

## *Luverne is turning 150 years old*

*Over the coming months, the Luverne 150 Committee is sharing a series of articles that will offer highlights of what has happened ever since our founding in 1867. Articles have included stories of this area when it was still a territory, prior to settlement, and how we have arrived at where we are today in this place we call "home."*

The content of this article focuses on the early social, educational and spiritual history of Luverne.

In the first 50 years of Luverne's existence, social relationships between people were developed through churches and membership organizations. Each of them offered men and women the opportunity to develop friendships and socialize. The number of organizations and lodges that existed was astonishing. Each meeting was a social event with members dressed in their "Sunday best."

Most organizations were extremely formal at their meetings, requiring that Roberts Rules of Order and the organization's by-laws be strictly followed. Another significant step in Luverne becoming a "first-class" city was the investment in 1901 by a group of investors to build a magnificent hotel property that would meet the needs of visitors and provide a formal meeting location for many local groups.

### **THE SCHOOLS**

The year following Philo Hawes "founding of Luverne" – a class of young men began to meet at irregular intervals in the town's only building, the Hawes cabin. In 1868 and 1869, the first class of Luverne school students were Charles Hawes, Edward McKenzie, J.C. Kelley, Horace Plum, Frank Beaty and a young man who lived with Sylvester Norton.

By 1870, C. E. Older organized and operated (in the Hawes cabin)



*By Jane Wildung Lanphere*

By January 1886, the construction was completed and Central School stood proudly as the permanent building for Luverne students.

the first school term in Luverne and Rock County, being paid to teach four students and receive financial compensation for his work.

In 1870-71 in a sod blacksmith shop on the farm of George Blasdell (1 mile east of town near Norton's ford), Ren Vickers operated a school with six boys and girls. In February of 1871, County Commissioners created a school district due to the increase of population and the need for a more organized educational system.

In later 1872, the district build a public school out of lumber hauled in from Worthington. The school was erected on block 3, original plat, four lots which had

been donated for the purpose by the townsite proprietors. The first teacher, in April 1873, was Miss Jennie Grout with an enrollment of 25 pupils. The school building was a two-story structure, 22 by 38 feet in size. The second story was not utilized so it was leased to the country for government offices, thus becoming the first seat of Rock County government.

In December 1875, the school was destroyed by fire as a party of grain haulers on their way from Sioux Falls to Worthington camped in the building overnight and caused the fire.

# Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter, April 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016, the *Alumni News* received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling **\$2,473**. 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. The chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled (June 30, 2016). Please watch for the next issue, October 2016, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

## Memorials

### Charles Hansen '41

Audrene Hansen – Friend

### Leo Berning '47

Betty Mae (Berning) Serie '52

### Norma (Groth) Lutz '48

Louise (Goehle) Beckman '45  
Vivian Holst - Friend

### James Ruddy '59

Family of James Ruddy '59

### Robert Jensen '60

Anna (DeGroot) VanBatavia '60  
Connie (Rusche) Wieneke '58  
Duane '60 & Peg (Holder) '60 Lammert  
Garfield '60 & Ellaine Henriksen  
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson  
Joe Rowe '63  
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62 VanBatavia

### Evan VerSteeg '63

Eva Lou Opsata '63  
Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs '63  
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson  
Joe Rowe '63  
Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts  
Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63  
Richard '64 & Cammy (Martin) '64 Iverson  
Tom '62 & Dixie (Winge) '63 Arends  
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62 VanBatavia

### Leila Wulf '63

Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs '63

### Marilyn (Christensen) Somers '63

Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs '63

### Sheryl (Eide) Wolfe '63

Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs '63

### Steve Bagbey '63

Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs '63

### Wayne Kropuenske '63

Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs '63

### Robert Bakken '78

Donald & Lona (Gabrielson) '70 Klosterbuer  
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

### George & Gladys "June" Mann

Gene Salzman '54

### Al Bot

Joe Rowe '63

### Class of 1967 Challenge

Kristi Fitzer '67  
Linda (Schaefer) Moore '67  
Margaret (Christensen) Freese '67  
Robert Jarchow '67  
Larry Goebel '67  
Linda (Ossenfort) Molden '67  
Marilyn Schmuck '67  
Steven Laudon '67  
Terry '67 & Diane (Mollberg) '67 Gonnerman

### Contributions

Cammy (Martin) Iverson '64  
Dixie (Winge) Arends '63  
James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson) '63 Rolfs  
James Wiggins '42  
Joyce (Tofteland) Dean '58  
Kathleen (Hitch) Schadwinkel '65  
Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50  
Robert Anderson '52  
Tom Arends '62  
Tom '73 & Susan (Bailey) '77 Brakke  
Rodger '68 & Dianne (Lorenzen) '68 Ossenfort

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**Financial summary:** Balance 3/31/16 \$202.02

Donations:	2,473.00
DFS Support:	2,000.00
Expenses:	
Printing	919.07
Postage	1,604.22
Labels	667.24
Office Supplies	504.00
Balance 6/30/16	\$980.49

# What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

The Alumni News heard from only two LHS graduates this quarter.

Here's what Joe Rowe and Ken Cragoe sent in:

Alumni JOE ROWE (LHS 1963) sends greetings from his home in Sioux Falls: "Just finished reading the latest issue of the Alumni News (should have been outside doing something) and enjoyed every word."

"Please pass along my compliments to ALL involved in its creation. I particularly enjoyed the history of Luverne.

You Guys do a Great Job with way too little Thanks.

Thank You ALL for entertaining the rest of the Luverne Alumni."

KEN CRAGOE (LHS 1952) writes from his home in Borrego Springs, CA:

"I am now 82 years old as of April 8, 2014. I married Jean H. Boston from Mankato, MN. We were married on August 24, 1957. We both graduated from Mankato.

