

Luverne High School graduate sees first book as sweet victory over hard times

The following story was featured in Rochester, MN's **Post Bulletin** by Dene K. Dryden. It features the story of poet Nancy (Voss) Hengeveld, a graduate from LHS 1965 and retired psychologist who won the 2022 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition with her book, "Petrichor."

PRESTON, Minn. — A few months ago, Nancy Hengeveld's youngest daughter asked her if she had any regrets over the course of her life.

"I said, you know, I don't really have any regrets," Hengeveld said. "But the one thing I always wanted to do, if I were to die tomorrow ... was to just have a book of my poetry published."

At her daughter's suggestion, Hengeveld submitted her book manuscript to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies for its 2022 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition. She said she didn't expect to win the award, but she thought the process of compiling and formatting a manuscript for the contest would be a good first step toward self-publishing the book.

There's no need for Hengeveld to do it herself. A few weeks ago, she won.

NFSPS will publish Hengeveld's first book, "Petrichor,"



Nancy (Voss) Hengeveld, a 1965 LHS graduate and retired psychologist recently published an award winning book, "Petrichor."

in June. Her collection of more than 50 poems opens with her son's incarceration and moves through different moments of grief, trauma and joy throughout her life.

"He always could draw anything," Hengeveld describes her son in the opening poem, "Saint Cloud Maximum." "Used to draw himself to sleep while his sisters read, / growling and groaning, creating / things with teeth and scales, / monsters he'd invented, / dragons with fiery breath, / creatures kept in dungeons and walled places / not so different from this razor-wired fortress."

"My poetry is the kind of

stuff that you really have to look at it as a whole," she said.

"I think if you just take a part of it, it seems dark and depressing. But, as a whole, there's hope and there's light and there's healing."

A lifetime of writing

As the youngest of four children, Hengeveld recalled growing up in a quiet home. Hengeveld's father, a Dutch immigrant, and her mother, a child of Dutch immigrants, raised the family on a farm outside of Hills, Minnesota.

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending March 31, 2024, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$2,925. 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, READERS!

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. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, July 2024, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Financial summary

Balance 12/31/23:
\$46,884.89

Donations: \$ 2,925.00

Expenses:

Printing: 912.37
Postage: 2,217.24
Supplies: 90.45
Labels: 727.43
Paypal Fees: 18.09

Balance:
03/31/24: \$45,844.31

Memorials

Jarvis Boisen '45
Susan (Bailey) Brakke '77

Gloria (Albers) Juhl '53
Eugene '53
& Rose Marie (Bartels) '53 Meyer

Patricia (Padilla) Petit '53
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Audrey (DeYong) Watzek '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Dorothy (Woolsey) Goeske '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Henry Wulf '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Ivan J. Hansen '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

James Klassen '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Lloyd Matthiesen '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Peggy (Schmidt) Anderson '54
Andrew '72 & Jean Schmidt

Carol (Hengeveld) Fawley '61
Eugene '53 &
Rose Marie (Bartels) '53 Meyer
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53
Saundra Eickhoff

James Hamann '56
Class of 1956
Gary & Julie (Mann) Vogel '73
Larry Engel '56

Jeannette (Schmuck) Flanigan '58
Stanley Bagbey '58

Carla (Quanbeck) Walgren '60
Eunice (Skyberg) Wynn '60

Kathleen (Anderson) Johnson '60
Eunice (Skyberg) Wynn '60

Twilla (Hamann) Navara '61
Karen (Anderson) Aamot '61

Judy (Mann) Gort '66
Gene Salzman '54

James Ladd '68
Daryle & Karen Ommen
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia

John Smith '72
Becky (Gangestad) Keller '72
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69
Papik
Richard '64 & Cammy (Martin) '64
Iverson
Sallie Frahm-Smith '72
Sandra (Hatting) Heck '64

Deb (Lindblom) Solis '77
Jack & Jeane (Dreesen) Leslie '77

Jerry Hendricksen '77
Jack & Jeane (Dreesen) Leslie '77

MEMORIALS/SEE PAGE 13

Contributions:

Allan Dale '69
Ben Cousyn '51
Beth (Eberlein) O'Dea '70
Elaine Harms - Teacher
Jeffrey Eberlein '67
Karen (Tilstra) Rollag '72
Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50
Susan (Wethor) Wineland '95

Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1950 – 1959

Loren Wiese '53, of Sioux Falls died January 1, 2024, in Hull, IA. Loren served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper until 1956. He was united in marriage to Ruth Hickman on May 17, 1956, in Ellsworth. They lived in Windom, Luverne, Red Wing, Owatonna, Albert Lea and Winona, retiring to Sioux Falls. Loren dedicated 33 years to Northwest Bell before his retirement in 1990. He served as Union Steward and President of the Telephone Pioneers Union in Red Wing as well as a board member of Crime Stoppers in Winona.

Loren is survived by his son, David (Cindi) of Menomonie, WI; five grandchildren; brother-in-law Ronald Boyenga of Ellsworth; and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; daughter, Lynn Hagert; brothers, **Robert '59 Wiese** and **Vernon '46** (Annetta) Wiese; and sister, **Anita '60 Boyenga**.

Gloria (Albers) Juhl '53 died January 23, 2024, in Sioux Falls. Gloria worked for Dr. G.N. Getman for six years after high school. On August 19, 1956, she married **Charles '53 Juhl** in Luverne. They moved to the Juhl family farm where they would reside for the next 45 years. Gloria was employed by the State of Minnesota for 27 years as a travel counselor at the Beaver Creek Travel Information Center before retiring in 2004. The couple moved to Luverne in 2001 and in 2019, Gloria moved

to Poplar Creek Estates.

