by E. A. Brown which chronicled what went out from the founding in 1867 through 1880. The article featured in this edition, will pick up where Brown's history ended.

The 1880's was a period of rapid growth and unprecedented prosperity for Luverne. From 1882 to 1886, Luverne made rapid strides more than doubling its population and taking the rank as one of the best towns of southwestern Minnesota as well as one of the largest. The rich lands of Rock County, abundant harvests and the construction of a new rail line contributed significantly toward its growth.

The building of a serviceable school house became a big issue in 1880. The "ordinary district" had voted in 1878 to become an "independent district." With 200 enrolled students in a school house with capacity for 90, reality set in as to the community's responsibility.

On April 9, 1880 a meeting was held to decide whether or not the district should vote \$2,500 for the erection of a new school house. The measure was lost, but at the same meeting another resolution, providing for the sum of \$6,000 was carried. No further action happened that year. Over 200 students attended a school that had the capacity for less than half in 1881-1882. Definite action was finally taken on February 21, 1892, when by a vote of 45 to 19, it was decided to issue bonds in the sum of \$10,000 to carry out the plans for a new school. A few weeks later an additional appropriation of \$1,100 was made for the purchase of the site.

In 1892, contractor Frank Thayer constructed the south wing of the Central building. It contained three school rooms and a basement and was occupied for the first time on Monday, November 13, 1882. Three years later it became imperative to again increase the school facilities. An addition, corresponding in style to the original was annexed to the Central building, at a cost of \$7,000, including a new heating system.

1882 saw significant major construction projects. A new creamery and business block (60 x 75 feet) at the corner of Main and Cedar streets jump started other construction projects. Within the business block there was a new bank, post-office and drug store. The June 9, 1882 Rock County Herald said: "Luverne is enjoying a boom of a pattern the numberless towns of northern Minnesota and Dakota that are forcing themselves so conspicuously upon public attention would do well to consider and emulate. There is great activity in building operations this year than at any previous time in the history of Luverne."

In 1873, Luverne had 4 general merchandise stores, one hotel, Rock County Herald, one drug/grocery store, feed store, blacksmith shop, shoe repair shop, one notary/surveyor, one doctor and two attorneys.

One decade later (1883), the numbers and varieties of businesses had dramatically increased:

- Banks – Bank of Luverne (est. 1876), Rock County Bank (est. 1882)
- General Merchandise – Landin & Nelson, Wold, Glass, Walters, Battelle, Helm & Co, Erickson & Son, Stoughton
- Groceries – Schuyler, Stone, Hollis, Ells, Kelley
- Hardware – Gerber & Ross, Peteler Bros.
- Drugs – Crawford, Mead & Millhouse
- Books & Stationery – Harroun & Hawes, Mead & Millhouse
- Hotels – Merchants Hotel, M McCarthy, Luverne House, Joles & Johnson, Freeman Avenue House, J. Redfield
- Furniture – Saxton Brothers, C. C. Drew
- Millinery – H. W. Helm & Co, Mrs. N. A. Crowell
- Clothing – P. R. Schuyler and the general dealers
- Jewelers – Harroun, Hawes & Swedberg, R. M. Click
- Lumber Dealers – Herren & Wadleigh, J. L. Spencer

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- Wood and Coal – Patterson & Walters, Hyke, Peavey Brothers, Pedrick, Battelle, Gibson Bros.
- Farm Machinery – Gibson Bros., Stone & Wold, Ezra Rice, Battlle
- Grain Dealers – Ezra Rice, Stone & Wold, Hyke, Patterson & Walters
- Harness Makers – Scheble, Hyke
- Shoemakers – Millhouse, Erickson
- Meat Markets – Putney & Goethel, Brennan, Andre
- Livery Stables – Gibson Bros., Wellman
- Saloons – McGrath, Champion, McCarthy, Powell, Jaybush, Cosgriff, Winegar
- Physicians – Spalding, Crawford, Kilgore
- Attorneys – Hadley, Reynolds, Webber, Mead, Canfield, Cornish, Davidson
- Dentist – Palmer
- Carpenters and Builders – Jones & Soutar, Minard & Dixon, Lyttle, Adron, Moreaux
- Masons and Contractors – Gillham, Bullett
- Barbers – Hurd & Lewis, McDermott
- Dray and Express Lines – Green, Oliver
- Restaurants – Click, Kimball
- Flour Mills – Luverne Mills (W. H. Wilson), Estey Mills (A. R. Hildebrandt)
- Flour and Feed – Wildon, Patterson & Walters, Hollis, Hyke
- Photographer – Robinson
- Real Estate Agencies – Bank of Luverne, Rock County Bank, Kniss & Gray
- Farm Loan Office – Edward P. Brooks
- Creamery – Rock County Creamery (Raymond & Welker)
- Blacksmiths – Henton, Hofelmann Bros., Wellman, Oleson
- Wagon Makers – Kendall, Hofelmann Bros.