We have two boys. Michael is married and has a daughter in

the second year of college at the University of WI and a son who is a junior in high school. Michael and his wife live in Greendale, WI.

They have a second home north of Wausau, WI where we stay four months of out of the year. The other 8 months we live in Borrego Springs, CA."

"Our other son lives in our same town and is married with no children. They own the local real estate office in town. Jean and I both enjoy our retirement years living in a golf course community. Best wishes to all!"

## Your classmates care what you're up to. Please let us know!

Fill out the form below and mail it in, or email your news to Jane: [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us)

### Let's Hear from YOU!

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

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



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

## 1930 - 1939

### Grace Agnes Loose '34

died May 20, 2016 in Luverne at the age of 100. Grace attended Minneapolis Business College after high school, moving back to Luverne and working at John Morrell and Company in Sioux Falls for 8-1/2 years. She started working at Rock County Bank on July 5, 1944. The bank underwent a number of name changes, but Grace worked there until 1979 when she retired.

She was a member of the Luverne United Methodist Church where she served as the financial secretary for 50 years. She sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and was a member of the Women's Society. Grace was also a member of PEO, a charter member of the Business & Professional Women, a member of the Rock County Historical Society and a member of the Maplewood Cemetery Auxiliary.

Grace enjoyed playing golf, bowling, and keeping up with Luverne and all Minnesota sports. She was on the bank's bowling team for over 50 years. Grace also enjoyed visiting the families of her two nieces and nephew.

Grace is survived by her niece Barb (Gary) Germundsen of Grafton, WI; her nephew, Dr. David Loose, Sugarland, TX; three grandnieces, Julie (Kevin), Lori (Hussien) and Amy (Eric); one grandnephew, William (Fiancee, Chelsea); three great-grandnieces, Meghan, Grace and Sophia; a great-grandnephew, Matthew; and her special friend, **Anna van Batavia '60**. She was preceded in death by a niece, Judy Leopold and her brother, **Earl Loose '27**.

## 1940 - 1949

### Iva Mae (Gilbertson) Herzfeldt

'41, passed away on February 15, 2016 at Freeport Memorial Hospital, Freeport, Illinois. After high school, she moved to Minneapolis to work

in the defense industry.

After World War II, she moved to Worthington, MN where she went to work for the USDA and where she met her husband, LT. Harlan Herzfeldt of the U.S. Army Air Corp. They were married on October 19, 1946, at the Presbyterian Church in Luverne. Iva and Harlan lived in Mount Morris, IL, Madison, WI, Peoria, IL, Janesville, WI and Freeport, IL.

Over her lifetime Iva worked in various positions in editorial and engineering office management. While in Peoria she served on the Board of Directors for the March of Dimes and Friends of International Students at Bradley University. She was a volunteer coordinator and site manager at the Tallman House in Janesville, WI and became active at the Taylor home of Stephenson County Historical Society.

Iva is survived by her sons, Phillip (Patricia) of Freeport, IL, Brian of Los Angeles, CA and daughter-in-law Donna Herzfeldt of Janesville, WI; brother **Bryce (Jean) Gilbertson '43**; sister **Faye Sahr '48** of Minneapolis, MN and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Harlan; son, Gregory; sister **Donna Schmidt '44**; brothers-in-law **Howard Schmidt '46** and Roger Sahr.

### Hazel (Horge) Pedersen

'41, died April 11, 2016 at Avera Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls, SD. After graduation, Hazel attended Nettleton College of Business and married Howard Pedersen on October 13, 1946 in Hills, MN. She was the bookkeeper for her husband's business, Pedersen construction.

The couple owned Harney Campground near Keystone, SD in the 70's and also owned and operated Tolly's Café in Beresford,

SD. Hazel was a life member of Grace Lutheran Church and the VFW Auxiliary, along with being a member of Sons of Norway.

Hazel is survived by six children: Sandra, Sioux Falls, SD, LeRoy (Howie), Omaha, NE, Gary (Corey), Sioux Falls, SD, Rodney, Vermillion, SD, Darryl (Pam), Sioux Falls, SD, Tamara (R.F.) Buche, Sioux Falls, SD; 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard; a brother, O dean; a sister, Madelyn; granddaughters, Madelyn, and Kayla; and a grandson, Brady.

**Leo Berning Jr. '47** died April 26, 2016 in Colorado Springs, CO. After graduating he joined the US Navy during the Korean War. Upon his return he married Mickey Hendl and settled in Burnsville, MN where he worked as supervisor in the maintenance department for North Central Airlines, which later became Northwestern Airlines. He retired in 1986. Leo and Mickey then built their home on Lake Le Homme Dieu in Alexandria, MN and lived there until August 2015 when he moved to Colorado Springs.

Leo is survived by his three daughters: Leeann (Joe) Persinger, Bonnie (Steve) Burak, and Betsy (Scott) Peterson; six grandsons and three granddaughters; two sisters: Mary Ann Stigel and Betty Serie.

**Stanley C. Neubert '48** died on January 8, 2016. After graduation from high school, he was united in marriage to Una Jean Rust on October 21, 1953 in Portland, Oregon. The couple made their home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Stan served in the Korean War and then spent the next 32 years at John Morrell. His hobbies included fishing and hunting in his early years. Throughout his entire life



he was an avid coin collector. He participated in flea markets which he thoroughly enjoyed and where he made many great friends.

Grateful for having shared his life are his children, Diane (Dennis) Albright, Sioux Falls, Janet (David) Wittrock, Sioux Falls, Carol (Ray) Husmann, Hartford, SD, and Michael (Rhonda) Neubert, Aberdeen, SD; 11 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Una Jean Neubert, and great granddaughter, Faith Maddagh.