Gloria is survived by her husband, **Charles** of Luverne; three children, **Lori '77 (Hal '78) Schmidt** of Luverne, **Paul '81 Juhl** of Harrisburg, SD, and **John '83 (Tammy) Juhl** of Fergus Falls; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, **Jean '48 (Norman '48) Ahrendt**, and Sarah Juhl.

Lloyd Matthiesen '54 died in Luverne on December 25, 2023. Lloyd attended Glendale College in California, graduating with an AA degree in 1956. He was employed as an electrical technician for the next 11 years, working for IBM, Collins Radio, Universal Research and Testing, and North American Aviation. He also did vibration tests for space rocket engines on the US Space Program (NASA) until 1969. He moved to Worthington for a time and then back to California in 1977 where he worked for Family Amusement Company, specializing in service and maintenance of pinball machines and jukeboxes. Lloyd retired in October 1982. He spent his retirement years in Luverne where he was fondly known as the guy on the bike, riding in all weather conditions. In 2018, Lloyd became a resident of Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.

Lloyd is survived by his sister, **Phyllis '43 Holden** of Sun Valley, CA; special friends, Alan DeRoo and Bill Schoeneman, of Luverne.

He was preceded in death by a nephew, Mark Holden.

Jeannette (Schmuck) Flanigan '58 died January 3, 2024. Jeannette is survived by her husband, Jerry, of almost 60 years; children Jackie (Dan) Miron, Gordon (Lisa) Flanigan, and Galen (Trisha) Flanigan; seven grandchildren; brothers Reinhold and Glenn Flanigan. Further survived by more family and friends. Arrangements made by Krause Funeral Home of Brookfield, WI.

1960 – 1969

James Ladd '68 died January 7, 2024, in St. Cloud, FL. Jim worked at the meat packing plant and gas stations in Luverne and Sioux Falls, also becoming a salesman. He managed cleaning teams for a large, industrial cleaning company and managed several rental properties. Jim lived in several communities including Hardwick, Sioux Falls, Chippewa Falls, WI, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Orlando, FL, and finally, St. Cloud, FL, where he retired in 2016.

Jim is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Renee Ladd of St. Paul, **Greg '91 Ladd** of Edina, Kerry (Raine) Jerke of Sioux Falls, and Katie Lynn (Jared) Mercado of St. Cloud, FL; five grandchildren; sister Kaye (Merle) Ommen; and nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his brother **Keith '59**.

REMEMBERING OUR
CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 4

1970 – 1979

Cheryl (Rolph) Nath '71 died January 28, 2024, in Luverne. Cheryl attended Minneapolis Community College to be a lab technician. She then worked in a nursing home kitchen and then in the Sioux Valley Hospital kitchen in Sioux Falls. On December 22, 1976, Cheryl married **Larry '71 Nath** in Sioux Falls. While Larry was in the Marines the couple was stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC, and in Okinawa, Japan. They returned to Luverne in 1991 and Cheryl began her career as a paraprofessional, retiring in August 2014. She continued to work part time as kitchen staff at Luverne High School and as a card stocker for American Greeting.

Cheryl is survived by her husband, **Larry** of Luverne; children, **Joshua '96** (Julie-Alice), Luverne, **Jeremiah '97**, Cedar Rapids, IA, **Jennifer '00**, North Pole, AK, **Joseph '01** (Priscilla), Luverne, **Jonathan '04**, Magnolia and Jacob, Minneapolis; 10 grandchildren; sister Patricia Rolph, Auburn, WA; and many other family members.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Jerallee Kurasaka.

John 'Ode' Smith '72 died on January 16, 2024, at his home in Sioux Falls, SD. John earned a business degree from Mankato State University. In 1988 Ode married Deb Haper in Luverne. The couple lived in Sioux Falls where Ode worked as a software sales associate

for over 25 years. He loved spending time at Lake Miltona fishing and golfing with friends. His daughter, Abby, was the light of his life.

John is survived by his daughter, Abby Smith, Plymouth; two sisters, **Randa '65 (Dave '64)** Gangestad, Luverne, and **Sheila '64 (Rob '64)** Stegenga, Luverne; former wife, Deb Smith, Sioux Falls; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by an infant sister, Mary.

Jerri J. Hansen '73 of Gilbert, AZ, died December 11, 2023. After graduating, Jerri moved to Mesa, AZ and attended Mesa Community College. She moved to Amarillo, TX and worked at IBP and then worked as an OR Tech at the Veteran's Hospital in Amarillo. After moving back to Arizona, she enjoyed spending time with her family. She was very creative, enjoying needlepoint and having a unique eye for decorating. Those who knew and loved Jerri know that she had a heart of gold and an infectious and wonderful laugh.

Jerri is survived by her sisters **Pam '67** Hansen Case, **Mary Ann '70** Hansen Sedlacek, Joann Hansen (Marty Amarin), brother Allen (Angie) Hansen, sister Sonja Hansen and several nieces and nephews.

Delwyn Huenink '74 died January 1, 2024, in Worthington, MN. Del worked as a hired hand for local farmers and later worked for Luverne Fiberglass and Burlington Northern Railroad. He moved to

Worthington where he found a new passion for riding bike and collecting empty pop cans. The kids all called him "the Pop Can Man." Del lived in several group homes while working for TAC, The Achievement Center, and DAC, Development Achievement Center. Eventually, he moved to Crossroad Care Center in Worthington.

Delwyn is survived by his siter Audrey (Glenn) Winter; brother Verlyn (Mary) Huenink; stepsiblings, Alvin (Donna) Bodewitz, Judy (Peter) Boeve, Kenneth Bodewitz, Stan (Dottie) Bodewitz, Glenda (John) Madsen, Norma (Wayne) Van Whye, and Joanne (George) Nuffer; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Henrietta Huenink, LaVonne Brech, Gwynn Bodewitz, Jamie Nuffer, Adam Bodewitz, Bonnie Bultena, Scott Kiesow, and Mercedes DeNoble.