*Downtown Parade*

During the construction seasons of 1882 and 1883, records indicated that approximately \$85,000 in new buildings and improvements were completed. But this was only the beginning. During 1884 carpenters, builders and masons were in steady demand and had far more work than they could handle, and structure to the value of \$50,000 were put up. The Burlington railroad was built to the village in later summer and added to the general activity. Gas lights were installed on Main Street in 1883. The City purchased the land for the City Park for \$1,600 in 1884 as well as dug six wells on Main Street to serve for fire protection.

The census of 1885 showed that the population of Luverne had a gain of nearly 100% in five years. That year the population was 1,346. In the winter of 1885-1886, the community was handicapped by a diphtheria epidemic. Several deaths from the disease resulted. Construction projects and population growth were hampered as a result.

Later in 1886 residential construction projects began to grow. \$40,000 in home construction kept the builders busy. In 1887 building projects included the Rock County Courthouse, a city hall, railroad buildings and a couple of residences. About 2 am on December 3, 1888, a fire started downtown that destroyed 4 buildings for a total loss of \$15,000. The buildings that burned down included Kilgore's drug store, a cigar store, Graaf's clothing store and Mead & Company hardware store.

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*Luverne Fire Hall and City Hall*

The preliminary steps toward the construction of a city hall were taken in early 1887, when a bill was introduced in the legislature by Senator W. B. Brown, authorizing the village to issue \$20,000 bonds for that purpose. Nothing further was done until the following December, when a petition was presented to the village council, asking that body to call a special election to vote on the question of issuing city hall bonds, not to exceed \$5,000.

The election was held on January 10, 1888, and every one of the 130 votes cast was in favor of bonding. In May, the village authorities called another election to vote on the question of issuing \$3,000 additional bonds for the purchase of grounds, vaults, heating apparatus and furniture for the proposed city hall, but at the election June 7 the bond issue was defeated by a vote of 94 to 57. Then the village authorities proceeded to erect the building with funds originally authorized. The contract for the construction of the city hall was let on August 13, 1888 to P. N. Gillham on a bid of \$4,835, ground was broken for the foundation August 16, and the building was completed before the close of the year. The building was constructed out of Sioux Quartzite from the same Quarry that supplied the stone for the Court House.

On June 9, 1888, the City Council authorized the organization of a fire department and appointed 4 citizens to proceed with enlistment. Edwin Gillham was the first chief. There were 90 charter members of the department divided into 4 companies. The fire engine company had 33 members and J. H. Graaf as captain. The chemical engine company had 11 members and J. W. Gerber as captain. The hook and ladder company with 23 men with E. S. Warner as foreman. The host company was 17 strong and led by A. J. Webber.

In the fall of 1889, an official of the Burlington railroad states that “Luverne did more business than any town on the line of the road between Cedar Rapids and Watertown.” The census of 1890 only showed a small gain in population – to 1466.

By 1891, construction activities in Luverne were at a feverish pace. One of the biggest projects was the construction of a system of water works at the cost of about \$25,000.

Holy Trinity Parish was organized June 25, 1891, at which time Rev. C. S. Ware, who had supplied at intervals, was chosen as the first rector. The first vestry, elected at this time, consisted of N. R. Reynolds, senior warden; T. E. Jones, junior warden; W. H. Wilson, J. W. Gerber, J. W. Millhouse and R. B. Hinkly. The erection of a church home was agreed upon, and on August 19, 1891, Bishop Gilbert and Rev. Ware laid the corner stone of the structure. The building, or stone construction, was completed late in the fall, at the cost of \$6,000. The dedication ceremonies did not happen until 6 years later when the indebtedness was cleared. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is the only original church still standing in Luverne.



*The Quarry*

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With the development of this area, local supporters became convinced that we really needed to find an “official” name. It was hard to market it as a destination when you call it “Creamery Pond.” Once again, Luverne citizens came forward with a proposal to name the area – “THE LAKE.”

Why “THE LAKE”? The State of Minnesota may have some 13,000 lakes but there is no – “THE LAKE” – listed on a document. Those two simple words really describe what our community is trying to do with that location. On summer weekends, it seems like half the people of the Luverne area go to their cabins or their campsites. When you ask them where they are going – they usually don’t say “Lake Okabena” or “Lake Benton” or “Spirit Lake.” They just say “the lake”. The words describe fun, relaxation, family, entertainment and recreation. It describes a place to get away from the hustle and bustle of life. That is what we want this area to become.

Fast forward – at the meeting on Tuesday, March 22, of the Luverne City Council, city officials signed the resolution officially naming the area “THE LAKE”. Now, Minnesota’s county without a lake has the only place in the state with “THE LAKE”. Tongue in cheek, making a little fun of ourselves – we have taken a big step in the development of a new destination in Luverne.