## 1950 – 1959

**Shirley Ann (Braa) McQuoid '53** passed away on March 31, 2016 at her home in Bloomington, MN surrounded by family. Married to the "love of her life" William "Bill" McQuoid for 60 years, Shirley was active in her church and Bible study and relied heavily on the women in that group for continual prayer as she battled cancer the last three years of her life. Day trips with her husband were a highlight as well as watching her grandchildren participate in sporting events. In September 2015 Shirley celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by jumping out of an airplane.

Shirley is survived by her loving and devoted husband, William: son, Michael (Heidi) McQuoid; daughters, Angela (Robert) Nelson and Holly (James) Rakow; 13 grandchildren and other family members and many friends. She was preceded in death by her sister and one daughter.

**Jim Ruddy '53** passed away at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD on April 17, 2016. He was united in marriage with Lea Schulte on October 6, 1963 and the couple moved to Crystal, MN where they lived and raised their family. Jim worked as a diesel mechanic and spent 40 plus years working for the Penske Truck Leasing Company.

Jim was a man who loved to serve his fellow man and so he chose to work on vehicles for those who were in need. He became the neighborhood mechanic and loved every minute of it. He enjoyed fishing with his son and grandchildren, playing Pinochle and spending time with family.

He was a member at Faith Baptist Church in Minneapolis for many years where he served on the Trustee Board, ushered and worked many behind the scenes tasks. After retirement, Jim and Lena moved to George, IA.

Jim is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lena Ruddy; son, Kevin (Gail) Ruddy, Brooklyn Park, MN; daughters, Marcee Ruddy of Sibley, IA and Julie (Kai-Michael) Walther of Maple Grove, MN; nephew, Jason Palmer of Crystal, MN; three grandchildren, Taunya, Tyler, and Kyleen Walther; sisters, Corinne Nath, Judy Craig; brothers, Eugene, Lane, John, Bob, and Dave; and extended family. He was preceded in death by

his son, Bradley; brothers and sisters; Mavis Wahlert, Bud Ruddy, Peach Kasemodel, Mike Ruddy, Patricia Miller, Donald Ruddy, Marilyn Palmer, Melvin Dale, and Theresa Ruddy.

## 1960 – 1969

**Robert "Bob" Jensen '60**, passed away on April 23, 2016 in Sioux Falls, SD. Bob served his country in the Minnesota National Guard from 1964 to 1970. He worked at Thermo King Refrigeration before working with Elliott & Anderson Floor Covering for over 28 years. After retiring in the early 1990's, he held various part-time jobs. Bob was a former member of Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, where he volunteered many hours; he was a current member of Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne. Bob volunteered at Project Car for many years. He belonged to the Autobahn BMW Riders and the Siouxland Goldwing club. He enjoyed riding motorcycles for over fifty years.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Kristen Togtman, Arlington, TX; two nieces, Brenda Rieger, Sioux Falls, SD and Annie Kamphaus, Nevis; a cousin, Ike (Doreen) Wiese, Luverne; special friends Duane and Peg Lammert, Sioux Falls; and several other cousins. He was preceded in death by a sister, Carol Christianson.

**Janet (Priesz) Newell '60** died June 25, 2016 in Sioux Falls, SD. In 1962 Janet married David Newell. The couple lived in Luverne, Lennox, SD and Sioux Falls, SD. Janet was a member of First English Lutheran Church in Lennox.

She is survived by her husband, David, Sioux Falls; two daughters, Patti (Joe) Stoddard, Sioux Falls, and Shelli (Dale) VanWesten, Steen; grandchildren Nick and Matt Stoddard and Zac (Mindy) and Alaina VanWesten; and one sister, Norma (Bruce) Wing, Pipestone.

**Duane E. Kropuenske '61**, passed away on April 18, 2016 while in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. During his forty plus year career in the banking industry, he spent 25 years in the Elk River, MN area. Duane was co-founder of Riverview Community Bank and American Eagle Financial, Inc. His civic involvement included the Elk River City Council, the Elk River Economic Development Authority, and the Elk River Planning Commission. He was active in many local organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Guardian Angels, Land O Lakes Choir Boys, MN Bankers Association and American Legion. Duane was a charter founder of Suburban Northwest Builders Association. He was a loving husband, caring father and devoted grandfather.

Duane is survived by his wife, Linda, his mother,

Thelma; daughter Julie (Jeff) Knollenberg, son Jay (Laurie), stepdaughter Nicole Tilc and stepsons Korry Thompson, Kalvin Thompson and Kirk (Angela) Thompson; five grandchildren; eight step grandchildren; brothers-in-law Larry (Jan) Fullerton, Robert Fullerton, Ronald (Marilyn) Fullerton; sisters-in-law Geraldine (Herb) Gewerth, Joan (Bob) Norton, Kathleen (Ray) Burczyk, Bonnie Felvy, Sheila Shafer, Sharon Hanna; and numerous nieces and nephews. Duane was preceded in death by his wife, Patsy, and brother, Wayne.

**Elvin Roemeling '61**, died May 1, 2016 in Sioux Falls, SD. He married Lorraine Odenbrett in Fulda on February 11, 1963. Elvin enjoyed fishing in his younger years. He was a cowboy at heart and loved listening to old country music and spending time with horses. He and Lorraine enjoyed traveling in their motorhome, visiting family members and heading in any direction they wanted. He loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Elvin is survived by his wife, Lorraine, Sioux Falls; his children, Bryan (Pam) Roemeling, Juneau, Alaska, Alicia (Wayne) Scheevel, Sioux Falls, SD, Amy (Michael) Sikkink, St. Charles, and Allyson (Matt) Rodgers, Sioux Falls, SD; ten grandchildren, Benjamin, Anna (Miles), Amanda, Ethan, David, Kaitlin, Bennett, Madeline, Evan and Avery. He was preceded in death by his son, Brett and two sisters, Betty Evanson and Sandra Johnson.