Debra (Lindblom) Solis '77 of Apple Valley died January 20, 2024. Debra attended the colleges of Minnesota State University Moorhead, University of Houston, and St. Cloud State University. She spent 13 years in Texas before returning to Minnesota. Debra worked in education and social work since 1982. Her mantra was "all who wander are not lost". Debra's last years were spent in retirement, later being diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer.

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Debra is survived by three children, Crystal Solis of Apple Valley, Christianna Solis of Apple Valley, and Nicole (Corelle) Solis of Richfield; four grandchildren; siblings, **Darwin '85** (Jack Byers) Lindblom of St. Paul, **Darrin '87 (Paula '86)** Lindblom of Lino Lakes, and **Dawn '95** Lindblom of Richfield.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Sandy (Gehrke) Loose '77 died January 16, 2024, in Luverne. Sandy married **Larry '74** Frey and they later divorced. On April 18, 1988, she married **James '78** Loose in Luverne. Sandy worked various jobs, notably at Rock County Opportunities and Generations.

Sandy is survived by her husband, **Jim**; two daughters, Shawna (**Jason '96**) Brandt and Amanda McTigue (Special friend, Matt Dass); nine grandchildren; sister, Shirli Akkerman; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her infant son, Joshua Alan Farey; and sister Kari Hamann.

Jerry Hendricksen '77 died February 21, 2024, in Worthington. Jerry attended Willmar Area Vocational Technical Institute in Willmar, MN, studying electronics.

He met his wife, Gayle, there and they were married on March 16, 1979, in Chokio, MN.

The couple lived in Morris, Luverne, Omaha, and Sioux Falls, where he worked in a variety of positions in his field of electronics,

telecommunications and in his father's business, Fred's Body Shop, for a couple of years. Jerry retired in 2016 due to health reasons.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Gayle; brother, **Greg '71 (Julie '72)** Hendricksen; sisters **Peggy '71** Hewitt of Luverne, **Cindy '74** (Dan) Rierson of Roseville, **Kristi '86** (Eric) Mueller of Marion, IA, and **Nancy '92** (Terry) Hoogland; brothers-in-law Keith Melberg of Fergus Falls and Chris Melberg of Morris; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

1980 – 1989

Gregory "Ox" Johnson '88 died March 5, 2024, at his home. Ox married **Sandy '76** McClure on July 24, 1993, in Luverne. They lived in Magnolia and Ellsworth before moving to Luverne. Ox worked at various places including IBP, over the road trucking, Riggs, CHS and most recently for Martin Township as a road grader.

Ox is survived by his wife, **Sandy**, Luverne; two sons, Heath Wallenberg, Valley Springs and Jeremy (Tara) Wallenberg, Luverne; Heather Kruse, Ellsworth; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild with two on the way; father, Arthur Johnson, Luverne; sister, Marie (Mark) Opheim, Hills; and many nieces and nephews; brother-in-law **Jeff '70** McClure; and sister-in-law, **Arla '73** (Buz) Cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia; in-laws Arly & Ruth McClure; and sister-in-law, **Barb '71** McClure.

1990 – 1999

Meridith "Meri"

Thomas '92 passed away in Sioux Falls on March 23, 2024. After graduation, Meri traveled with her parents and enjoyed spending time at Otter Tail Lake and the Showboat Ballroom listening to music.

She could regularly be found in the bleachers, cheering on the players as the Cardinal's #1 fan. Meri also found joy and a sense of purpose working as "kitchen Manager" at Sharky's for 10 years and later at McDonald's. She loved spending time with Harriet, her mother and friend, trying new recipes. In her adult years, Meri relocated to Marshall, MN, where she made new friends at an area group home.

Meri's siblings include **Kathy '74**, **Tom '65**, **John '71**, **Rochelle '67**, and **Dan '75**. She is beloved by her nieces and nephews and grandnephews and nieces.

In addition to her parents, Meri is preceded in death by her sister-in-law Colleen and brother-in-law Wally.

Marta Achterhof '93 died February 25, 2024, in Rochester, MN. Marta was an outgoing person from her earliest days, a social leader by nature. She was involved in school as a track team student manager, a member of the speech and debate teams, the German club, the Choraliers, and high school band. She was also active in Green Earth

REMEMBERING OUR
CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 7

"They read all the time," she said of her parents. "It was so quiet at our house. I liked that."

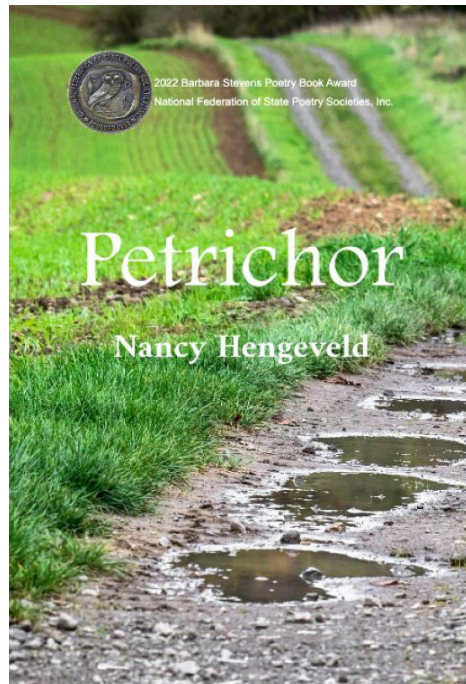
Quiet except for the record player she used to listen to nursery rhymes while her older sisters were at school. "So, I started writing my own little rhymes at a very young age," Hengeveld said. "In school, like if I had spare time, I wrote little rhymes and made little cards and things for my parents. It wasn't until I got into college that I started writing some poems."

At Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa, one of Hengeveld's English professors encouraged her to join the poetry club. But Hengeveld married her first husband at the age of 19 and left college during her junior year. During her ex-husband's service in the U.S. Air Force, Hengeveld spent many years away from Minnesota. "All my children were born in different states," she said. "One in New Mexico, one in Minnesota, one in Montana and then one in Arizona."

Hengeveld returned to Minnesota in the early 1980s when her ex-husband sought further education at Mayo Clinic to be nurse anesthetist. Meanwhile, her ex-husband's fentanyl addiction worsened. "He started using opiates as a nurse in the Air Force," she said. "But I didn't really know it — I just knew his behavior was getting bizarre, and he was becoming weird. It got worse and worse, and then by the time we got to Minnesota, I just had to flee for our safety."

Following their split, Hengeveld went back to college, taking English and psychology classes at Winona State University while raising her four children between the ages of 2 and 14. "And I started writing just therapeutically," Hengeveld said. "I had to write my story because I just needed to get it out. I was in therapy, and it was very helpful to write."

Hengeveld went on to practice as a licensed psychologist for nearly 30 years before her retirement in 2018. She continued to write poetry



throughout her life — sometimes for fun, and sometimes for healing. Some poems in "Petrichor" date all the way back to the struggles in her first marriage. Others reflect on later events: her mother's death, her son's release from prison and learning how to ballroom dance — an activity she and her current husband, Steve Corson, enjoy. "I look in the mirror / and I see a woman practicing, / throwing her head back and laughing, / dancing with a man, / flowing with the music. / I look at her again and again / and can hardly believe / it is me," she writes in "Learning to Dance."

Hengeveld submitted her work to literary journals throughout the years and even [co-edited the Plainview-based magazine Green Blade](#). (She was also a regular [Post Bulletin columnist](#).) But Hengeveld said she grew tired of constantly submitting and getting rejected. That helped set her on the path toward self-publishing, using the NFSPS contest guidelines as a framework for her book. Then the call came. "I didn't answer it. I don't know where I was — probably babysitting or something," Hengeveld said. "And then I got an email saying, 'As I said on the phone, I hope your manuscript 'Petrichor' is still available, because we would like to publish it.'"

Readers might expect a collection of poetry called *Petrichor* to find a poem titled "Petrichor" within. There isn't one. Hengeveld said she came across the word while reading and looked it up in the dictionary. Merriam-Webster describes petrichor as "a distinctive, earthy, usually pleasant odor that is associated with rainfall especially when following a warm, dry period and that arises from a combination of volatile plant oils and geosmin released from the soil into the air."

"It's just an indescribable smell," Hengeveld said. "Sometimes there's a rainbow, and all the neighbors are out and kids are splashing in puddles, and it's just so wonderful." She realized

Players. On July 9, 1987, Marta was involved in a one-car accident where she sustained a traumatic brain injury and was in a coma for two years.

By June 1989, she had emerged from her coma and spent an additional year in the high school special education program. During the next 30 years, Marta thrived and progressed far beyond all expectations. Unable to speak or walk, Marta made her feelings, opinions, and love known.

For several winters, her and her parents spent time in Florida. For the past 3-1/2 years she made her home with Jonel (John) and Lucia Dumitrascu at their foster care home for disabled adults in Rochester. Until the end of her life, Marta refused to give up, even during the most difficult times.

Marta is survived by her mother, Carole Acherthof

of Rochester, her sisters, **Kristen '84** (Glenn Ronaldson) Achterhof, of Hinsdale, IL, and Linda (Jim) Davis of Boston, MA.

She was preceded in death by her father, Roger; and her sister Kate Anne (in 1980).

Former School Staff

Elmer Menage died on January 9, 2024, in Sioux Falls. Elmer grew up and received his education in Rock Rapids. He graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City, IA, in 1961, earning his degree in history and physical education. He earned his master's degree from Kearney State in 1965. Elmer was a standout athlete in high school and college.

On June 25, 1960, Elmer married his childhood sweetheart, Karen Anderson. Coaching and teaching led the couple to Nashua, Garner and Wartburg College in Iowa

before landing in Luverne. Elmer taught physical education and driver's education, was head football and track coach, and later became Luverne's athletic director.

He affected generations of students and treasured the relationships he had with each student, parent, and staff. During Elmer's career he was privileged to serve on many committees and received many valued honors.

Elmer is survived by his wife, Karen of Luverne; his children, **Kristin '80 (Randy '80)** Kuechenmeister of Blue Earth, daughter-in-law Julie Menage of Springfield, and **Tom '88 (Amy)** Menage of Rock Rapids; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, **Jeffrey '82**; and two sisters, Shirley Roach and Jeanne Rohde.

Hengeveld book, 'Petrichor'/continued from page 6

that petrichor was a metaphor for her life. "I went through a hard time, and then the rains came, and it's all good," she said.

Petrichor can also be a metaphor for writing — while she often wrote poems to process her feelings, there have been dry spells where Hengeveld didn't write.

She took a break from writing after suffering a traumatic brain injury in an e-bike crash two years ago. "I kind of quit writing because I didn't trust my judgment," she said. "I even quit revising my stuff because I just didn't trust my judgment. My brain was not working correctly, and now it's much better."

After the crash, Hengeveld also had to fight off a MRSA infection that affected her leg. "Between the concussion and that, that was a dry spell for me because I quit reading during that

time," Hengeveld said. "I got better, and I decided, yes, I kind of had a brush with death, and I decided this is something I'm going to do. I'm going to self-publish a book and check that off my bucket list."