Thanks to Mark & Annie Opitz of Quality Printing and the Luverne CVB, we even have a logo! Check it out!

So remember, when you come home for a weekend you just might want to check out the fun everyone is having at “THE LAKE”.

If you don’t have plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, consider coming to “THE LAKE” for our big celebration. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee has officially named the celebration – LUVERNE’S 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY BEACH BASH AND FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA!

Yes, you heard it right! Plans are in place for fireworks in Luverne and activities all day long! Check out the schedule for the day! We hope you can join **us!**

# LUVERNE'S



## 4TH OF JULY BEACH BASH AND FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

**Free All-Day Event!**  
**At THE LAKE**

DAVIS LAKE TRIATHLON: 10am-1pm

DJ - SCOTT WESSELS: 10am-close

Log-Rolling Practice: 1-4pm

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT: 12-4 pm

KIDS SAND CASTLE CONTEST: 2-5pm

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT: 2-5pm

LOG-ROLLING CONTEST: 6-7pm

PARADE AT THE LAKE: 7:30-Awards 9pm

**FIREWORKS - 10 PM**

BEER GARDEN & FOOD COURT: Open at Noon

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The greatest advance in Luverne's early history happened in 1892. In that year, eighty new buildings were erected in the 12 month period including three handsome business blocks. The total expenditures amounted to \$185,000. Luverne took on a metropolitan appearance. It now boasted a City Hall, a waterworks system and was lighted by electricity. The Rock County Herald printed in the last issue of 1892: "No inland town in the state can equal the improvement record made by Luverne during the present year. It has taken undisputed rank as the leading town of southwestern Minnesota and as the best, most enterprising and most prosperous county seat town in the state under a population of 5,000. No town in the state of the class named can boast of finer business blocks, better public buildings, handsomer private residences (including the construction of the Hinkly House built in 1892), better streets, more public improvements, more shade trees or a more beautiful location; none is more substantial financially or more prosperous, none does a larger business or has brighter prospects."

During the early nineties the Luverne fire department became a member of the Columbian Inter-state Firemen's Association, an organization comprising departments in parts of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. Annually the organization held tournaments, always a stirring competition among the running teams of the departments. The Luverne team established a world's record at the 1895 tournament at Pipestone by running 200 yards, laying 150 feet of hose and making the coupling in 26.2 seconds. For several succeeding years the Luverne department produced a championship team.

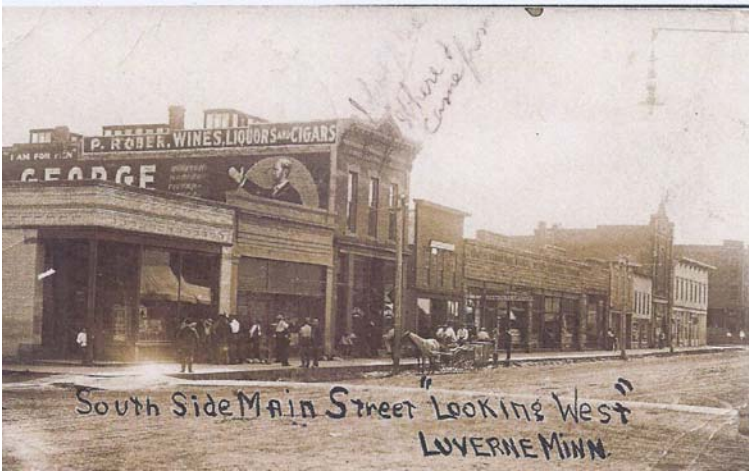
1893 began with continued growth and optimism. The first telephone line was installed from the Hinkly House to the Hinkly bank so R. B. could keep on top of what was happening. It wasn't too many days later than, without warning, the prosperous times were brought to a close in the summer of 1893. In 1893, F. A. and E. L. Leicher, under the name of Leicher Brothers, established a wagon-making business. A panic hit the county. Luverne's age of advancement ceased. Business was paralyzed; the town was without life. The crop failure of 1894 and the ruinously low prices of 1895 added to other features of the times. Despite the dire circumstances, the population increased to 1890. Most of the communities on the prairie were dealing with the same tribulations.



*Central School*

It wasn't until 1898 that things really started to turn around in Luverne. Things had turned around on the farms and money was again in circulation. Buildings were again erected in town, the value of the improvements that year amounted to about \$36,000. Improvements continued during the next two years. The county jail was erected, the wooden sidewalks on Main Street were replaced by cement pavements and in 1900 the sewage system was put in. By the turn of the century – Luverne boasted a population of 2223. Luverne was a bright star on the prairie!





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**Alumni News**

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