**Evan VerSteege '63** passed away on May 18, 2016 in Luverne, MN. Upon graduation from high school, Evan served his country with the Luverne National Guard Unit. He was a faithful member of the American Reformed Church in Luverne and was a farmer throughout his life. He was also employed by Terrace Park Dairy, Iowa Beef Packers and Farm Pro.

Evan's passion was spending time with his family. He also enjoyed gardening, fishing, quarter horses, rodeos, collecting Red Wing Pottery, Transport for Christ, and more recently, the great coffee times with friends, neighbors and family. Evan loved vacationing in northern Minnesota and cherished relationships developed with Lao friends. He fought a courageous battle with COPD and cancer. Evan's positive attitude, determination and faith set the precedence of his acceptance of these diseases to his family and friends.

Evan is survived by Twila, his wife and best friend of over 50 years; two sons, **Tim '88** (Na) VerSteege of Brandon, SD and **Tom '91** (Alison) VerSteege of Luverne; a daughter, **Tami '97 (Brian '95)** Bergman of Luverne; grandchildren, Cade and Lauren VerSteege, Ross and Will Bergman, and Ty VerSteege; and a sister, **Veralyn '56** (Don) Klosterman of Wilsonville, Oregon. Evan was preceded in death by twin brother, Elden VerSteege.

## 1970 – 1979

**Frederick Manfred Jr. '72**, passed away on June 12, 2016 at Dougherty Hospice in Sioux Falls, SD. The son of author Frederick Manfred and Maryanna Shorba Manfred, he was a loyal longtime resident and writer from Southwest Minnesota and Southeast South Dakota. Raised in the family home which eventually became the Blue Mound State Park Interpretive Center, Fred was president of his high school class and was an All-State Athlete.

He received his B.A in Mass Communications from the University of South Dakota, also playing college baseball; he was the only player who made no errors over a four year stint. From 1977 to 1979, he was a features writer and sports editor of the Rock County Star-Herald, where he won numerous national awards for his sports column. Fred also managed

a three month tour by the South Dakota College All-Star Basketball Team through thirteen European countries and the Soviet Union.

Later in his life Fred wrote a personal column for the Star-Herald, and also wrote a play, Tongues of Stone, about the settling of Southwest Minnesota.

He served as president and member of the Luverne Green Earth Players and was a lifelong advocate and contributor to the Arts and Humanities, the environment, the Legal Advocacy for Older Americans, and the Luverne Backpack Program in Southwest Minnesota.

In late 1980 while attending the University of Ottawa for a graduate degree in journalism, Fred's battle with renal failure began. After the loss of his kidneys, he moved to Santa Barbara, CA, where he became the face of dialysis patients' battles to receive the first ever doses of Epogen, a life-saving drug. He received a kidney transplant in 1981, which he lost a month later; so he lived on dialysis until he received another kidney transplant in 1992. In 2001 he again began dialysis in Sioux Falls. With more than two decades of dialysis experience, Fred became a treasure chest of information for other dialysis patients and health care providers.

Highly educated, with a gift for words and a love of humor, Fred was sought after by patients, nurses, and doctors who had questions ranging from the significant side effects, both physical and emotional, to the simplest of issues. He presented patients' perspectives at National Kidney Foundation functions and was a board member of a national patient advocate group. His handling of renal disease was the epitome of courage and compassion.

Fred is survived by his sisters, **Maya Manfred '67** of Worthington, MN, **Freya Manfred '62** and her husband, Thomas Pope of

Stillwater, MN, and nephews Nicholas Bly Pope and Ethan Rowan Pope of St. Paul, MN

**Robert H. Bakken '78**, died at his home on May 2, 2016. He spent his life living on the family farm. In high school, Bob enjoyed being a student manager for Elmer Menage's football teams and Laurin Carroll's basketball teams. He also helped in the Resource Room at Grace Lutheran Church under the direction of his dear friends, Larry and Colleen Hoyme. After high school,

Bob attended Sioux Vocational School in Sioux Falls, SD, and then returned home to help his father and his brother, Mark, on the farm. Bob was a lifelong member of Grace Lutheran church in Luverne where he was baptized and confirmed. Bob enjoyed attending high school basketball and football games, as well as band and choir concerts. He was a kind and gentle man that enjoyed the simple things in life and saw the good in others. He dearly loved attending to his farm animals throughout the years, including his cattle sheep, dogs, cats and chickens.

Bob is remembered by his mother, Arla, of Luverne; siblings, **Judy (Garry) Haliburton '76** of Harrisburg, SD, **Paul (Jennifer) Bakken '79**, Luverne, and **Mark Bakken '86**, Luverne; and many other family and friends. Bob's niece and nephews, Jennifer, Jeff, Ross, Hans; great Niece and nephew MaKenzie and Brayden filled his life with joy. He was preceded in death by his father and grandparents.

*\* A contribution has been given by the Bakken family to Luverne Dollars for Scholars in memory of Robert "Bob" Bakken honoring the class of '78 for their friendship and support shown Bob during his high school years.*

## 1980 – 1989

**Brant W. Israelson '81**, passed away on April 16, 2016 in Hesperia, CA. Brant attended college in

Willmar, MN after graduation from high school and moved to Yermo, CA, in 1985 where he started in the water well drilling and pump industry. In 2004 he started working for Layne Christensen as an account manager.

