



"It was a touching moment for me to see my family's legacy all in a row."

— Tanya Light, Luverne. Her great-grandfather, F. A. Leicher, started Luverne Fire Apparatus Co., and her grandfather, Bob, and father, Jim, followed in his footsteps making fire trucks for cities across the U.S.

Twenty-one Luverne Fire Apparatus trucks returned to Luverne July 15 and formed a procession for the 150 parade.

Happy 150th birthday, Luverne!

Photos and text by Mavis Fodness

Sunday, July 15, wrapped up Luverne's 150th Celebration with Tom Getman's message at First Presbyterian Church.

His message, "Grandparents ride with us in today's fields," was a tribute to Luverne's forefathers, and he reminded the audience that "those progenitors still walk with us in spirit."

Tanya Light reflected on her family's ancestry and their contributions during Saturday's parade. Her great-grandfather F. A. Leicher started Luverne Fire Apparatus Co., and her grandfather, Bob, and father, Jim, followed in his footsteps making fire trucks for cities across the U.S.

Twenty-one of those fire trucks traveled to Luverne Saturday and formed a procession that Light will never forget.

"It was a very touching moment for me to see my family's legacy all in a row," she said.



Jane Wildung Lanphere and Lorna Bryan were honored as parade marshals Saturday, July 15 in the 150th celebration parade on Luverne's Main Street.

The gathering of red Luverne fire trucks was the work of John Wurm of Forest Lake, who contacted Light about an article he is writing for a trade magazine. He was looking for pictures of Luverne fire trucks.

Light, as it turns out, was looking for information about her great-grandfather for an exhibit at the History Center in Luverne.

With the information exchanged

and Luverne's 150th celebration approaching, Wurm sent letters to surrounding fire departments, which still had a vintage Luverne Fire Apparatus truck.

The Leichers manufactured fire trucks in Luverne from 1928 to 1973.

The parade featured trucks through the decades.

"It was really cool to see all the trucks," Light said.

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending June 30, 2017, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$1,914.99. In the memorial section below, the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials. THANK YOU, READERS!

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, July 2017, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:
Alumni News
 709 N. Kniss Avenue
 Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Balance 3/31/17	\$1,570.74
Donations:	1,914.99
DFS Support:	1,000.00
Expenses:	
Printing:	919.07
Postage:	1,479.30
Office supplies:	742.84
Labels	725.11
Database support:	106.25
Paypal fees:	4.82
Balance 6/30/17	\$508.34

Memorials

Ray Mannigel '40

Linda Mannigel Schmitz

Dorothy (Gonnerman) Koens '46

Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46
 Ruth (Gonnerman) McClure '47

Jean (Bofenkamp) Simmonds '46

Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46

Tillie (Heronimus) Moerke '46

Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46

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Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen) '50 Luethje
 Marilyn Bloemendaal - Friend

Roger Brandenburg '55

Dwayne Johnson '55

Lois (Binford) Hatting '56

Dale Stoterau '56

Arvin Rolfs '57

James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

Loretta (Olson) Johnson '57

James '60 & Beatrice (Olson) '62 Maxwell

Rick Olson '72
 Terrence Olson '68

John Ronlund '58

Steve Brown '58

Judy (Stuckenbroker) Hawes '58

Mary Ann (Woodley) Hustad '58

Donna (Oye) Stoterau '60

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Beatrice (Olson) Maxwell '62

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Stephanie (Anderson) Frackman '62
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Wayne Emery '62

James '60 & Beatrice (Olson) '62 Maxwell

Marvella (Graphenteen) Wilson '63

Joe Rowe '63

Steven Heck '63

Pat (Hatting) Phillips '59

Gary Frakes '66

Class of 1966

Marlin Melzer '74

Sharon (Melzer) Jenniges '72

Jason Krueger '00

Alexander '00 & Sally Serie Kirk & Sommer (Serie) '95 Darling
 Rick '70 & Carol (Schumacher) '70 Serie

Barb Connell - Friend

Gary '67 & Barb Golla Marilyn Bloemendaal - Friend

Roy Snyder - Band Director

Robert Helgeson '46

Contributions

Andrew Wineland - Friend
 Betty (Wulf) Justin '46
 Hardwick All School
 Reunion
 Kathaleen (Doyle) Cox '43
 Laresa DeBoer '90
 Leonard '45 & Irene (Lapic) '45 Hansen
 Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50
 Randy Arp '75
 Sally Ripley '73

What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

ANDY SCHMIDT (LHS 1972) sends greetings to all his friends from LHS. Andy and his wife Jean live fulltime in a motorhome. They travel around the country visiting family in both Maryland and Minnesota. In between times, they explore this great country trying their best to avoid the frigid weather. They headquarter out of their home in Green Cove Springs, FL.

