



Lori Sorenson photo/0116 School Build Crane

Over the 2019 Christmas break, workers with Gil Haugen Construction of Sioux Falls moved in the large crane that will lift steel beams into place for the new commons and performing arts center that will be built between the middle-high school and elementary school buildings. This photo was taken Jan. 13 from Dodge Street facing north.

As Luverne School District works on building project, Alumni News looks back on 1950s school challenges

**Compiled by
Jane Wildung Lanphere**

The massive Luverne School District #2184 renovation project is underway.

Portions of the project have been completed and the look of the remodeled facility “wows” everyone!

The story in the Winter Edition of Alumni News continues on from the completion of the original

building project in 1956. Not too many years later, Luverne School District residents faced additional facility needs.

These articles, reprinted from the **Rock County Star Herald**, document additional decisions the residents of the Luverne School District would have to face.

This story also includes a couple of interesting highlights from the time.

**ROCK COUNTY STAR
HERALD – April 3, 1958**

*Work To Start On Part Of
Super Highway Next Year*

Contracts for construction of the west part of the proposed Federal Interstate Highway in Rock County will be awarded next year it was announced this week by the State Highway department.

With the vast highway

Luverne school 1958/see page 4

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Dec. 30, 2019, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling **\$2,775**. 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. THANKYOU, 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, April 2020, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Balance 9/30/19 \$873.11

Donations: 2,775.00

Expenses:

Printing: 919.14

Postage: 1,566.78

Labels: 681.75

Office Supplies: 15.00

Paypal Fees: 5.28

Balance 12/31/19 \$460.16

Memorials

Ruth (Roberts) Hommen '43
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46
Nelva (Ott) Boergerhoff '69

Kathleen (Rolph) Sehr '47
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69
Papik

Nell (Timmer) Fink '47
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Ruth (Gonnerman) McClure '47
Naidine (Wulf) Aanenson '48

John Fritz '50
Viola (VanVoorst) Fritz '50

Leon Siebenahler '51
Joe Rowe '63
Ken '63 & Becky (Hamann) '65
Husen

Sunny (Turner) Haggard '51
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Dale Haggard '52
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Martha (Sellen) Nuffer '53
Eleanor (Rober) VanGuilder '59
Eugene '53 & Rose Marie (Bartels)
'53 Meyer
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Betty (Lass) Gortmaker '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

JoAnn (Aanenson) Barmore '54
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54
Joe Rowe '63

Norma (Priesz) Wing '57
Connie (Rusche) Wieneke '58

Don Blessing '59
Eleanor (Rober) VanGuilder '59
Fred '59 & Judy (VanOtterloo) '59
Smeins

Ardell Bowman '62
Bill Martin '62
Bradley '86 & Amy (Hatting) '88
Petersen

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62
Gary '67 & Barb Golla
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson
James '66 & Carol (Aanenson)
'66 Hatting
Jason & Kami (Hatting) '91 Adams
Joe Rowe '63
John Martin '60
Lyle '62 & Gloria Nelson
Patti Pierson '63
Sandra (Hatting) Heck '64

Memorials/see page 3

Contributions

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62

Donald & Betty Lou (Jens)
Amundson '58

Drue (Gilbertson) Denham '54

Elaine Harms - Teacher

James Hamann '56

Melinda (Blashill) Ohlenkamp '96

Mike Frakes '69

Nancy (Kiebach) Overgaard '64

Omar Olson '67

Patricia Teclaw '76

Tom Haugen - Teacher

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.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars Did you know?

A gift of \$2,000 or more, referred to as an “endowment,” given to the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program becomes a perpetual scholarship.

Only the income earned from the endowments is given to a student in the form of a scholarship.

The uniqueness of an endowed gift is that it allows a scholarship to be given each and every year, forever, to a fresh, qualifying LHS graduate. Initially, the donor has the opportunity to attach a name to the endowment.

Then each year a selected graduate receives a scholarship bearing that name. Once a perpetual scholarship is

established, additional dollars – no matter what amount – may be added, at any time, to the endowment.

These additional dollars increase the size of the endowment, which in turn increases the amount given as a scholarship to qualifying graduates in future years.

During this past calendar year, four new perpetual scholarships were established with the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program.

Cammy & Rich Iverson
Scholarship

Darlene Boisen Memorial
Scholarship

Dave Hoiland Memorial
Scholarship

Jerry & Clara Getman
Memorial Scholarship

First Dakota Trust &
Investments Scholarship

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

Attention LHS classes of 2015-2018:

**Do you have a mailing
address other than your
parents' home?
Have you moved?**

Your classmates may be trying to locate you. If you email your postal address to the Alumni News, it will be current for your classmates who may be trying to invite you to a future class reunion.

Email Patti Kirby Pierson,
Luverne Alumni News Database,
Manager, at piersonprp@alliancecom.net

Thank you!