Now, "Petrichor" is slated to publish in June. In the meantime, Hengeveld spends her time babysitting her 3-year-old granddaughter, taking walks with Steve, traveling and feeding the birds. When her book comes out, Hengeveld has one hope for what readers will take away from her work.

"I hope that people who have been through an experience like mine will find healing and hope in that," she said. "I hope that my work will help others."

Petrichor is published and available through NFSPS Press or through Amazon or hengeveld-nancy@outlook.com.

What we've heard from classmates

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

MY MEMORIES OF JOHN DAVID SMITH

By Al Padilla, LHS 1972

JOHN DAVID SMITH...Ode to almost everyone. A nickname with an interesting history. Given to him by Dave Lammert, an avid superfan, who was responsible in his day for many nicknames around Luverne.

Here today is Jacques Plant (French pronunciation JOCK PLONT), named after a famous Canadian Hockey players from the 60's. Most of you know him as "Plant". There was also, at that time, a famous American high jumper named Otis Burrell. Not sure why Dave gave John this particular moniker, but it stuck and we did call him Otis Burrell for several years, which was eventually shortened to "Ode". He wore it well.

Ode was a treasured member of the LHS Class of 1972. My first memory of him goes back to second grade, when he had a race around the asphalt kick ball diamond of the old elementary school. Winner got the hand of Kristy Cook. He won. I don't know if I really appreciated him at that moment. That definitely changed. The years changed all that.

Ode was a very intelligent man, a very good student, a voracious reader and, although not a tremendously politically verbal man, someone we all looked up to for his exacting opinion on all sorts of matters. Never the biggest guy, but certainly always spotlessly well-groomed and definitely always the best dressed. Even the vehicles, he eventually drove, were spotless and classy. A red and white Cougar comes to mind. His sense of humor, although sometimes sardonic and biting, was always accompanied by a huge infectious laugh, a "melt the girls" smile and a look in his eye which told you it was all in fun. ALMOST always. We were all treated to "he, dog breath", "you're worthless" and the ever present "Loser!"

He was successful in business, loyal to his buds and loved tremendously his family and especially the true loved of his life, Abby.

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni.

Include your name, year of graduation, address, phone number and email (also let us know if you would like your email in our directory of alumni).

Send your news to:

Alumni News

709 N. Kniss Avenue

Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Or email **luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us**

She was mentioned to me in practically every conversation we had through the years. He didn't like mush much and he didn't like to talk bad about people. "Yeah", he would say, in response to any dispersion cast at or about anyone, "but he's/she's a great guy/gal." He just wouldn't be drawn in.

I had the unique pleasure at our 50th class reunion to spend the better part of three days with him. I will treasure every minute and although he was not looking his best, he was the best. We laughed until we cried and we furthered a bond which had begun 61 years prior. I gave him crap about how he was looking – trust me, he would have done the same thing to me, he took it, but just couldn't get himself to change. But, Oh God, how lovable he was.

We spoke relatively often after that, and I will share a voice mail from a couple of months ago. "Picadil, I miss you buddy, I'm up here freezing my _____ off. I was ready to erase that last message from you, but it was too great. I feel guilty I haven't called you back, so anyway let's touch base and don't blame each other for anything, because we both know we're worthless."

The last time we spoke about a month ago, and for sure the first time, he told me he loved me. I Love you too, Pal.

Ode, you're a good man. You're a great Brother. You're a great Father. You're a great Friend. YOU will be missed. Ode, YOU were loved. Ode, YOU were a great guy. And, as you would have said and I quote...."See Ya!"

Alumni News database manager seeks addresses

Listed below you will find Alumni that we do not have a current address for. They are not receiving their Alumni Newsletter. If you know of their whereabouts, I would like your help in updating our files by furnishing their information. That includes name changes, postal addresses, email addresses and if they are deceased. Please contact me at: piersonprp@alliancecom.net or 507-669-2371

CLASS OF 1979

Michael DeSplinter
Terry Johnson
Harvey Schmidt
Dumg Ta
Dan Walgrave
Maria Wipf

CLASS OF 1974

Greg Benson
Jim Bolte
Jim Hofseth
Delwyn Huenink
JoLeah Mann
Perry Noll
Peg Rausch
John Schmidt
Rhonda Olson Williams

CLASS OF 1970

Larry Aust
Gerald Bartholmaus
Neal Clausen
Susan Crowder
Eufrasio Gouvela
Joe Hawkinson
Beth Koester
Barbara Kor
Michael Larson
Dave A. Schmuck
Vickie Throop
Karen Vogel

CLASS OF 1963

Allan Henely

CLASS OF 1978

Jeanne Haugen
Jack Kruger
John Kruger
Maria Ladsaetter
Dave Lange
Steve Lindstrom
Lori Lowe
Scott Norton
Karn Rodamaker
Gary Swenson

CLASS OF 1973

Jylan Matteson
Marilyn Loger
Doreen Milstead
Rochele Wills

CLASS OF 1969

Cheryl Jauert
Shifteh Karimi-Wagner
Dave Thompson
Karen Ykema

CLASS OF 1968

Daniel Doughert
Suzanne Kozney

CLASS OF 1966

Trudy Boelman
Mary Moorshead
LaDonna Taylor
Linda Wyatt

CLASS OF 1977

Michelle(Willems) Albers
Marty Klooster
Scott Pedersen
Bradley Remme
Brenda Vatland
Katherine Viessman

CLASS OF 1976

Kathy Crow-Kruger
Kevin Engen
Jay Lindmeyer
Peggy Ranschau
DeAnna Rawls

CLASS OF 1972

Nicholas Bertrand
Jeri Crowder
JoAnn Emery
John Ford
Dennis McNeil Jr
Virginia Moore
Vicki Nelson
Rick Olsen
Dean Olson
LaDawn Pipporda
Mike Reisch
Sheri Sahlavi

CLASS OF 1965

Dennis Alberda
Scott Creeger
Morris Deitermann
Randall Eide
Jim Geving
Michael Lynch

Sixty years on

By Tom Brakke, LHS Class of 1973

I was 9 when the Beatles first played on the Ed Sullivan Show — standing a few feet from the television in our basement rec room, not really knowing what to expect.