LUVERNE'S 150TH WAS A HIT

Luverne's 55th Annual Hot Dog Nite kicked off a weekend of celebration for the city's 150th Birthday Party. More than two years "in the making", the 150th Committee and the City of Luverne pulled out all the stops to craft a wide variety of memorable opportunities for everyone.

Our world-famous Hot Dog Nite included our classic events like 15,000 hot dogs being given away by Luverne merchants, a wiener dog beauty pageant, wiener dog races, performances on Main Street, opening of the tap room at Take 16 Brewing Company and the 7th Annual Wienerman Triathlon. Dave Duffy, organizer of the triathlon, hosted Casey Muessigmann of Season 3 of The Voice for a free Main Street concert on the grounds of the newly completed History Center (former Herman Motor building) to top the night!

Friday morning the town was buzzing with residents and visitors taking the opportunity to experience all the great things happening in Luverne. At 9 am, approximately 2 dozen people participated in a "Walk on the Prairie" with US Fish & Wildlife naturalist Howard Paul at Touch the Sky Prairie. Many of us remember in the 1970's when Nelson Brothers closed and the second floor of that famous building was removed, essentially closing Luverne's only "mall". On July 14th at 9:45 am – the Luverne Area Chamber hosted the official ribbon cutting event for our new "Mall on Main" which features four wonderful local boutique businesses; ReBorn Home Furnishings (Kathy Vander Lugt and Becky Feikema), Four Seasons Mercantile (Amy Kruger), Tyana's Boutique (Amy Van Essen) and Computer Tutors (Scott Wessels). The building has

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

Or email Jane Lanphere at
the Luverne Chamber:

luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

come full circle and has been remodeled into an attractive multi-business venue. Luverne residents Marilyn and Curt Bloemendaal, working with contractor Curt and Kellee Valnes, uncovered and re-purposed some of the Nelson treasures along with other Main Street collectibles to add to the charm of the Mall on Main.

Only a block east, the Rock County Historical Society completed the final phase of the exterior renovation for Luverne's 150th celebration. With stuccoing, painting, signage and landscaping were completed just a few days before – the new History Center certainly put its "best foot forward" as it

What We've Heard - Luverne's 150th/see page 4

Help us keep a good thing going; Alumni News is a worthwhile cause to support

The Alumni News is published by volunteers as a free gift for Luverne High School alumni who enjoy the quarterly updates on classmates and their hometown. This publication is the envy of school districts everywhere, as it also maintains a priceless database of our alumni dating back to classes that graduated decades ago. There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.

Today, it's easier than ever to support our efforts with your donations.

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OR donate online, **www.alumninews.info** and click on the **DONATE** button.

opened the doors for the weekend. The History Center features a treasure-trove of archival materials for family and local research.

The showroom area features a display of the Luverne Automobile Company and Luverne Fire Apparatus complete with vehicles and video/audio display highlighting the creativity of Luverne's first true manufacturing family – The Leichers.

Display cases in the lobby feature a wonderful collection of dolls including corn-husk, coal dolls to the ever-popular American Girl variety.

Walk a few more steps to access the bay area to enjoy displays on county life including agriculture, Main Street businesses, education, home life and faith. Open only a few weeks ago, the RCHS Christmas Haus is an adorable gift store that features signature nutcrackers, branded Luverne gift items, Christmas decor and many other gift items. All proceeds from the Christmas Haus support the Rock County Historical Society.

Later in the morning (and later in the afternoon), people had the opportunity to enjoy special educational programming coordinated by the Rock County Historical Society and supported by Green Earth Players along with area businesses. Live re-enactors shared stories of the lives of significant Luverne historic figures:

Philo, Malvina and Eva LuVerne Hawes were portrayed by Eric, Cheryl and Caitlyn Hartman on the bank of the Rock River. Philo Hawes was the founder of Luverne when he established a mail station on the bank of the Rock River in



Mavis Fodness photo/0720 Luverne 150th Friday Gunnar (left) and Knute Oldre portray Ed and Al Leicher at The History Center. The Leichers manufactured wagons and cars in Luverne before focusing on building fire trucks in Luverne from 1928 until it was sold in 1973.

1867. He named this town after his oldest daughter, Eva LuVerne.



More than 1,500 sugar cookies were handed out to end Luverne's 150th Parade including one to Beaver Creek's Grace Prohl, 4.

They were portrayed by Knute and Gunnar Oldre. RCHS President Betty Mann shared the life story of Minnesota's first woman undertaker, Inez Isabel Smith. I. I. Smith was also the original owner of Smith Furniture, whose granddaughter, Neva Brinkman and husband

Larry operated for many years.