Alumni News memorials/from page 2

David Jauert '67
Bruce '67 & Karen (Pedersen)
'76 Petersen

David Lorenzen '67
Delbert Gangestad '67
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69
Papik
Gordon '65 & Joyce (Aanenson)
'65 Hansen
James '66 & Carol (Aanenson)
'66 Hatting
Joe Rowe '63
Judith (Steiner) Top '67
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia

Bernie Maras '70
Class of 1970
Rick '70 & Carol (Schumacher)
'70 Serie

Roger Kelderman '72
Colleen (Habbena)
Kelderman '72

Sandra (Frey) Akkerman '82
Jim & Paula (VanWhye) '82 Jelken

Carrie (Laabs) Bakken '86
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia

Timothy VerSteeg '88
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69
Papik
Gordon '65 & Joycelyn (Aanenson)
'65 Hansen
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson
Joe Rowe '63
Ryan & Gretchen (Papik) '96
Jepperson
Sandra (Hatting) Heck '64
Twila (Drost) VerSteeg '64

Kurt Petersen - Friend
Pat '81 & Kathryn (Connell) '86
Baustian

Marie Moore McIntyre - Friend
Duane '60 & Peg (Holder) '60
Lammert

Luverne school project in 1958/continued from page 1

project to be done in stages throughout the State beginning this year, approximately 4.2 miles of the highway are scheduled for construction in Rock county in 1959.

Estimated cost of the project does not include purchase of the right-of-way, the highway department explained.

The proposed route of the superhighway, titled Interstate Rouse 391, will divide many farms in Rock county. It is still anticipated the highway will follow the route detailed in a map published in the Star-Herald about a year ago.

According to the tentative rout, the new four-lane highway will be parallel to and about a mile south of U. S. Highway 16 from the east side of Rock county to Beaver Creek, where the new highway will turn north, cross No. 16 and then turn straight west to the state line and a tie-in with South Dakota.

Preliminary surveys have been completed on the 4.2 section of the highway from Beaver Creek to the state line this winter, and it had been predicted that this section would be the first to come under contract for construction.

Rock county's portion of the highway will be part of more than \$164 million of construction in Minnesota's share of the new Interstate highway network planned to initial award to contractors by the end of 1960.

This is the first announcement of a definitive timetable for

the highway. These projects cover 198 miles of road construction and 206 bridges.

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD – August 14, 1958

End of the Country School Predicted for Near Future

The end may not be so far away for the little one-room country school house in Rock county.

A bill that is expected to be brought before the next session of the state legislature would bring all school districts into a district with a high school. The proposed deadline is July 1, 1965.

Rock County Superintendent of Schools V. M. Barrett acknowledging the likelihood of attaching ungraded elementary schools to high school districts in the not too distant future, has recommended to the county board that it appoint a county school administrator instead of having his post open for election this fall.

Barrett, whose term expires this year, pointed out that the superintendent's term is for four years, and the superintendent elected this fall may be a supernumary on the county payroll if the ungraded school districts are attached to a high school district. The board took no action on his proposal but are giving it study.

An administrator (and there are 22 counties in Minnesota now that have them) would be a school officer, such as the superintendent of one of the county high schools.

If the proposed bill to eliminate the country school districts is passed most of the support for it is expected to come from northern Minnesota and some of the southern counties.

Central Minnesota is, on the average, opposed. It was kept in the committee in the last session of the legislature. Barrett said some southern counties, especially those with few remaining rural districts, would also likely support the plan.

Barret, who sees another day, also not far away, when some smaller high school districts might be attached to a larger district, says it is just a matter of time before the county's 12 active ungraded districts are done for.

There are 180 students in the ungraded school districts in Rock county. In addition, there are 187 students in the Hardwick district, which would be affected, for a total of 467 students who would be in a high school district's school.

High school districts would have to absorb these students when the law is passed and put into effect. Unless the school facilities were retained at Hardwick for grade school children, under the Luverne district, the absorption would mean a flock of additional students for Luverne's grade school.

Barrett said most of the country districts are opposed to the proposal to put them into a



By 1919, Magnolia recognized the need to expand its school and constructed this building for the astronomical cost of \$45,000. The school housed elementary students on the first floor and high school students on the second floor. Magnolia School consolidated with country school districts Nos. 5, 8, and 30 to become the Magnolia School District, the first consolidated district in the county.

Luverne school project in 1958/continued from page 4

high school district.

"The tax base is a consideration and its one of the reasons why the state is looking at this," he said. Better school facilities is another reason.

A chief supporter for the proposal is the Minnesota State Board of Education.

Barrett said the same question was faced in Iowa, where the smaller districts were merged with high school districts, often creating a classroom space problem. He recalled that votes in the West

Lyon (Iowa) county district have defeated a bond issue for a building three times. So students are transported to Inwood and

Larchwood.

Rock county has the most ungraded districts in this corner of the state, but Supt. Barrett feels the small country school will soon be a thing of the past here. The county has 16 ungraded districts now, but four are closed and transporting their students, including one going to Garretson.