After a couple of commercials (which are cultural time capsules themselves), the Beatles opened the show, then returned in the second half, doing five songs in all (“All My Loving,” “Till There Was You,” “She Loves You,” “I Saw Her Standing There,” and “I Want to Hold Your Hand.”) John, Paul, George, and Ringo would also appear on Sullivan’s show the following two Sundays. It was Feb. 9, 1964, and Beatlemania was officially in gear.

A few weeks after their arrival, another exciting but much different happening affected my young life. I was again watching TV in the rec room, this time seeing my hometown Luverne Cardinals win the Minnesota state basketball championship.

On the same night, March 21, John Wooden and UCLA secured their first NCAA title. At the time there were only 25 teams playing in the tournament. One of the regionals had been held a week earlier at Williams Arena on the University of Minnesota campus, where Michigan earned a chance to go to the Final Four. But March Madness was a phrase yet to be invented and the title game drew a mere 8,706 fans. Sid Hartman reported that “NCAA officials and Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp were disappointed with the attendance.”

They didn’t realize that the big dance at that time did not feature college players — the one-class high school tournament would pack Williams Arena the following week. 18,800 attended the title game, a total of 86,612 for the whole event.

How big a deal was it? The [entire front page](#) of the sports section of the Sunday Minneapolis Tribune (SEE PAGE AT RIGHT) was devoted to the championship game, with more stories on two other pages. In contrast, you could read about UCLA’s victory on page four.

The team drove the two hundred miles back to Luverne on the two-lane roads of the day, winding through small towns where people

would cheer them on as they headed home. A bumper-to-bumper caravan followed them the last few miles into town. The next day’s story in the Tribune began: “The champs came home Sunday to a cacophony of horns, bells and fire sirens.” Along with a large photo of the welcome-home ceremony in the gymnasium (I’m in there somewhere), it anchored the front page, above the fold. Plus there were more stories in the sports section.

For decades to come, when people found out I was from Luverne, they would recite the names of those players to me.

The team would return to the state tournament three times during that era, including having an undefeated season spoiled in the 1965 semifinal. The last appearance in a one-class tournament was in 1970 (just as the Beatles were breaking up).

It was a glorious time for basketball on the prairie. In 1960, the Hoosiers moment had come when tiny Edgerton — eighteen miles from Luverne, with less than two thousand people — won the state championship. Other towns in the region would do so over the next fifteen years. That time is long gone. The number of classes in the tournament kept expanding; there’s no opportunity for a small school to knock off a city powerhouse, which had happened with regularity before. The players don’t walk through the Curtis Hotel in their sport coats any more and the corridors of Williams Arena aren’t jammed with people excited to be part of the biggest event on the Minnesota sports calendar.

The gyms in southwest Minnesota that were routinely packed for games — sometimes they had to turn people away — now get a smattering of fans. And somehow Luverne is known for hockey, which I had never seen played (even in a backyard) when I was growing up.

Sixty years on I still think of those few weeks, when life seemed full of new possibilities. The cheering crowds are gone, but the music remains. Pardon me while I put on an album to take me back.

This excerpted article originally appeared March 25 on Tom Brakke’s blog, tombrakke.com. He can be reached at tom@tjblc.com.

LUVERNE WINS FIRST STATE TITLE 72-66

THONE 'WONDERFUL PERSON'

Young Prayer Leader Put Luverne in Clover

By BILL McGRANE
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Pipestone, Minn., a devout young Baptist prayer leader, a devotee of horseback riding and a four-headed clover that has been good for two years are as good a place as any to derive into the heady success story of state champion Luverne.

Pipestone, another Southwestern Minnesota basketball hotbed, came to Luverne as something of an unwitting hero.

"They kind of let us sneak into position," said drill Ray Merry, the Luverne coach.

Pipestone went on a 12-game winning streak early in the season. So people kind of forgot about us.

We thought that was just dandy. When it came time to finally play Pipestone, we handed 'em."

The handsome young man who is a member of the Baptist Church is also, currently, the best high school basketball player in Minnesota.

His name is Greg Thone.

"I've never seen a boy



GREG THONE
Speed and spirit

who commands so much respect from the rest of the kids," said Merry.

"He's very quiet. He leads a stricter life than most of us because of his religious beliefs, but he's the undisputed leader of our team."

He leads us in a prayer

before every game," said a Luverne observer.

"Greg says a special prayer and then all of us say the Lord's Prayer."

"It's a wonderful person."

He is, indeed — wonderful is a special, unimpaired, refreshing way.

Greg Thone was asked how he felt about winning the state championship.

"Like I'm dreaming," he smiled. "I don't tell you how I feel, because I've never felt this way before. But I can tell you it's something."

Flamaker Thone turned his smile on full-team and looked like the boy everyone would like to have for a son.

"The coaches gave us confidence," he said. "They convinced us that we belonged in this tournament and convinced us of our ability. When you believe you can do it, you can do it."

Thone, naturally, was asked if he had aspirations regarding college.

"I think I'll go to South Dakota State," he said readily.

South Dakota State? Why?

"Gee, I don't know. It's close to home. I mean, I like Minnesota, too. Gee, I don't know. Maybe I'll think about it some more."

And the homecoming?

That would be Del Jensen, the crew-cut, ball-shedding forward who posted Thone for individual brilliance scores.