Jacob Gerber was a self-made man who operated one of Luverne's most successful retail businesses in the early day. Portrayed by Dave Smith, Gerber built a hardware store that many of us fondly remember as Ben's Bakery. Gerber also built a grand home on Main Street called the Gerber House, now on the National Register. Many of us remember the home as the Holm Funeral Home.

The stories of the builders of the Palace Theatre are too numerous to mention. Herman Jochims had the vision to build a grand and great theatre and Maude Jochims was right by his side making sure it was "grand" in every sense of the word. Bruce Kurtz and Katie Walgrave portrayed this famous couple and were proud to "show off" their New Palace.

Quentin Aanenson, home on leave from the US Army Air Corps during WWII, stood alongside his Packard outside the Palace and was happy to share his life story to



More than 10,000 free hotdogs were consumed in Luverne Thursday night, July 13, for Hot Dog Night. Pictured in the photo below, Nicholas Christoffels from Trimont enjoys his supper on the Main Street curb.

What We’ve Heard — Luverne 150th/continued from page 4

passersby. Quentin was portrayed by his great-grandnephew, Hunter Ahrendt.

The rich written legacy and gift of story-telling of Al McIntosh, editor and publisher of the Rock County Star Herald for so many years, was shared by re-enactor Dale Nelson from a desk in the current offices of the Star-Herald.

E. A. Canfield, attorney and investor, left his mark on Luverne. Not only was he one of the original owners of the Stephens-Canfield Block (Sterling’s Café & Grille) but he wrote to Andrew Carnegie to ask for \$10,000 to build Luverne’s first library. George McDonald shared the story of E. A.’s life from behind the desk at the Carnegie.

One of Luverne’s most famous couples from our early days was R. B. and May Hinkly. Everett and Jan Brandenburg offered insight into the lives R. B. and May from their exquisite home, the Hinkly House, now owned and operated by the Rock County Historical Society.

Said to be Rock County’s first millionaire, A. D. LaDue built a magnificent house at 515 North Estey Street. One of the founders of the First National Bank and avid community investor, A.D.’s life from rags to riches was shared by re-enactor Mike Jarchow. Mike is the current owner of the home and has lived there for 34 years. He and his wife Wanda have artfully restored the home to its original grandeur.



The Luverne Trolley offered “What’s Happening in Luverne” trolley tours from the base at the Luverne Area Chamber during Friday morning and afternoon. These tours provided the opportunity to hear and see all the exciting things that have happened and are happening in Luverne including commercial, residential, recreational and industrial development.

Friday night offered entertainment opportunities for people of all ages. Take 16 Brewing Company had a Block Party like no other when they offered a free concert by “The Suburbs”. The concert along with the celebration of the tap room opening brought hundreds of people together. Thanks to Wendy Grill and the Class of 1967, the Luverne Armory was filled with fun on Friday night as the band “Surfin’ Safari” took the stage. It was a blast from the past when the doors open and people poured in for a night of fun.

We all love a parade and the 150th was one to remember. With friends, families, businesses, organizations and institutions getting together – the 128 unit parade was fun for all! Kicking off the parade were the color guards from our Minnesota National Guard

Unit – Luverne & Pipestone and the American Legion & VFW Post Honor Guard. Luverne Area Chamber staff members Lorna Siebenahler Bryan and Jane Wildung Lanphere were honored to be selected by the 150th Committee as parade marshals.

A special shout-out has to go to Tom Wurm (a researcher and author writing a book on the remaining Luverne manufactured fire trucks) in collaboration with Tanya Leicher Light who arranged for 20 antique Luverne Fire Apparatus fire trucks to drive through the parade immediately following our Luverne Fire Department.

The Luverne High School and Middle School Bands joined together to parade down the route playing the rousing school song! Mayor Patrick Baustian was honored to drive members of the Luverne Senior Citizens on the route. Representing Senior Center membership were Dallas Bowron, Ruth Ashby and Helmer Haakenson whose combined ages totaled 300 years! (We have a way to go!) The parade ended with the host committee distributing 1,500 Luverne “Love the Life” 150th cookies to the crowd!

One of the highlights of the weekend was a special organ recital by the 19 year old Ryan Hardy of Fargo, ND. Ryan had just received second place title in the National Theatre Organ competition in Florida. Our Historic Palace Theatre is home to a wonderful theatre organ that was installed almost 100 years ago. Said to be the only organ of this type still in its original “home”; Hardy delighted the full house with a multi-media concert. Not only was the crowd astounded by the sound the organ could make, Hardy also used live camera footage, photos and videos to show and teach people about the organ. The program titled, “Uncovering the Hidden Gem of the Palace” certainly didn't disappoint any of the attendees.