"It's inevitable, I believe," head said, "that in the 1963 or 1965 sessions they will close down all the ungraded schools. This is why the county board shouldn't be caught with an incumbent superintendent.

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1930 - 1939

Addie (Walker) Wiese '37 died July 16, 2018, in Adrian, MN. On June 2, 1940, Addie married Ferdinand Wiese and they made their home in Pipestone, MN. In her younger years, Addie worked as an egg candler. She lived most of her life in or around Adrian.

Addie is survived by four sons, Earl Wiese, Worthington, Gerald (Sue) Wiese, Monroe LA, Robert (Jan) Wiese, Adrian, and William (Sue) Wiese, Conway, AR; daughter-in-law, Guadalupe Wiese, Worthington; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Grace Wolf; special niece, Marilyn (Danny) Honnerman; and many other nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ferdinand, her son, Roger, and several brothers and sisters.

1940 – 1949

Audrey (Luethje) Gabrielson '43 died January 8, 2020, in Luverne. After high school Audrey worked in Minneapolis, Denver, CO, and then at Nelson Brothers in Luverne. She married John '38 Gabrielson on March 12, 1946. The couple farmed in the Luverne area for fourteen years before moving to Phoenix, AZ, in 1972. Audrey worked for the J.C Penney Company in Luverne and in Paradise Valley, AZ, as a store trainer and customer service supervisor. She retired in 1988.

Audrey is survived by three children, Kent '67 (Gail '66) Gabrielson, Buckeye, AZ; Mark (Reverend Mari) Gabrielson, Hales Corners, WI; and Sue '71 Radell, Menahga, MN; five grandchildren; three step grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; four step great-grandchildren; one brother, Keith '49 (Betty '50) Luethje, Luverne; and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John on July 3, 2004.

Margaret (Anderson) Hoh '43 died October 15, 2019, in Luverne. On February 1, 1949, Margaret married Warren Hoh in Luverne. She worked as secretary for Nelson Brothers Department store and the Luverne Announcer until the couple moved to Estelline, SD, to farm. Margaret worked for the Estelline Hospital for 13 years and then

with the Extension Ag Communications Office of South Dakota State University until retiring in 1989. After her husband's death, Margaret returned to Luverne.

Margaret is survived by her sister-in-law, Margie Anderson, Luverne; nieces and nephews and other friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her brothers Leon '45 (Joann) Anderson and Toby '48 Anderson; an infant sister; and two half-brothers.

Joyce (Petersen) Serie '44 passed away on November 22, 2019, in Tyler, MN. Joyce married Laverle "L.J." Serie on October 7, 1943, in Fort Sill, OK. After L.J.'s deployment overseas and subsequent discharge, they returned to farm near Hardwick. In 1962 they moved to a dairy farm near Tyler, eventually moving into town in 1979. Joyce worked as a cook at the Kronborg Inn and then as co-manager and cook of Danebod Village retiring in 2001. L.J. died in 2010 and Joyce entered the Sunrise Manor nursing home on May 3, 2019.

Joyce is survived by 12 children, Jerome (Bernadette) Serie, Easton, MD, James (Monika) Serie, Lincoln, NE, Susan (Bruce) Slocum, Litchfield, NE, Jeanne (Craig) Norgaard, Tyler, Keith (Kathy) Serie, Tyler, Carole (Ron) Carr, Tyler, Donna (Bryan) Hedlof, Spicer, MN, Mary (Rich) Wiering, Tyler, Paul (Sue) Serie, Mitchell, SD, Connie Freese (Ron Drew), Baltic, SD, Judy (Duane) Wichern, Tyler, and Jolene (Jamie) Becker, Brookings, SD; 37 grandchildren; 58 great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, L.J.; one grandson; and three brothers.

Alyce M. (Anderson) Saucer '46 died August 6, 2017. She met her husband, George, in Luverne; they moved to Waterloo, IA in 1961. Alyce channeled her creative energies into gourmet cooking, acting, and as a passionate Democrat, having chaired the Rock County Democratic Party in the 1950's. She was widowed in 2001 and moved to Auburn, NY where she continued acting at age 76.

Alyce is survived by her son, Thomas, Charles City, IA; daughter Elizabeth Burke

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 6

(Ray Bizzari) Aurora, NY; daughter Caroline Saucer, Bethlehem, PA; son Mark Saucer (Jessie), Burke, VA; and five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years and infant son, Timothy; her five siblings, James Anderson, Mary Lerza, Christian Anderson, Margaret Campbell, and Alfred Anderson.

Ruth (Gonnerman) McClure '47 died November 25, 2019, in Marshall, MN. Ruth married Arlyn '46 McClure on September 4, 1949, in Luverne. She worked at Counsel Oak Store, Rock County Bank, and then became a stay-at-home mother until 1960. She went back to work for Rock County/Minnwest Bank, then Rock County Oil until her retirement. She also worked part time with the school lunch program and JC Penney until it closed.