During his career he developed a special relationship with his clients and co-workers. Brant was a larger-than-life man who was charismatic, honest, funny, yet witty and sarcastic. He had a passion for golf, the Nebraska Cornhuskers and singing country music. Brant took pride in everything he did. He loved his family and friends.

Brant is survived by his grandmother, Madge May; his parents, Janet and Raney Israelson; his wife, Valerie; sons Tyler (Renee and grandchildren Austin and Connor), Tanner, Angel and Dominic; a daughter, Miraya; a sister, **Staci '84 (Monte '83) Zwaan**; nieces **Mackenzi '12** and **Chazni '12**, and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and a nephew, **Zachary Zwaan '09**.

## 1990 - 1999

**Chad Henry Carlson '95**, passed away on April 3, 2016 as the result of a motorcycle accident. Chad was born October 16, 1976 in Park Rapids, Minnesota. In December of 1977, the family moved to the Luverne and Ellsworth area. After high school Chad furthered his education at Southeast Technical School in Sioux Falls where he studied auto body mechanics. He worked in Sioux Falls at Sears and Conlin's Furniture, then in Brandon, South Dakota, at Pace Manufacturing. Chad later returned to work in Sioux Falls at Montgomery Furniture and most recently at American Tire.

Chad was a member of the United Methodist Church in Luverne. He enjoyed throwing darts and riding his motorcycle. He was the guy that always had a smile on his face and never seemed to have a bad day. He was a great listener

and knew how to be there when you needed him. Chad was especially proud to be a Dad. He loved his little girl and enjoyed attending all of her activities.

Chad is lovingly remembered by his daughter, Kaitlyn of Ellsworth; his father, Roger Carlson of Luverne; brothers, Dana Carlson and his wife Sheila of Tea, South Dakota, and **Stephen Carlson '91** of Little Elm, Texas; aunts, uncles and other family. He was preceded in death by his mother, Gloria.

**Jessica "Jay" Jean Julius '95**, died March 18, 2016 at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD. After high school Jessica attended Southwest Community College in Pipestone, MN and graduated with an associate's degree in accounting. On July 10, 1999, she married Heybo Julius and the couple lived in Ellsworth, MN for 10 years, where they started a painting business. Triple Diamond Properties was formed in 2007 shortly before they moved to Des Moines, IA to continue their business.

At birth Jay was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. She was a determined fighter who lived her life to the fullest, outliving her initial life expectancy of 2 years old.

As a young person she spent weeks at a time in hospitals, but would make the best of these times by coordinating activities and visits to the hospital with her CF friends. In her later years she honed her card playing with aunts and uncles during hospital stays. Jay attended the Lutheran Church of Hope in Des Moines where she was active in Bible Study. She enjoyed the Oklahoma Sooners, watching NASCAR, golfing or throwing darts with her husband and best friend; antiquing with her mom; camping with family and friends; and traveling to Florida and Nassau, Bahamas. Over the past eight years Jay and Heybo made several trips to Arizona where she



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

Applicants for a Luverne Dollars for Scholars award are evaluated on the following criteria: academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement. Students are also required to write an essay describing their future aspirations as well as seek a recommendation from someone, whether a teacher or an adult who has worked with the student. These applications are due each year around February 15<sup>th</sup>. All applications are submitted through an online student profile application located on the Luverne Dollars for Scholars website.

Once all of the information is compiled, the selection process begins. Each application is assigned a number. The Luverne High School counselor verifies each student's class rank, GPA and ACT scores. Only the application number, not the applicant name, is seen throughout the rest of the scoring. Each essay is read and scored by a group of DFS board members. References, work experience, school activity and community involvement are cross checked against the computerized score assigned each applicant. Not all applicants receive a scholarship. Applications who do not reach the minimum score do not qualify for a scholarship award. None of the scholarships are based on financial need.

The total amount of scholarships paid out each year varies. The DFS Board uses 4.5 percent of the five-year fair

market value of its fund assets as a guide when determining the total to be awarded each year.

Students who receive a scholarship award of \$4,000 or less can use it all in one year, while scholarships greater than \$4,000 are divided out over multiple years, with \$4,000 being the max that can be paid out each year. Scholarship funds are not paid out until after the first semester of college has been completed. In order to receive their scholarship funds, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Scholarship checks are paid directly to the school.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars wrapped up its 2016 awards season this May. Sixty-nine qualifying Luverne High School students from the Class of 2016 were awarded \$354,750. These scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$9,250. If you would like to contribute to, or receive more information, please write:

Luverne Dollars for Scholars  
PO Box 822  
Luverne, MN 56156

Email: [luvernedfs@gmail.com](mailto:luvernedfs@gmail.com)  
Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)  
Or visit: [www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org)

## **Remembering our Classmates/ continued from page 7**

spent time with her "sisters", went to country music concerts, out to dinner, attended house parties and enjoyed exploring the Phoenix area. Jay believed in living her life and spending time with her family and friends.

Jay is survived by her husband Heybo and "baby girl" Sedona, Des Moines, IA; Mom and Dad, Lola & Paul Donth, Rock Rapids, IA; father Vernon Berning, Pilot Mound, IA; four brothers, **Eric Berning '94**, Hardwick, MN, **Ethan Berning**, Frazier, IA, **Dustin Donth '04**, Luverne, and **Bradley Donth '07**, Sioux Falls, SD; grandmother, Alvera Balster, Adrian, MN; father and mother-in-law Harvey & Edye Julius, Ellsworth, MN; goddaughter, Ella Rose; and many other family and friends. Jessica was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Lyle Balster; paternal grandparents, Raymond and Alvina Berning; uncle, Dallas Mulder; sister-in-law Charmayne Julius; her "little girls", Hayle and Saydes and CF friends.