The 150th Party at the Park lived up to its billing. Luverne natives and residents provided an outstanding night of live musical entertainment. Three stages at the Park offered entertainment options for everyone. Not Exactly, Neo Johnson, Tequila Sunrise and John David & the Jerks were the musical groups that entertained the throngs of crowds. Luverne grads Jim Groth and Colby Anderson shared the solo stage to the delight of the attendees. The Bluestem, Sterling's Café & Grille and Pizza Ranch offered up their delicious fares.

The Chamber served delicious Stensland Dairy ice cream (made in Larchwood, IA) from the Dairy Association's Ice Cream Wagon. Take 16 Brewing Company provided beverage options of all types including the special 150th Anniversary beer profile – the delicious Luverne Lager. (This copper lager yields malty character while remaining quaffable and balanced, brewed by Take 16's Luke Rensink.)



Mavis Fodness photo/0720 Luverne 150th Parade
Luverne Building Center's float based on Disney's “Up” earned first place among business entries during Saturday's parade. Riding the float (from left) are Cora Fransen, Lori Mead, Heather Fransen holding Asher, Oliver Mead and Gavin Mead. Theme of the float was “We're UP for the next 150! Happy Birthday, Luverne.”

Ending a great day was a spectacular fireworks show put together by Luverne's officially licensed “shooters” – Jonathon Kurtz and Jeremy Lehman. These two Luverne firefighters recently completed the process of becoming licensed by the State of Minnesota to operate a fireworks show. The spectacular display was shot from the west bank of the Rock River and south of Redbird Field to the delight of party goers – capping off a full day of fun for Luverne's 150th.

Sunday morning, LHS 1959 grad and Rock County Hall of Fame member Tom Getman shared his message from the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church speaking about the importance of our ancestors and how they made us the people we are today.

Ethnobotanist Jeffrey Emmel hosted 18 people for



Mavis Fodness photo/0720 Luverne 150th Friday

An audience gathers around the Hartman family Friday morning, July 14, as they portray three members of the Hawes family. Caitlin, Cheryl and Eric Hartman dressed as Eva Luverne, Melvina and Philo Hawes, who claimed land near the banks of the Rock River in 1867. Hawes named the developing town after his daughter, Eva Luverne.

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a walk at Touch the Sky Prairie that featured how the native prairie plants provided medicine for both Native Americans and pioneers.

The Rock County Ministerial Association hosted the 150th Community Worship Service on Sunday afternoon at the American Reformed Church. This special service brought people of all denominations together to thank God for His grace and generosity that created the community that we live in, a community that from its beginning is a place where we "Love the Life."

But the 150th Party isn't over. The Committee continues to offer and put together special opportunities for everyone to celebrate! August 21st is the "Not Quite Bonnie Tyler – Total Eclipse of the Sun" party at Touch the Sky Prairie.

August 26th and 27th is a special opportunity to celebrate the past with Luverne's first "Stars and Stripes USO Show" at the Palace Theatre featuring

Bob Hope, Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra, Andrews Sisters and the Fulda Big Band. September 1st – Rodger Ossenfort, Jerold Mann, Ken Vos and Peter Bakken are hosting the 150th Tractor Ride (a 51 mile tractor ride throughout Rock County).

Sunday night, September 3rd, the 150th Committee is collaborating with Glenn Burmeister when the Verne Drive In hosts a "blast from the past" with the cult classic movie – "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

There is plenty to do in Luverne and plenty of reasons to "Love the Life" in your hometown! Hundreds and thousands of people deserve our thanks and gratitude for putting together a wonderful celebration honoring our past.

The Luverne 150th Committee knows that the co-operation and sense of community that has brought us to where we are today will continue to create the opportunity for an even brighter future. Luverne – always a great place to live, work, play and visit!

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1940-1949

Raymond "Ray" Mannigel '40 died on April 17, 2017, in Canton, MO. Ray attended the University of Minnesota and enlisted in the Navy in 1942, serving in the Pacific arena during WWII. In 1946, Ray returned to the University of Minnesota to finish his degree in Agriculture Education. He was a hatchery inspector before settling on his wife's family farm in Palmyra, MO, where they farmed, became involved in the community and raised their family.

Ray is survived by his children, Linda (Dan) Schmitz of Ewing, MO; David (Becky) Mannigel of Palmyra, MO, and Sarah (Gary) Washburn of Lakeland, FL; 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Katharine and his sister, **Margaret '42**.