Ruth is survived by three children, Jeff '70 McClure, Brandon, SD, Arla '73 (Buz) Cousins, Marshall, and Sandra '76 (Greg) Johnson, Luverne; eight grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; a brother, Marvin (Margaret) Gonnerman, Luverne; and a sister-in-law, Margie Anderson, Moorhead.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arlyn; a grandson, Christopher; a granddaughter, Angela; a great-granddaughter, Breley; two brothers, LeRoy and Doug Gonnerman; and two sisters, Marlis Kleinke and Dorothy '46 Koens.

1950 – 1959

Leon F. Siebenahler '51 passed away December 2, 2019, in Luverne. He served his country in the Korean War from 1953-1955. Leon married Phyllis Coffey on December 26, 1953, in Sioux Falls, SD. The couple farmed near Luverne.

Leon is survived by four children, Deb '74 (Brad) Van Lant, Lake of the Ozarks, MO, Dave '77 (Terri '80) Siebenahler, Luverne, Darcy '80 (Mike) Raddle, Luverne, and Darwin '83 (Kelli) Siebenahler, West Des Moines, IA; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a sister, Theresa '56 Winger.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis, and four brothers, LuVerne, Lloyd, Robert '61 and Arnold Siebenahler.

Norma (Priesz) Wing '57 died December 19, 2019, in Sioux Falls, SD. After high school she worked as a telephone operator. On her 23rd birthday, Norma married Bruce Wing in Luverne. The couple lived in Pipestone,

MN, where they raised their family.

Norma is survived by her husband, Bruce, Pipestone; children, Marcia (Todd) Suda and Rhonda (Keith) Yochem, Pipestone; ten grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brother-in-law David Newell.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Janet '60 Newell.

Don V. Blessing '59 passed away October 14, 2019, in Bloomington, MN. Don worked as a manager for State Farm Insurance for many years, eventually retiring from the company.

Don is survived by sons Jeff (Karen) Blessing, Minier, and Dave (Deb) Blessing, Bloomington; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren; sisters Carol Hollander, Becky (Don) Schmeckpepper, and Lynn '64 (Ron) Anderson.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth.

1960 – 1969

Ardell R. Bowman '62 died on December 7, 2019, in hospice in Sioux Falls, SD. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1965 to 1971. On May 14, 1966, Ardell married Jayona "Jay" '65 Collins in Luverne. He received a degree in business from Mankato State University in 1969. The couple lived in Mankato, Detroit Lakes and Grand Forks, ND, before returning to Luverne in 1973. Ardell was employed at Tri-State Insurance/Continental Western Group, retiring 43 years later in 2012.

Ardell is survived by his wife, Jay; two sons, Scott '88 (Molly) Bowman, Luverne, and David '92 (Laura) Bowman, Mankato; four grandchildren; two siblings, Ronald '58 (Irene) Bowman, Dunedin, FL, and Carole '68 (Gordon '66) Hemme, Arlington, MN; and many nieces and nephews, other family and friends.

LeRoy Luitjens '65 passed away on July 19, 2019, in Bloomington, IL. He is survived by three sons, six grandchildren and brother, Guenther Luitjens, Broken Arrow, OK.

David A. Lorenzen '67 died October 6, 2019, in Luverne. David graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 1971. He taught physical education and health and was boys' basketball coach at Biwabik and Lakefield, MN.

In addition to playing college basketball, David also played in Europe. He moved to Kenneth in 1975 and then to Hardwick where he worked for Moorman's Feed and farmed.

Survivors include his daughters, Shawn Lorenzen, Omaha, NE, Heather VanArsdale, Bellevue, NE and Naomi (Aric) Gordon, Lakefield, MN; three sets of twin grandchildren; a sister, Dianne '68 (Rodger '68) Ossenfort, Luverne; and two nephews, Matthew '91 (Shawn) and Monti '96 (Shannon) Ossenfort.

William (Bill) C. Appelt '69 died on August 18, 2019, in his home. Bill attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth, graduating in 1974 with history and psychology majors. He worked in the insurance industry for over 30 years before retiring in 2009.

Bill is survived by his brother, Martin (Paula) Appelt, Sioux City, IA, former wife Sandy Murphy, Eagan, MN, daughter Allison (Jose) Estrada, Minneapolis, son Christopher (Erin) Appelt and two grandchildren.

1970 – 1979

Bernard "Ben" Maras '70 died November 14, 2019, at his home in Flandreau, SD. Ben and his wife, Sharon Lovejoy, were together for over 40 years. He worked for KELO, Hutchinson Technologies and for the Flandreau Public School for the past 11 years until retiring in October 2019.

Ben is survived by his wife, Sharon; two daughters, Kimberly (Brian) Headrick, Tea, SD and Brittney Hall, Elk River, MN; two grandchildren; and six siblings, Theresa '56 (Alvin) Radke, Agnes Thompson, Diane (Eldon) Klaahsen, Mary '66 Moorshead, Dominic '69 (Linda '69) Maras, and Phil '73 Maras.