Jensen has a vertical jump of 32 inches. At 6-

Luverne

Continued on Page Eight

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- NCAA Basketball—Page 4.
- RUTINS vs. St. Louis—Page 4.
- BRADLEY Wins NIT—Page 4.
- BASEBALL Roundup—Page 4.
- BEMIDJI wins consolation—Page 6.
- EDINA wins Precher far third place—Page 6.
- EVIESE Precher, Bonelli-Rubalcaba comments, future—Page 6.
- OUTDOOR NEWS—Page 7.
- WHAT THEY SAID in state tournament—Page 6.



Having a (Ray) Merry time



A Grab... A Kick... An Almost

Rochester Beaten by Final Surge

By TED PETERSON
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Luverne's spectacular Cardinal proved they had both the stamina and the relying power by putting on a whirlwind fourth-quarter attack Saturday night that brought it a first state high school basketball championship with a 72-66 decision over valiant Rochester.

A crowd of 18,000 roared its approval in a game that found two magnificently-matched combinations of courage, playing ability and determination trade punches to the very finish.

AT NO TIME until the final minutes was Luverne's triumph assured, and then it was Greg Thone, a 6-foot-10-pounder and guard, whose clever ball handling, sharp shooting and ball-hawk tactics paved the way to fame and glory.

The Merry Men of Luverne, so named because of coach Ray Merry, returned the state title to Region Two for the first time since 1960, when it was won by Edgemoor.

Luverne carried a 35-55 lead going into the last quarter when 13th-seeded Rochester scored 13 points in the last 10 minutes.

Thone, an opportunist at any given moment, then scored in for a field goal at 6:15. John Beyer, Luverne's 6-foot-5 sophomore center, pumped in a wide jump shot at 5:32 and bury 8.8. Tom, a 6-foot-2, 205-pound mauler, added another at 4:48 and Luverne was back into a co-point lead at 61-55.

DAUGHERTY broke up the Rochester scoring dearth briefly with a fielder at 4:24. Then Tom Koury flipped in a long shot and when Thone added two free throws Luverne was in a commanding position with a 65-57 advantage with 3:36 left.

Ron Cady gave Rochester some hope with a jump shot at 1:57 but Thone was back again with a pair of free throws and Beyer another pair of gift tosses. The Luverne lead then was 68-59 with only a little more than a minute left.

Rochester fought back with fielders by Daugherty and Nelson, the latter's with 35 seconds left, but those were Luverne gift tosses, too by Thone, maintained the Luverne margin.

Starting out the contest Luverne slipped into a 10-5 lead, only to see Rochester score 10 straight points for a 15-18 advantage.

Ball-hawking tactics by Luverne, including a pair of thefts by Thone that resulted in baskets, found a counter-surge carrying the Cardinals into a 22-17 edge at the end of the period.

THE SCORE was tied 26-26 in the second period when Tom hit a pair of free throws and Thone's three

State Meet

Continued on Page Eight

Luverne	PTS	Rebounds	Stl
Thone	18	4	1
Beyer	12	10	0
Tom	10	10	0
Jensen	10	10	0
Daugherty	10	10	0
Nelson	10	10	0
Koury	10	10	0
Cady	10	10	0
Wright	10	10	0
Miller	10	10	0
Smith	10	10	0
Johnson	10	10	0
Williams	10	10	0
Adams	10	10	0
Baker	10	10	0
Green	10	10	0
White	10	10	0
Black	10	10	0
Gold	10	10	0
Silver	10	10	0
Copper	10	10	0
Iron	10	10	0
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CLASS OF 1962

Linda Anderson

CLASS OF 1958

Dennis Dubbe
John Millard
Karen Schroepel

CLASS OF 1954

Donna Schlager

CLASS OF 1950

Gary Breiland
Clara Honermann
Clarice Smith
Donald Steffen

CLASS OF 1946

Genevieve Anderson
Jack Armstrong
Shirley Dahlen
C.Jim Evans
Neil Shelby

CLASS OF 1964

Carol Harris
Dianna Klarenbeck
Ed Stearns

CLASS OF 1959

George DeGroot
Donna Moulton

CLASS OF 1955

Mary Hatfield
John Holder
Margaret Larsen
Marcia Sedlacek
Ardis Thorgood

CLASS OF 1961

Melvin Groth
Richard Nergaard
Margaret Potter

CLASS OF 1957

Mike Ormseth
Donna Tomlinson
Judy Urry

CLASS OF 1953

Jerry Steffen
Donaalynn Walker

CLASS OF 1949

None

CLASS OF 1945

Polly Hurley
Maureen Magee

CLASS OF 1975

Jacob Berghorst
Tachi Cazal
Kerrilyn Gacke
Bev Rawls

CLASS OF 1971

Sandra Schultz
Maynard Wedmore
Greg Ykema

CLASS OF 1951

Marguerite Pat Wenzel
Lonell Wills

CLASS OF 1947

Virgil Stellig

CLASS OR 1960

Virginia Hora
Neshia Skarbic

CLASS OF 1956

Gerhardt Ahrendt
Durward Heronimus
Richard Hai

CLASS OF 1952

Judith Craig
Sally Ford
Robert V. Lindberg
Dorothy VanderWerf

CLASS OF 1948

Betty Doyle
Stan Esterly
Ardoth Kraetsch
Richard Rienstra
Irma Schultz

CLASS OF 1967

Loree Brown
Pam Eastman
Alvina Kooiman
Dennis Lemke
Joanne Rafalski
Mark Roberts
Terry Springer
Deborah Wright

Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

Since 1983 we've awarded \$6.6 million to LHS grads

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 \$6,591,975 to 2,144 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 organizations coffers.