Jean C. (Bofenkamp) Simmonds '46 died April 5, 2017, in Manhattan, KS. Jean graduated from the College of Saint Teresa in Winona, MN after high school. Jean married Richard "Dick" Simmonds in 1952; they were married 60 years. Jean was a champion skeet shooter, golfer, tennis player and classical pianist. After her husband's retirement, they made their home in Minnesota and Naples, FL.

Jean is survived by her six children: Daniel (Nancy) of Ft., Wayne, IN, Michael, San Rafael, CA, Mary Leisz, Minneapolis, Kathleen (Michael) Oldfather, Manhattan, KS, John (Tina), Elk River, MN, David (Maria), Honolulu, HI; and former daughter-in-law, Joy Zellers Simmonds, Venice, FL. Other survivors include 14 grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, six nephews and one niece. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard "Dick" Simmonds; her sister, **Joan '44**

Donahoe, Sioux Falls, SD; and her former son-in-law, Dennis Leisz, Hopkins, MN.

Dorothy (Gonnerman) Koens '46 died June 20, 2017, in Luverne. After graduating from high school, Dorothy worked at the First National Bank in Luverne and then Marquette National Bank in Minneapolis. She returned to Luverne to work for Northwestern Bell Telephone. Dorothy was united in marriage to George Koens on June 3, 1951, in Luverne. They raised their family in the Hills and Beaver Creek areas until 1973, and then they purchased a farm near Hardwick. In 1986, the couple moved to Luverne and Dorothy worked at the Mary Jane Brown Nursing Home and later at the Heritage House for ten years. She retired and moved to the Luverne Centennial apartments in 2008.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Richard Koens, St. Louis Park, MN; and Linda (James) Barnhart, Woodbury, MN; four grandchildren; two great grandchildren; two sisters, **Ruth '47 McClure**, Luverne; Marlis (Les) Kleinke, St. Cloud; one brother, Marvin (Margaret) Gonnerman, Luverne; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband George and two brothers, LeRoy and Douglas Gonnerman.

1950-1959

Lylamae (Meinerts) Vandenberg '50 passed away on May 11, 2017. Lylamae married James Vandenberg in 1955 and they made their home in Windom, MN. They purchased a farm and moved near Worthington, MN. Lylamae was a stay-at-home mother and also worked as custodian at the American Reformed Church in Worthington. She later decided to purchase a property in town to fix up and

rent. When she finished that house, she took on more properties. Jim preceded her in death in 2002 and Lylamae then moved back to Luverne.

Lylamae is remembered by her children, Merle Vandenberg of Sioux Falls, SD, Darwin Vandenberg of Sioux Falls, Steven (Laura) Vandenberg of Sioux Falls, and Shirlene (Daryl) Kruse of Worthington; two grandchildren; siblings, **John '56 (Linda '66) Meinerts** of Owatonna, MN, **George '58 (Sharon '63) Meinerts** of Luverne, **Louise '60 Wylie** of Chandler, Arizona, Carl Meinerts of Springtown, TX, and **Allan '67 (Evonne) Meinerts** of Luverne; sister-in-law, Martha **Meinerts '53** of Lakeville, MN; and many nieces, nephews and relatives. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Lowell Meinerts, Enola Kortlever, and **Claryce '53 Phillips**.

Arthur Dahlen '50 passed away on June 6, 2017, in Luverne, MN. In February 1953, Art enlisted in the US Army. After serving during the Korean War, he returned home to Minnesota. On June 4, 1955, Art was united in marriage to Donna Mae Albertson. The couple settled on the Dahlen family farm northeast of Luverne until retiring and moving into Luverne in 1985. He began working with Siebenahler Construction in 1987, and then went to work with W & N Construction from 1998 to 2010 when he formally retired.

Art is survived by his wife, Donna, of Luverne; his five children: **Nancy '74 Dahlen** and **Kariann '78 Sanny** of Brooklyn Center, MN; **Angie '81 Martin** of Sioux Falls, SD; **Elsa '83 Nitz** (Steve) of Rosemount, MN; and **Elaine '83 Hall** (Tim) of Sioux Falls, SD; a son-in-law, David Carlson of Sioux City, IA; thirteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren: and a

Remembering our classmates/see page 9

sister, **Shirley '46** Dahlen, of Minneapolis, MN. He was preceded in death by a daughter, **Lori '76** Carlson; granddaughter Anne Carlson and son-in-law **Dave '79** Sanny.

Arvin G. Rolfs '57 passed away on April 1, 2017, in Robbinsdale, MN. After high school Arvin attended Brookings State University, Brookings, SD, graduating with a teaching degree in English, Spanish and German. He taught in Elkton, SD and Bird Island, MN. Arvin later became employed as a programmer and computer analyst at Kato Engineering in Mankato, Pillsbury and Agri-Bank of Minneapolis. In 1985 he married Nancy Turtle.