Ben was preceded in death by two sisters and four brothers.

Roger D. Kelderman '72 died November 1, 2019. He married Colleen '72 Habbena in 1972. They moved to Tama, IA, where he worked for Tama Meat Pack. They moved to Huron, SD, in 1976 where Roger worked for Huron Dress Beef. In April of 1977 they moved to Omaha and he worked for XL Four Star Beef for 34 years as a cooler supervisor, retiring in 2011.

Roger is survived by his wife, Colleen; children Melissa (Dennis) Lahm, Chad (Andrea) Kelderman, Jacki (Corey)

Schroeder, Marie (Chris) Moyers; thirteen grandchildren; and many other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his brother Henry (Butch) Kelderman, brother-in-law Jack Aschinger, and brother-in-law Mike Rogers.

Bryan E. Boelman '76 died December 29, 2019 in Sioux Falls, SD. Bryan served in the United States Air Force from 1978 to 1982. He was employed for 31 years with Schaaps RV Traveland in Sioux Falls.

Bryan is survived by his daughter, Darcy Boelman; his mother, Enore '48 Boelman; seven siblings, Barb '68 (Lary) Nelson, Bruce '70 (Carol) Boelman, Brenda '72 (Norm) Hurley, Becky '73 (Steve '72) Sehr, Bobbie '78 (Tracy '84) Boelman, Beth '81 (Cory) Chambers, and Bridget '88 (Grady Nelson) Connell.

Bryan was preceded in death by his father and grandparents.

1980 – 1989

Lorna M. Brooks '80 died on December 12, 2019, in Luverne. After high school, Lorna worked at Luverne Community Hospital in the housekeeping department where she remained for many years. After moving to Moorhead, MN, for a short time, she returned to Luverne and began working at Rock County Opportunities.

Lorna is survived by her mother, Delores Brooks, Luverne; two siblings, Elissa '76 Brooks, Luverne, and Owen '78 (Vicki Burger) Brooks, Sioux Falls.; nieces and nephews; great nieces and great-nephews; residents at CLA 12 home and the VA home in Luverne; and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charley Brooks; and her brothers, Arthur Brooks and Wade '77 Brooks.

Sandra (Frey) Akkerman '82 passed away on October 10, 2019, in Luverne. After high school Sandy attended beautician school for hairstyling. She married Bradley '77 Akkerman on September 4, 1993. Sandy worked at the bank in Luverne, helping distribute student loans.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Brad, Luverne; her daughter, Presley '13 Akkerman, Rapid City, SD; her mother, Shirley Frey, Luverne; her siblings, Kenny '70 Frey, Brandon, SD, Barbara '73 Compton, Colorado Springs, CO, Larry '74

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD

— August 28, 1958

*School To Open Tuesday; 64 On Teaching Staff
School Payroll Will Average \$28,000 A Mo.*

The Luverne public schools, which too often are looked at from the standpoint of what they cost the taxpayers, represent an important segment of this community's economy.

If one were to measure the school system as an economic asset, the same as one would look at industry, it ranks near the top as far as its payroll is concerned.

During the 1958-1959 school years, (September 1 to September 1) the average monthly payroll of the Luverne school district will be \$28,351.66 according to figures furnished by Supt. Harvey G. Eitrem's office.

The school employs a total of 87 persons full time. This includes nine custodians, five bus drivers, three office secretaries, and six cooks. In addition, part time help, hired from the ranks of the students, will run about \$100 per month.

It should be pointed out that five of the custodians also operated buses as part of their work contracts.

No figures had been compiled for other expenditures which the school makes local for its supplies. This would include milk, bread and other food items used in the lunch program, office supplies, laundry and dry cleaning, electricity, water, fuel, gasoline, etc. These expenditures, also, are reflected in the community's economic picture.

Expect Total Enrollment To Reach 1,425

An estimated 1,425 Rock county youngsters, ranging from kindergarteners to high school seniors, will be enrolling in the Luverne public schools next Tuesday. Supt. Harvey G. Eitrem said that this year's enrollment would be higher than last year by some 25 students, the way the picture looks at the present.

Greeting the large group of students will be a staff of 64, of whom 58 are regular teachers, and four are administrative staff.

There are four more teachers this year than there were during the 1957-1958 year, all of them in the high school department.

"We're reaching the bulge in our junior high department. We've had to double on teachers in several of the courses in order to make the studies available to everyone. That accounts for the need of more teachers."

— *Luverne Superintendent
Harvey Eitrem in 1958*

Junior High "Bulge"

"We're reaching the bulge in our junior high department," said Eitrem. "We've had to double on teachers in several of the courses in order to make the studies available to everyone. That accounts for the need of more teachers."

Luverne students will report at the grade school or high school, as the case may be, at 8:40 a.m. Tuesday.

Grade students, in the first and second grades will meet in the west bleacher section of the grade school gymnasium.

Grades three to six inclusive, will meet in the grade school auditorium.