**Go Online  
Today!**

Have you checked out the Luverne Alumni News at [www.alumninews.info](http://www.alumninews.info) lately?

You are able to read your Alumni News online. Now that it is available, let us know you would like to discontinue the hard copy to go green (save postal expenses and a tree). Please email Patti Pierson at [piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net)

## **Attention graduates of 2016 and later:**

Starting with the class of 2016 we will be sending email notification only for the Alumni News and it will not go to your parents address unless you don't have a personal email address.

When you get a permanent postal address you are to contact Patti Pierson @ [piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net) to update your postal address for our information and for your class reunion committee requests. If you change your email address at any time please also contact Patti at the email address above....thank you.



# HARDWICK'S 125TH CELEBRATION GEAR



....available now!

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**sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X**

- Add \$2.00 for 2XL or 3XL

**Available colors:**

**white, gold, or grey**

**T-Shirt: \$15**

**Crew Sweatshirts: \$20**

**Hoodies: \$30**



Three of the Hardwick All School Reunion Committee display the Hardwick 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration t-shirts and cap:

Lorna Siebenahler Bryan, Colleen Obermoller Deutsch and Kristie Obermoller Weinkauf

**For more info email: [lorna@frontiernet.net](mailto:lorna@frontiernet.net)**

**Caps: One size \$15**

**Available colors:**

**white or grey**

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T-SHIRT: Sizes & Color: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

SWEATSHIRT: Sizes & Color: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

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CAP: Color: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$2.00 for 2XL & 3XL \_\_\_\_\_ \$2 = \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING COST PER ORDER: \$5.00 t-shirts & \$7.50 sweatshirts \_\_\_\_\_

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The school district made the decision to quickly build another one story structure to meet the needs of the current student population. That plan proved to be a folly. With the rapid growth of Luverne, the school building only held a small portion of the students and classes were held in the basements of various community buildings until a new school was built in 1882.

In 1878, the Luverne district adopted the independent district plan, which had been enacted by the Legislature of 1872. By 1878, the district had 200 students with a building capacity of 80 to 90 – so creative solutions for classrooms were adopted.

Over the next four years, the district board tried and failed several times to make a decision about what to do about a new building. Definite action was finally taken on February 21, 1882 by a vote of 45 to 19. The decision by district voters was to issue \$10,000 in bonds to erect a building. A few weeks later an additional appropriation of \$1,100 was made for the purpose of the site.

Contractor Frank Thayer built the building which became the south wing of the Central School. The building contained three school rooms and a basement. It was first occupied on November 13, 1882. The Central School was located on the block between Cedar & Freeman on the east & west sides and Brown & Luverne on the north & south.

In July, 1883, the Luverne School Board made application for State Aid under the legislative act of March 3, 1881, for the encouragement of high education and the Luverne High School was established.

Within three years the district had to increase its school facilities. The addition was added to the building corresponding to the original style at the cost of \$7,000 which included a new heating system. By January 1886, the construction was completed and



A W. D. McLaughlin, architect, designed a handsome Sioux quartzite building that was constructed by Greene and Gillham. Completed in 1895, Luverne had two fine school buildings – one for the elementary students and one for high school students. This beautiful stone building stood on the site we called Fledgling Field (now Dingmann Funeral Home).

Central School stood proudly as the permanent building for Luverne students.

The first graduating class of the Luverne Independent School District of 1888 consisted of two graduates: Laura Huntington and Sampson Start.

Soon the school outgrew the Central Building and classes began to be held in rooms in different halls throughout town. In May 1893, the proposition to issue bonds to building another addition was defeated. The following year however, the voters elected to bond sums up to \$20,000 to erect a second building. The vote was 123 in favor and 37 against.

A W. D. McLaughlin, architect, designed a handsome Sioux quartzite building that was constructed by Greene and Gillham. Completed in 1895, Luverne had two fine school buildings – one for the elementary students and one for high school students. This beautiful stone building stood on the site we called Fledgling Field (now Dingmann Funeral Home).

It wasn't until 1925 that the

Luverne School District acted to construct another building.

## THE CHURCHES

Churches provided more to pioneer families than spiritual support. Church offered the opportunity for the development of strong social and moral connections between peoples of different backgrounds and cultures.

By 1910, eleven church organizations operated in Luverne. Today, that number is even greater.

The pioneer church of Luverne is the Methodist Church. A devout group of followers of John Wesley settled in Beaver Creek Township and by 1872 had organized a Sunday School and Methodist class. They called Rev. E. H. Bronson from Wisconsin to come to Rock County to supervise the development of a church organization.

Rev. Bronson arrived on June 17, 1873 and three days later he preached to congregations in Beaver Creek and Luverne. Shortly

Luverne is turning 150/see page 12





Pictured are (left, top to bottom): Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Episcopal Church, (right, top to bottom) Unity Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Catholic Church

thereafter, the members of the two congregations united forming one church society.

Bronson's "parsonage" for the first six weeks in Rock County was a wagon cover which was utilized from the equipment of an emigrant train. Bronson organized churches and classes in Springwater, Kanaranzi, Ellsworth, Ash Creek, Magnolia and other places – all which operated under the Luverne circuit.

By December 1873, the Luverne Methodist Church became a corporate body. For the first four years they worshipped in the school building. On July 24, 1877, they began the fundraising for the building project and secured \$2,000.