Arvin is survived by his brothers **Dean '53** (Mary) of Maplewood, MN and **David '61** (Margie) of Shelton, WA; and nieces, nephews and many cousins. Arvin was preceded in death by his brother, Leonard of Kenneth, MN.

1960-1969

Marvella (Graphenteen) Wilson '63 passed away July 5, 2017, in Norwalk, WI. Marvella married Charles Arnold and had four children. After Charles died, she married Ron Wilson. Marvella owned and operated Wilson's Country Café in Ontario, WI.

Marvella is survived by her four children, **Debbie '81** (Tim Esser) Schomacker, **LouAnne '82** (Todd) Brinkhous, **Janet '86** Arnold, and Wayne (Shelly) Arnold; nine grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; three brothers, Harold (Yvonne) Graphenteen, Dale Graphenteen, and David (Kim) Graphenteen; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Marvella was preceded in death by her husband **Charles '62** Arnold, and husband Ron Wilson; and a sister, Maxine Kruger.

Gary D Frakes, DVM '66 passed away on May 2, 2017, in Magnolia, TX. After high school, he attended the University Of Minnesota College Of Veterinary Medicine in St. Paul, MN where he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1974. Gary worked as a state or track Vet in many race tracks around the country and spent the last 16 years at Texas race tracks in Houston and Dallas. He retired in Magnolia, TX, where he bred, raised and raced thoroughbred race horses.

Gary is survived by his mother, Marie Frakes of Luverne; his brother, **Michael '69** (Julie) of New Brighton, MN; nieces, Nicole and Sarah; nephew, Matthew (fiancé, Sara); and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Marion Frakes; and his sister, **Laura '70** Frakes.

1970-1979

Audrey Faye Baker '79 died May 16, 2017, in Edgerton, MN. Audrey moved to Worthington shortly after graduating high school where she briefly worked at the DAC. She enjoyed gardening, plants and animals.

Audrey is survived by her six siblings, Gary (Thelma) Baker, Edgerton; Hattie (Elmer) Haak, Dell Rapids, SD; Bea (David) Sieps, Madison, SD; Freda (Greg) Nordstrom, Sioux Falls, SD; Marlene (Daryl) Akland, Beresford, SD; and Marilyn (Walter) Halbleib, Baltic, SD; many nieces & nephews; and many great nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; and an infant great nephew.

1980-1989

Shane M. Klay '89 passed away in Sioux Falls, SD on May 22, 2017. Shane was united in marriage with Michelle Bradwisch on November 9, 2001 in Sioux Falls, SD. Shane was a master of all trades. He recently had undertaken the task of fixing up an old farmhouse him and his wife had purchased near Colton, SD.

Shane is survived by his wife, Michelle, Colton, SD; two daughters, Nicole Leinen, Marshall, MN, Brittany (Brandon) Dufour, Nisswa, MN; two grandchildren; three step-children, Ashley (Christian) Arambula, Sioux Falls, SD, Chelsea Isaacson and Joshua (Chandler Zweggart) Isaacson, Sioux Falls, SD; five step grandchildren; father, Duane (Sheri Padgett) Klay, Brandon, SD; his mother, **Donna '71** (Mike) Rank, Knoxville, IA; his grandmother, LillyAnn Sammons, Luverne, MN; two siblings, **Josh '01 (Dana '03)** Klay, Magnolia, MN, and **Heather '92** (Dan) Vacura, Bloomington, MN; and three stepsiblings, Jo Davis, Amanda Deilke and Colton Padgett, Brandon, SD.

7th grader at Luverne Middle School

Daniella "Dani" Rose Gacke, passed away on June 15, 2017, in Luverne, MN. Dani was born on June 9, 2004 to **Anthony '83** and Wendy (DeLaRosa) Gacke. She was raised in Luverne and was a member of St. Catherine's Church. Dani took her own life at the age of 13 years old and six days.

Dani will continue to live on in the hearts of many. She was seldom seen without a smile. She loved to tell stories but could rarely finish them because of her laughter. Dani played the violin and enjoyed music of all genre. She loved playing basketball, running track and spending time with

**Monday
AUGUST 21**

The Not Quite Bonnie Tyler...

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN PARTY

At Touch the Sky Prairie

The Brandenburg Prairie Foundation is pleased to announce an event like no other!

Join MN Natureworks bio-botanist Jeffrey Emmel & Brandenburg Prairie Foundation as they host this special event at **Touch the Sky Prairie**. Bring your brown bag lunch, chair or blanket, sunscreen, sun/safety glasses, water and sit back to watch this once in a lifetime celestial event.