Junior-senior high school students will meet in the high school gymnasium for preliminary instruction, and from there will be assigned to their home rooms. Buses will be in serve and noon lunches will be served at both buildings.

More Substitutes Needed

Supt. Eitrem said that the reserve of substitute teachers is very low at present. Only five are available at present to lend a hand in the absence of the regular teacher. Should there be any qualified teachers who would like to be included in the reserve teacher list, they are asked to call Mr. Eitrem.

Luverne school challenges/continued from page 9

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD

— March 21, 1963

*Citizens Here Urged To Build
For 1970's School Needs*

"The figures show that in 1970 you will have 1,080 in your secondary school instead of the present 797," said Guy Tollerud speaking to a Citizen's Committee last Thursday night at the high school.

"The handwriting is on the wall as to what is ahead for Luverne," said the director of buildings for the Minnesota Department of Education.

And on the blackboard he chalked down, briefly, some of the things Luverne would have to do to provide adequate facilities for the students of the next few years.

Time and time again he complimented Superintendent Eitrem and the school board members that had, a decade ago, planned "so wisely and far sightedly" for the present junior senior high building.

But, the building which was designed to be more than adequate for a decade has already outgrown itself in the first seven years of its existence.

The present enrollment show 120 in kindergarten, 708 in the elementary school and 797 in the high school. The charts show that there will be 1,080 in the secondary school (grades 7 thru 12) in 1970, 800 in grades 1 thru 6 and about 140 in the kindergarten. "You must plan not just for two or three years from now but for 1970," said the state official. It would have been sheer tragedy, he said, to have tried to enlarge the old high school, and he complimented the community for the wonderful site it had chosen for the present high school.

"The elementary school should be completed," he said, "and thought should be given now to securing a 10 to 12 acre site for the second elementary school, that will be needed before you realize it."

Tollerud said that certain phases of the present grade school were grossly inadequate and that state aids might be jeopardized if something was not done such as providing additional gym facilities for "phy ed" and enlarged library facilities.

The onrushing problem of providing additional facilities always comes as a shock,

"The figures show that in 1970 you will have 1,080 in your secondary school instead of the present 797. ... The handwriting is on the wall as to what is ahead for Luverne. You must plan not just for two or three years from now but for 1970. ... The elementary school should be completed, and thought should be given now to securing a 10- to 12-acre site for the second elementary school."

— Guy Tollerud, director of buildings
for the Minnesota Department of
Education, in 1963

he said. "But it isn't too bad that you have to add to your school facilities," said Tollerud. "It is good that you are in a community that is growing. Many communities are static. Some are slipping backwards."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD

— April 18, 1963

*Luverne May Be Site For Vocational School
Project Would Cost Estimated \$400,000*

Establishment of a vocational training school in Luverne to serve the southwestern Minnesota area, could be a reality if the community gets behind the movement and takes action soon on the matter.

The school would provide training in various trades, preparing them for employment in industry, business and agriculture. Cost of establishing such a school would cost a minimum of \$400,000, which would be returned over a period of years by the state in the form of state aids.

A citizen's committee will now meet with Luverne School Superintendent Harvey Eitrem, and from there the matter will go before the board.

Rock county educators, businessmen, and

school district members Tuesday night heard Robert Vantries, assistant director of vocational education in Minnesota, tell what Rock county would have to do to get a vocational school established in Luverne.

Those attending the meeting came at the request of a steering committee headed by Ray Frick, Don Crust, and Chamber of Commerce manager Roger Ohlsen. In their request the committee emphasized, "A decision must be forthcoming by representatives of school districts in the area in regard to participation and responsibilities."

Vantries said the vocational school setup is completely different than any other institution in the state, and cited the vocational school's one objective...to prepare a person to be employed in an occupation.

He named the 15 other vocational schools in the state and emphasized the need for this area to be served by one, pointing out that this is the only part of the state that is not adequately served by a vocational school. "The two schools affecting this area would be Mankato and Willmar in the vocational field," he said.

Vantries said an area interested in starting a vocational school should not think of doing it for less than \$400,000. He said thought a large share of this amount would probably come back to the district in years to come. The state guarantees 100 percent of costs incurred for training no-resident students. If a vocational school were to be started in Luverne, any student attending the school from out of the Luverne school district would be a non-resident student and would be backed up by the supporting state funds.

He said the school would in some cases received as much as 56 percent for resident students toward teacher's salaries and on technical equipment costs from the state.

"Don't get the idea a vocational school won't cost you any money though, because it will," said Vantries. "But you get certain advantages for it," he said.

Vantries touched on the night extension program carried out by the state vocational schools. H said there were 65,000 enrolled in the night classes last year, including some college graduates, who wanted to brush up on their particular field. "One of our big problems

is finding just what occupations need training in," said Vantries.

"One big disadvantage you are going to have here is being so close to South Dakota and Iowa. Canby and Jackson are both asking for bond issues on the school for this area," he said. "Canby lost their request on two bond issues, but they are still trying," said Vantries.