The year 1875 witnessed the beginning of the Baptist Church in Luverne with Elder A. W. Hilton of Turner County, SD. Hilton traveled around the county preaching at the homes of various people. By October of that year, Sylvester Norton, B. F. Roderick, H. Hall, P. J. Kniss and A. C. Croft began preparations for incorporation and the erection of a church building. Lots were donated by P. J. Kniss and A. J. Warren. The arduous job of construction began. The constitution and articles of incorporation were adopted by the church on June 24, 1877. One year later, the church was admitted to the membership of the Baptist association. The congregation chose not to dedicate their church until the indebtedness was paid off. That event occurred on July 26, 1885, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation's organization.

The Synod Society is the oldest of what would be Luverne's three Norwegian Lutheran churches. The Society's organization can be traced back to the pioneers of Rock County in 1872. Rev. O. O. Sando came to Luverne frequently to preach at convenient places to families for the next 4 years. The Luverne Norwegian Evangelical Congregation received its first members on June 4, 1876.

For ten years, this congregation held services at different halls of the town. The corner stone for the church was laid on October 3, 1886 at the corner of Freeman Avenue and Luverne Street. The first structure was erected at a cost of \$2500 and first occupied for services on March 25, 1887. The Rev. A. O. Thurmo served as pastor for this congregation along with the congregation at Kenneth and the Trefolighed Church of Rose Dell Township.

St. Catherine's Catholic Church was also organized in the 1870's by early day settlers. The McDermotts, Ryans, McCarthys, Lynchs, Fitzgeralds, Hykes, McKeons and others were the founder of the congregation. They first regular pastor was Father Knauf. The home of Lawrence McDermott, below the Mounds, served as a frequent site of congregational worship. The first church was constructed at a cost of several thousands of dollars. By April 1908, the congregation laid the cornerstone for a magnificent large church. Built for \$20,000 and completed by December, the church served the needs of the congregation until today's new church was constructed in the 1970's.

The very first religious service held in Rock County was conducted by a Presbyterian minister, Dr. Rice, in the summer of 1868. Dr. Rice had accompanied a party of government surveyors that were operating in Rock County. He preached on August 12, 1868 on the summit of the Blue Mounds and gave an exposition of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. It wasn't until 1878 that a missionary stationed by the Synod, Rev. Charles Thayer, received a petition from nine persons to organize a Presbyterian church. The congregation built their first church in Luverne in 1881 at the cost of \$1,730.

As a result of a call, signed by 17 persons, the United Norwegian Lutheran Church was formed on

July 19, 1884. It was the second Norwegian speaking church in Luverne.

Our Savior's United Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was incorporated in July, 1886. The congregation worshipped in private homes and in the Courthouse for many years until a church was building on the corner of McKenzie and Luverne Streets at a cost of \$2,000. In 1909, Rev. J. Mundahl located in Luverne. For many years, the church was called "Mundahl's church."

On Sunday, October 31, 1886, the first Unitarian service was conducted in Luverne by Rev. J. R. Effinger. The Unity Congregational Church was organized as a result on December 10, 1885. The congregation began construction in April, 1889 at the southwest corner of Freeman and Lincoln streets. For the past 20 years, the building has been the home of the Masons and the Rock County Historical Society's Rock County Museum.

The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Luverne was born in March, 1883 when Rev. D. Griffin Gunn of Worthington conducted an Episcopalian service in the Presbyterian Church. The Holy Trinity Parish was organized on June 25, 1891 and by August 19<sup>th</sup> of the same year – a cornerstone was laid. The building, of Sioux quartzite stone, was completed late in the fall at the cost of \$6,000. The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is the original church still standing in Luverne. The church building is located on the southeast corner of Luverne and Cedar Streets.

St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church commenced its life on July 12, 1891. Although services were regularly held, the organization wasn't officially formed until then. The ten original members were: John Ahrendt, Bernhard Ahrendt, Albert Ahrendt, Henry Meyer, Anton Roeder, William Stelling, Carl Kurth, William Mann, Carl Mannigel and Henry



C. Sodemann. The congregation worshiped in the Synod Norwegian Lutheran Church until they built their own building in 1895 at the cost of \$1,000.

A church of the Christian Society was established in Luverne in early 1897. A small building was constructed in 1898. The congregation was depleted after active members moved away and the congregation disbanded within a full year.

The third Norwegian Lutheran Church was founded in 1904. It was incorporated as the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Zion's Society. The congregation built a church 30' by 40' but when the Catholic moved to their new church building in 1908, the Free Lutherans moved to the site.

The Christian Science Society was organized in 1905 and operated without a building for many years.

## THE LODGES

Luverne's first lodge was the Masonic. The initial steps in the organization were taken in October, 1873 – before the town had a railroad. The lodge was administered under the Grand Lodge of Minnesota until a charter was granted. The charter for Ben Franklin Lodge No. 114, A. F. & A. M. was granted January 13, 1875. A second Masonic order, Luverne Commandery No. 22, Knights Templar, was founded in 1891 with Mark Swedburg serving as the first eminent commander. In October, 1892, a petition signed by 24 Masons and their wives requested a charter for a lodge of the Eastern Star.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows had a strong following in Luverne at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Three branches of the order were maintained. Myrtle Lodge No. 67 was the first (organized in 1878) and by 1911 had a membership of 167. Luverne Encampment No. 11 was organized in 1896 and Canton Luverne No. 19 was organized in 1910 with 35



charter members. The Odd Fellows owned a brick building on Main Street in which their lodge rooms were located. The property was purchased in October 1906 and was valued at \$7,000. Located at 108 East Main Street, the building is the only building in Luverne inlaid with pipestone. The women's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows was called the Rebekah Lodge. The local auxiliary was organized in 1892 and called the Jasper Stone Lodge No. 80. The lodge was an active organization with many well-respected local members.