The eclipse will begin in this area at **11:38 am** on Monday, August 21st. The maximum viewing will be at **1:02 pm** and over at **2:26 pm**.

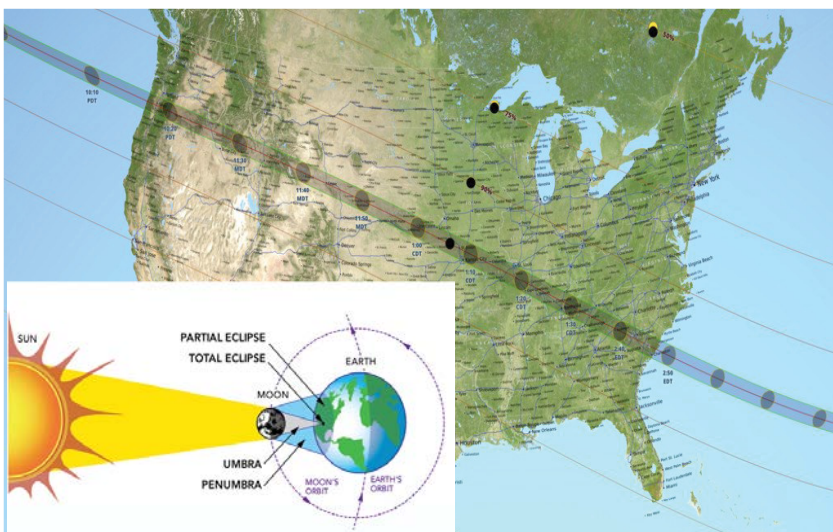
The total solar eclipse of August 21, 2017 is the first total eclipse visible from America's lower 48 states in over 38 years. The last one happened in 1979 and passed through the Pacific Northwest and central Canada in late winter. This year, the total eclipse passes within a narrow corridor that traverses the United States from the Pacific Northwest to the Southeast crossing a dozen states: Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina (a tiny corner of Montana and Iowa are also inside the path). A partial eclipse is seen within the much broader path of the Moon's penumbral shadow, which includes all of North America, the northern third of South America, and westernmost Europe and Africa.

Free safety glasses for first 200 people!

Hosted by the
Brandenburg Prairie Foundation



For additional information:
Luverne Chamber 507 283-4061



her teammates. Nurturing was part of her personality and she often could be found caring for many of her farm animals such as cows, chickens, dogs, but she especially loved her cats.

Dani is survived by her parents, **Anthony '83** and Wendy; three brothers, **Marco '11** Gacke of Marshall, MN, Joseph Gacke of Moorhead, MN, and **Jonathan '15** Gacke of Duluth, MN; maternal grandparents, Enrique and Marie DeLaRosa; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and numerous friends. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Cletus and Leona Gacke.

Friend of Luverne Graduates

Barbara Connell passed away on June 8, 2017, in Luverne, MN. She grew up near Jasper and graduated from Jasper High School. Barb married Keith Connell on December 9, 1947.

They lived in Luverne and raised their family of ten children in a home where family and friends were always welcome. Barb had the ability to make everyone feel special and always had a positive outlook on life.

She also had a passion for cooking and baking. Barb was well known for her whistling ability and for being an eight

year hospice graduate. She accomplished her goal of living out her life in her home of sixty seven years.

Barb is survived by her ten children, **Stephanie '66** (Bill) Heyer, Eden Prairie, MN; **Timothy '67** (**Connie '68**) Connell, Luverne; **Mary '70** (Carl) Steerman, West Bend, WI; **Patrick '72** Connell, Luverne; **Charles '76** Connell, Luverne; **Megan '77** (Tom) Nelson, Luverne; **Robert '79** (Sandy) Connell, Cambridge, MN; **John '81** Connell, Luverne; **Casey '84** Connell, Panama City, FL; and **Kathryn '86** (**Pat '81**) Baustian, Luverne; seventeen grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, **Florence '39** Connell, Kansas City, MO; and special friends, Barb Dispanet, Sara Lanoue and Dr. Judy Chesley. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Keith '43**; three brothers, Francis, Peter and Eddie DeClerk; and two sisters, Helen Kollman and Gertrude Leister.

Constance "Connie" Nash died on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, in Luverne. She graduated from Adrian High School in 1941 and then pursued an education at the University of Minnesota. On February 11, 1944, Connie married Carl Nash. Connie was a homemaker and seamstress for many years. She also helped out

with many parts of their business, Nash Welding & Machine. Carl died on September 28, 1979.