He said he would recommend four departments in the school to start with...three departments to train students for local industry, and one to train a business course. There might also be an agriculture course or one in farm management to start with, he said.

Vantries was asked by one of the school board members, "Just what would we get out of the \$400,000?" He told him that amount would bring a minimum program, including the initial equipment needed to get started and a building. He said, on the average, cost of establishing an automotive repair program would cost about \$93,000, an architectural drafting course would cost about \$15,600, a practical nursing course \$17,000, and a machine trade course, \$413,000.

Mankato has so far invested \$851,000 in their vocational school, St. Cloud, \$700,000, and Winona, \$300,000.

Vantries outlined the steps to be taken to get the school in Luverne. He said a citizen's group had already been formed and the superintendent of schools notified. Superintendent Harvey Eitreim was at the meeting and said he would give whatever assistance he could on getting the vocational school in Luverne.

The matter will have to be taken up with the Luverne board of Education and if they decide they want to go further with the matter, they would give the okay for setting up a committee to visit other vocational schools in the state. In addition, surveys would be taken of area schools to find if students would be interested in attending the school and local industries would have to be consulted as to their needs.

"You don't have to have a vote on the school, but it's for sure the board of education will want concrete evidence the community is behind the school before it is built," said Vantries.

"Well, I sure do think it is a worthwhile cause or I wouldn't be sticking my neck out on it," said Ray Frick.



LHS Class of '84 gathers for reunion

The Luverne High School class of 1984 celebrated its 35th reunion on July 28 at Take 16 Brewing Company in Luverne and at the Green Lantern in Hardwick. Pictured in Hardwick are (front row, from left) Pam Klooster Gross, Nancy Munns Villancourt, Sheila Eiter Helle, Idella Rye, Vonda Viland, Susie Foerster Haglin, (second row) Brad Ahrendt, Stewart Talbert, Dan McGuire, Shelly Vance, Michelle Deyoung Brown, Reva Green, Danette Swenson McClure, (third row) Steve Desplinter, Joel Hartz, Jon Crampton, Tim Olson, Tim Anderson, Deborah Goeske Fodness, Karla Scherff Madden, (back) Maryln Haraldson VanGrootheest, Bonnie VanDyke, Janine Anderson Brands, Terry Swenson, Greg Staeffler.

Let's Hear from YOU!

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

Online Alumni News

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

You are able to read your Alumni News online. It is available to all those that have internet, let us know you would like to discontinue the hard copy to go green (save postal expenses and a tree). Email Patti Pierson piersonprp@alliancecom.net.

Luverne alumni and friends support school

The Luverne School Foundation was established in 2003 and is now known as the Luverne Education Legacy Fund (LELF). The fund uses gifts from generous Luverne alumni, community members, and other school supporters to continue to meet its goal of supporting the proud educational legacy of Luverne Public Schools.

Currently, Luverne Schools are in the middle of an exciting building and remodeling project that will greatly enhance educational opportunities in our



community for many years to come.

In early 2020, the LELF will be making a major announcement of how LHS alumni and friends can come together to support and enhance this exciting, once in a

lifetime school and community improvement project!

Be on the look out for much more information soon. You can learn more about LELF and the many ways it supports Luverne Public Schools by visiting www.luverneeducationlegacyfund.org.

Remembering our Classmates/continued from page 8

(Carrie) Frey, Luverne, and Bob '76 Frey, Luverne; her mother-in-law, Mary Akkerman; father-in-law, Arnie (Sara) Akkerman; and brother-in and sisters-in-law, Mike '81 Akkerman, Iva '74 Akkerman, and Meredith Eaton.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harold; her brother-in-law, Lyn Compton; two nephews and one grandniece.

Timothy E. VerSteeg '88 passed away on October 28, 2019, in Minneapolis, MN. Tim attended the University of Minnesota in Waseca, and then South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. He farmed and then became a long-distance truck driver, which led to an opportunity to be a civilian truck driver for the United States Government in Iraq and later in Afghanistan. He married Sutaree "Na" Seevinai on October 5, 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand. They lived in Chonburi, Thailand, until returning to the United State in July 2013. They made their home in Brandon, SD, and Tim continued driving

truck for local companies.

Tim is survived by his wife, Na, Brandon; his son, Ty, Brandon; his mother, Twila '64 VerSteeg, Luverne; two siblings, Tom '91 (Alison) VerSteeg, Luverne and Tami '97 (Brian '95) Bergman, Luverne; and numerous relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Evan '63, in 2016.

1990 – 1999

Doyle J. Toering '95 died September 29, 2019, in Sioux Falls, SD. He attended the University of Minnesota – Morris, where he earned his BS degree in English with minors in chemistry, physics, and biology. Doyle was an avid reader and Chicago Bears football fan.

Doyle is survived by his mother, Rose, Sioux Falls; sister, Sheila '98 (Justin) Strobel, Hurley, SD; brother, Kyle '96 Toering, Waterloo, IA; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Toering.