Luverne was the home of a post of the Grand Army of the Republic since the spring of 1884. Its establishment was the result of a petition of 29 civil war veterans signing the document. The local organization was first called the Joe Hooker Post. In less than a month after its organization, the post was renamed as another Joe Hooker Post existed. The new name of the post was John A. Dix Post No. 95. The first officers were: E. D. Hadley, Commander; A. C. Croft, Senior Vice Commander; W. H. Halbert, Junior Vice Commander; Edward McKenzie, Adjutant; P. J. Kniss, Quartermaster; Ezra Rice, Officer of the Day; Edwin Gillham, Officer of the Guard; P. R. Schuyler, Surgeon; G. M. Henton, Quartermaster Sergeant; James Preston, Sergeant Major. The post was named after General John A. Dix, Secretary of the Treasury under President Buchanan. Dix had issued a famous order: "If any man attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot." The John A. Dix Post lived by that order. The G. A. R. auxiliary

was called the Women's Relief Corps. Wives and daughters of members of John Dix formed the organization in September of 1885.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen was organized in the early 1880's and later disbanded. It was reformed in 1890 and named the Luverne Lodge No. 66. By 1910, the organization boasted more than 100 members.

One of the largest and strongest fraternal organizations in Luverne was the Red Jasper Camp No. 154 of the Modern Woodmen of America. The lodge was formed in 1891 and by 1910, had 228 members. The auxiliary to this organization, Royal Neighbors of America, was also very active in Luverne's early days.

A Luverne fraternal order with a record for noteworthy achievement was Luverne Lodge No. 113, Knights of Pythias, which was organized in 1892 with 22 charter members. The Knights of Pythias possessed one of the most finely appointed lodge room in the country. The Chambers occupied the second floor of an elegant business block erected by the lodge in 1908, at the cost of \$16,000. The formal dedication of Pythian Castle Hall occurred on July 22, 1909. The Pythian Sister Lodge was the auxiliary of the organization and was very active in the community.

The Brotherhood of American Yeomen formed a Luverne chapter in 1908. They called themselves the Luverne Homestead No. 1856. The first officers and charter members were: C. L. Sherman, Arden Canfield, Nella Canfield, Alice Cocroft, Christian Boisen, George Cottrell, Irene Cottrell, James Wiggins and Edith Wiggins.

The American Brotherhood of America's Luverne Lodge No. 258, commenced on March 14, 1898. Initial members were George W. Cottrell, Emil Spriesterbach, Henry C. Brandenburg, Carl Johnson, Frank G. Loos, J. H. W. Koehn, Marie Koehn and George C. Bell.



## LHS Class of 1976 celebrates 40th high school reunion

Luverne High School Class of 1976 celebrated its 40th class reunion this past weekend in conjunction with Luverne's Buffalo Days celebration. Pictured in the front row (from left) are Deone Perkins Hemme, Aryln Sneller, Bill Ripley, Bob Vrtacnik, Sharon Remme Miller, Pat Teclaw, Nancy McGuire Versteeg, Joyce Forsberg Jacobson, Candy Rosin Gilbertson, (second row, left from middle) Betty Glaser, Jeanne Loose Vander Hoef, Jane Jarchow Huwe, Nancy DeJongh VanHeerde, Sara McClure VanNieuwenhuizen, (third row) Becky Arp Eeten, Steve Hoffman, Karen Pederson Petersen, Penny Ohlen Owen, Teresa Birkeland Ziebarth, Alma Stroeh Thomsen, (back row) Harold VerSteeg, Jill Wildung Schmidt, Brad Bouma, Rick Olson, Paula Petersen-Gilles, Dewey VanEngelenhoven, Duane Hemme, Dale Hunter, Tom Sargent, Steve Top, Steve Haper and Norris Thorson.



## Class of 1961 meets for reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1961 celebrated a reunion during Buffalo Days on June 4 at The Bluestem in Luverne. Pictured are (front row, from left) Alice Schmidt, Jerilyn Britz, Alice Henningsen Phillips, Emily Davis Walgrave, Linda Remme Jones, (second row) Tom Serie, Bill Miller, Mary Oeding Scheffert, Nicky Wendt Stubbe, Howard Gangestad, Lorna Jauert Schoeneman, Lorna Forrest Hansen, Kathy Juhl Heeren, Albert DePauw, (third row) Roger Bell, LeRoy Thompson, Dick Herman, Harold Stroh, Dave Arends and Gordy Hamann.



# Reunions in the Making

## Class of 1951

### 65th Class Reunion

September 23 & 24, 2016

Friday—Get-together at Pizza Ranch –5pm  
Saturday—TSBF Parade—9:30 am  
Saturday—Reunion at Sterling's Café & Grille  
(Happy Hour 5 pm & dinner to follow)

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

## Class of 1981

### 35th Class Reunion

July 22-23, 2016

Friday—Informal get-together at  
Howling Dog Saloon  
Saturday— Eagles Club—6 pm

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

## Class of 1966

### 50th Class Reunion

September 23 & 24, 2016

Though time, distance and age may have separated classmates, there are precious memories to share! Join us for the celebration during Tri-State!

Contact: Jennifer Holsen

## Class of 1987

### 30th Class Reunion

July 14-15, 2017

Come celebrate with us during Luverne's  
150th Anniversary!



## Hardwick's 125th

June 23-24-25, 2017

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

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



## LUVERNE'S 150th Celebrated All Year!

Special Events—  
July 13-14-15-16, 2017

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

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Carol Schumacher Serie, Patti Kirby Pierson, Rock County Opportunities and Lori Sorenson.

***1304145***

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***Alumni News***  
709 North Kniss Avenue  
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