Connie had begun as a secretary to the Luverne High School and she continued in this capacity until her retirement on June 30, 1990.

She was a wonderful caregiver and greatly appreciated the students at school that she watched over. She loved music, dancing, camping, bowling and baking. Connie was very optimistic and loved people and the relationships that they brought to her life.

Connie is survived by her five daughters, **Cindy '64** (Edward) Rosier of Gillette, WY, **Linda '67** (Steve) Bovendam of Brooten, MN, **Kathy '69** (Greg) Palm of Bemidji, MN, **Becky '75** Nash (Jeff Eng) of Bemidji, and **Janet '80** Nash (Preman Singh) of Sioux Falls, SD; 19 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Esther (Del) Thue of Hastings, MN, Marlys Myers of Stuart, FL, and Ann Hansen of Beloit, WI; and other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; grandson, Joshua Nash Mitchell; three brothers, Lawrence, Arnold and Clayton Overgaard; and three sisters, Elva Campbell, Bertha Baustian and LaVonne Henderson.

Online Alumni News goes green, saves green

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

A new update is here:

You are able to read your Alumni News online.

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

Please email

Patti Pierson (NEW ADDRESS):

piersonprp@alliancecom.net



HISTORY CENTER

312 EAST MAIN STREET - LUVERNE - 56156 - 507.283.2122
RCMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

The Rock County Historical Society operating out of their new headquarters at the History Center (the former Herman Motors Building) houses extensive printed and photo collections of Luverne and Rock County History.

We are asking for your help as we try to put together a complete and permanent collection of Luverne High School Yearbooks. We are currently looking for the following LHS Yearbook editions.

These are the Yearbooks we are looking for:

1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1950, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



...a blast from the past
ONE NIGHT ONLY!



VERNE DRIVE IN THEATER

Sunday - September 3

Props & Costumes Encouraged!

Luverne



2017

51 mile ride!

Friday - September 1

Registration—8 am—Luverne City Park

OPEN TO ANY SHAPE, SIZE, AGE & COLOR!

\$25.00—Breakfast & Lunch Included

No dual wheels!

**Tractors need to be able to safely travel
10 MPH and be equipped with slow moving
vehicle sign on the back.**

Riders allowed only with properly mounted seat.

**Drivers are required to have legal drivers license
and are responsible for their own insurance.**

Absolutely no alcohol allowed during the ride!

CONTACTS & INFO:

**RODGER OSSENFORT
507 920-0036**

**JEROLD MANN
507 220 - 8293**

**KEN VOS
507 220-7673**

**PETER BAKKEN
507 376-3640**



Another great event in celebration of Luverne's Sesquicentennial!

150TH STARS & STRIPES
USO
SHOW

Experience an authentic USO Show re-enactment!

★—TICKETS—★
GO ON SALE
MONDAY, JULY 17

FEATURING

Our host Bob Hope
(aka Michael Johnson)

“Big Sound of Real Swing”
with the Fulda Big Band

WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY

Marilyn Monroe
(aka Jorie Kosel)

Frank Sinatra
(aka Todd Eckhart)

The Andrew Sisters

Sheila Crowley

Spotlight Dance’s “Swing Troop”



SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 ★ 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY MATINEE, AUGUST 27 ★ 2 P.M.

HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE
MAIN STREET ★ LUVERNE

We encourage time period appropriate attire!

TICKETS RESERVED SEATS \$20 (STUDENTS 12 & UNDER \$10)

AVAILABLE AT THE PALACE THEATRE BOX OFFICE ★ 507-283-4339

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Reunions in the Making

Class of 1958

60th Class Reunion

September 29, 2018

Tri-State Band Festival Day

6 pm Happy Hour/7 pm Dinner

Blue Stem (Former Magnolia Steakhouse)

Contact Connie (Rusche) Wieneke for more info

Class of 1982

35th Class Reunion

July 28-29, 2017

Friday—Take 16 Brewery

Saturday—Eagles Club

Contact: Sharon Hoff Knoll knoll@alliancecom.net

Class of 1963

55th Class Reunion

Summer 2018

Date undecided at this time but more information will be coming out to you soon. *Hope to see you all there!*

Any questions email Patti Kirby Pierson:
piersonprp@alliancecom.net

Class of 1973

45th Class Reunion

June 2, 2018

Luverne's Buffalo Days Weekend!

Evening Dinner—Luverne Country Club

More information coming!

For more info: Betty (Hitch) Schnettler
320 224-4727 bettyschnettler55@gmail.com



HISTORY CENTER

312 East Main Street - Luverne - 56156 - 507.233.2122
rcmuseum@gmail.com

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

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