Since its inception, the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program has been the benefactor of 305 perpetual scholarships with a total endowment of over \$9.5 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 principal 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
Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)
Or visit: www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org

Alumni News memorials/continued from page 2

Elmer Menage - Teacher

Curt Laudon '65
Dave '59 & Donna (Kallsen) '58 Connell
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69 Papik
James '66 & Carol (Aanenson) '66 Hatting
Karen Menage

David Paquette - Friend

Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69 Papik
Curt Laudon '65

George & Gladys "June" Mann

Gene Salzman '54

Patricia (Hamann) Mann - Friend

Gene Salzman '54

Thank you for your support

There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.



Class of 1983 gathers for reunion

Row 1

Sue (Rolfes) Kern
Pattie DeBoer Loger
Lynette Gundrum
Julie Loose
David Christianson
Darwin Siebenahler

Row 2

Marsha Johansen Fiala
Patty Salzer Kienholz
Mary Aukes

Linda Ball
Vikki Miller Johnson
Kathy Condon
Ron Honken

Row 3

Monte Zwaan
Cindy Clark
Brad Haroldson
Jill (Debates) Sudenga
Darin Smeins
Marita Meinerts

Albinson
Jennifer Polzin

Row 4

Vaughn Pluim
Roy Gilman
Tom Madison
Mike Jarchow
Brett Stegenga
Julie McChesney
Doran Christoffels
Maggie McFadden

John Juhl

Row 5

Gordan Wenzel
Mike Loosbrock
Tim Hamann
Tony Gacke
Mike Hoiland
Cory Ahrendt
Kirk Bloemendaal
Steve Vanderbrink

Are you getting more than one (1) Alumni News at your house?

*If so, please call Patti Pierson at
507-669-2371 or email her at
piersonprp@alliancecom.net
with the correct postal and
email address of your children.
Thank you*

Attention snowbirds:

If you are not going to be at the address that you got your July issue during the months of October, January, April issue if you could email me your alternative address I would appreciate it and will change it back and forth according to what month you will be gone so that we can save some money on the "temporary away" returns....thank you...

Patti Pierson piersonprp@alliancecom.net,
1-507-920-5186
or 1562 201st ST Hardwick MN 56134

REUNIONS IN THE MAKING



CLASS OF 1969 – 55TH CLASS REUNION

THURSDAY | JULY 11, 2024 | HOT DOG NITE

Enjoy the Events with Classmates!

FRIDAY | JULY 12, 2024

Golf Cart Tours—Golf Scramble—School Tour

Dinner at The Bullpen

Check out our Facebook Page “LHS Class of ‘69’!

For questions contact:

Lorna Siebenahler Bryan – lornabryan@alliancecom.net

Janine Jordahl Papik – janinepapik@hotmail.com

Becky Aanenson Anderson – beckya@alliancecom.net

LHS Class of 1978, 1979 & 1980

46th, 45th & 44th Reunion

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024

Get together at Take 16

Mix and mingle downtown with Buffalo Days activities

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

Buffalo Day Activities & School tour

Golfing & Pickleball

Catered Saturday dinner at Generations & Class Photos

For more information see our Class Facebook Groups or contact:

1978 - Mike Merrill at desert38@yahoo.com or 602-361-4984

1979 - Colleen Obermoller Deutsch

at colleendeutsch79@gmail.com or 507-227-6163

1980 - Terri DeBates Siebenahler

at hockey2742@hotmail.com or 507-920-5085

LHS CLASS OF 1974

50TH REUNION

THURSDAY | JULY 11, 2024 | HOT DOG NITE

Enjoy the evening festivities and gather at Big Top Events

For live music and socializing

FRIDAY | JULY 12, 2024

Tour of the School: 10 am—Meet at Middle-HS Main Door

Reunion Dinner & Celebration: Take 16 Brewing Co.

\$30/person | Reservations & Payment in Advance

Social Hour—5:30 pm & Dinner—6:30 pm

SATURDAY | JULY 13, 2024

Meet at the Trailhead (Old Casey's on Main)

For “What’s Been Happening” Golf Cart Tour of Luverne

Tours at 9 am & 11 am

Contact: Tom Burns 612-669-6921 t.burns@gmail.com

LHS CLASS OF 62 **TO CELEBRATE 62 YEARS!**

June 1, 2024 | Saturday

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Casual get-together

Blue Mound Room

GrandStay Hotel

If questions, contact:

Darlene Woolsey

763-443-5836 cell/text

DARGW@aol.com

CLASS OF 1964

TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS!

Sept 27-29, 2024

During the 73rd
TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL

Watch for details

Sheila Stegenga

507-227-4418 cell/text

rssteg64@live.com

LHS CLASS OF 1973

51st Get Together

SATURDAY

JUNE 1, 2024

At Take 16 Brewing Company

Informal Gathering

Starting at 6:30 pm

NO RSVP Required

Contact: Betty (Hitch) Schnettler

320-224-4727



LHS CLASS OF 1980 | 40TH CLASS REUNION

July 11, 12 & 13, 2024...over Luverne's 62nd Hot Dog Nite

Thursday: Arrange golf | Enjoy free supper on Main-5 pm | Live music at Big Top Events-7 pm

Friday: Tour of the school- 1 pm | Golf cart town tour-3 pm | Social & Meal at Howling Dog-6 pm

Saturday: Social & Meal at The Bullpen-6 pm-**RSVP Required**-Call or email Maryln

MARYLN (HARALDSON) VAN GROOTHEEST | marylnv@hotmail.com | 507-227-0043

Alumni News Staff: Cindy Arends, Jane Wildung Lanphere, Carol Schumacher Serie, Lori Sorenson
Johnna Bowron Ahrendt, Patti Kirby Pierson and Rock County Opportunities

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Alumni News

**709 North Kniss Avenue
Luverne, MN 56156**

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