Amanda Uithoven '97 passed away November 22, 2019, in Fargo, ND, of natural causes. After high school, she attended a few different schools, but most importantly, she learned to love unconditionally, volunteering to help those in need and surrounding her three children with her love and attention. Amanda struggled with mental health issues. Her final gift was the selfless act of donation to continue research for this dreaded disease.

Amanda is survived by her three children, Mira, Adayla, and Arekel; fiancé Daluan Taylor, Luverne; parents, Gregory '75 and Marilyn Uithoven, Magnolia; three siblings, Adam '00 (Linda) Uithoven, Annie '03 (Nicholas) Bork, and Aric '06 (Cassie '05) Uithoven all of Luverne; 12 nieces and nephews; grandparents, Mike and Viola Uithoven; and many other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, John and Harriet Klay; Aunt Linda Klay; and two cousins, Shane '89 Klay and Shawn Uithoven.



LHS Class of '79 gathers for reunion

Luverne High School Class of 1979 gathered last summer for their 40-year class reunion in Luverne. Pictured are (front, left) Sheila Loger, Carolyn Hensel Boston, Doug McGuire, Jan Birdsey, Laurie DeWispelaere, Jolene Obermoller Hanson, Marilee Dorn, Shawn Klosterbuer Mann, Colleen Obermoller Deutsch, Carol Wynia Sandbulte, Julia McFadden, Linda Brakke Zimmerman, (second) Gary Foerster, Brenda Wassenaar Wessels, Sandy Helle Klosterbuer, Amy Welch Shoemaker, Keith Kuechenmeister, Shirley VanPeurse Boeve, Kevin Kuechenmeister, Debra Walgrave Boomgaarden, Nancy Van Ruler VandeBerg, Jody Swenson Foerster, Ellie Petersen Oldre, Terri Nath Hoffman, (third) Tim Knoll, David Jackson, Larry Domagala, Doug Deutsch, Christy Bendt Reisch, Debra Elbers Garvin, Sue Hilbrands Engels, Peg VanAartsen Gacke, Pat Remme Audette, Peggy VanDeVegte Fransen, Crystal Hargesheimer Ailts, Marj Viksna Weir, (back) Mike Groth, Terry Schneekloth, Kurt Burmeister, Karla Braa Sirorine, Allan Hartz, David Hamann, Tom Herman, Kevin Elbers, Merlyn Meinerts, Keith Pike, Larry Smith, Brad Snyders, Scott Olson, Terry Johnson, Bo Connell and Jill Holm Holmes. Not pictured are Jan DeVries Hatie, Tim Birkeland, Terry Birkeland and Mike Bailey.

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

Please send change of address to Alumni News or email: piersonprp@alliancecom.net

CLASS OF 1965 55TH CLASS REUNION JUNE 5-7, 2020 BUFFALO DAYS WEEKEND

**FRIDAY: MEET AND CELEBRATE AT
THE BUFFALO DAYS CRUISE-IN ON
MAIN STREET**

**SATURDAY: REUNION PARTY AT THE
LAKE MEET AT THE PARTY ROOM FOR
A CASUAL CATERED SUPPER & SOCIAL
STARTING AT 4 PM
\$15/PERSON—\$30/COUPLE**

**SUNDAY: MEET FOR COFFEE, JUICE &
ROLLS (LOCATION TBD)**

20th Year Luverne Girls High School Hockey Reunion

June 6th 2020

**All Hockey Girls
Past & Present
Plan on Attending**

Contact Dave Siebenahler at
hockey2742@hotmail.com



More details coming later



LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOL ALL SCHOOL REUNION JULY 15—18, 2021

**KICKING OFF WITH LUVERNE'S
59TH ANNUAL HOT DOG NITE!**

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us as we
celebrate the completion of the big building, remodeling
and renovation project at Luverne Public Schools! Tour
the newly remodeled school including the beautiful
Performing Arts Center!

Other events are being planned through the weekend!
Have a great idea or interested in helping?

Contact: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

**CLASS OF 1958
62ND INFORMAL CLASS REUNION
WEDNESDAY—APRIL 1, 2020
11:30 AM—PIZZA RANCH—LUVERNE
If any questions: Pat Ahrendt—507.283.8894**

CLASS OF 1970 50TH REUNION JUNE 5-6, 2020

**FRIDAY PM GATHERING:
Take 16 Brewing Co.**

**SATURDAY PM GATHERING:
At Suanne Ohme's**

**Other activities
being planned!**

Monitor details on Facebook:
LHS 1970

Or email: Carol Serie
cserie@j.wnet

ARE YOU PLANNING A CLASS REUNION? Email Patti Pierson at piersonprp@alliancecom.net
and she will be able to provide you with a class listing and also labels.

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

1304145

Volume 30 Issue 2

Alumni News

709 North Kniss Avenue

Luverne, MN 56156

Lu^{verne}
Love the life!

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Luverne, MN
Permit No. 115