Honor Flight closer to takeoff

By Lori Ehde

Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota will take to the airwaves this month when WNAX broadcasts interviews with Luverne veterans. The show will be aired on "Judy’s Journal" at 10:50 a.m. Jan. 18-22, Jan. 25-29 and Feb. 1-5.

WNAX radio personality Judy Stratmann, Yankton, S.D., recorded interviews with local World War II veterans Wednesday, Dec. 30.

The recording included information about fundraising efforts to send local veterans to the World War II Veterans Memorial this spring.

“This is our time to say, ‘Thank you,’” said Terrie Gulden, a volunteer for Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota.

The goal is to raise $136,000 to fund the flight, which amounts to roughly $800 per veteran. The immediate goal is to raise $70,000 so an airplane can be booked and a date set.

He said members of this "Greatest Generation" made untold sacrifices, but returned home quietly and resumed their lives without much ado.

Sending them on an all-expense-paid trip to the memorial built in their honor is an overdue gesture of thanks, Gulden said in his interview with Stratmann.

Stratmann sat down with a handful of veterans that day in the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building.

But they were predictably modest.

“They call us the greatest generation, but our parents deserve credit, too,” said World War II veteran Helmer Haakenson. “Our parents had to stay home and wait for news — hopefully good news.”

He said 16 million soldiers were employed in the war, and 600,000 were killed. He said all those families were affected and made...
Honor Roll of *Alumni News* Contributors

Compiled by Rhonna Jarchow

During this past quarter, September 9, 2009, through January 3, 2010, the *Alumni News* received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling **$1,113.04**.

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, for your support!**

**Memorials**

Mildred Bucknam Coonradt, '41  
Eileen Sunde Kopp, '41

Carmen Tatge Miller, '42  
Margorie Lea Walczak, '42

Betty Sanny Johnson, '45  
Carol Steiner Beck, '66

Pat Snyder Hagemeier, '46  
Grace Loose, '34

Rodney Ripley, '49  
Gene Olson, '51

Harry G. Hoffman, '50  
Mavis Winge Amundson, '50

Wayne Emery, '62  
Bill Mohr, '62  
Susan Reimer Mohr, '63  
Darlene Hitch Woolsey, '62  
Donna Paulson  
Hal Paulson, '60  
Jim Hatting, '66  
Carol Aanenson Hatting, '66

Larry Ossenfort, '65  
Ruth VanBatavia Wallig, '63

Loretta Olsen  
David Garcia, '57

**Contributions**

**Class of 1947**  
Martha Wiggins

**Class of 1954**  
Helen Haggard Rollag  
Carol Halverson Schaal

**Class of 1955**  
Marilyn Hatting Holland

**Class of 1960**  
Vivien Atkinson Wissink

**Class of 1964**  
Rich Iverson  
Cammy Martin Iverson

**Class of 1969**  
Keith Loger

**Contributions**

**Class of 1947**  
Martha Wiggins

**Class of 1954**  
Helen Haggard Rollag  
Carol Halverson Schaal

**Class of 1955**  
Marilyn Hatting Holland

**Class of 1960**  
Vivien Atkinson Wissink

**Class of 1964**  
Rich Iverson  
Cammy Martin Iverson

**Class of 1969**  
Keith Loger

**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 (Jan. 3, 2010). Please watch for the next issue, April, 2010 (Volume 20, Issue 3), for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:  
*Alumni News*  
c/o Rhonna Jarchow  
709 N. Kniss Avenue  
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

**Alumni News**  
**Financial Summary**

**Previous Balance:**  
Sept. 9, 2009 . . . . . . . . . . . . $5,027.07

**Expenses** for October, 2009, issue:  
RCO (Postage & Labor) . . $2,677.07  
Labels . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 266.31  
Printing . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 919.07  
Website . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 120.00

**Total Expense** . . . . . . ($3,982.45)

**Income** - Sept. 9, 2009, through  
Jan. 3, 2010 . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,113.04

**Current Balance** . . . . . . $2,157.66*

*The cost of the January, 2010, issue is unknown, but the estimated cost is $4,400.00.
Good news from the Burns family:
- **Tim (LHS ’68)** and wife Julie celebrated Tim’s 60th birthday with friends and family on November 16th in Sioux Falls
- **Molly Burns Davidson (LHS ’97)** is a Captain and member of the 101st Aireborn in Clarksville, KY. Her husband is retired from the Army and works with Homeland Security Department
- **Tony (LHS ’01)** completed his first year of work with the Principal Financial Group and has received recognition as one of the Top 10 Young Agents in the USA
- **Rob** is in his senior year at USD and plans to graduate mid-term 2010

**The LHS Class of 1989** celebrated their 20th reunion on July 18th. Kris Baustian Denevan sent a great picture of classmates and a $100 donation on behalf of the Class.

Christine Ronlund Marks (LHS ’43) writes Alumni News about her move from Florida to Baxter, MN, to be closer to her brother John. The beautiful lakes and woodland make Minnesota a great place to live. She adds that she has enjoyed reading about the All School Reunion in summer 2009!

Crista Dukleth Jeske (LHS 96) sends an update from her home in Eagan, MN. Crista and her husband, Chad, celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary. The Jeskes have two children; Emma (2 yrs) and Carter (born 7-28-09.)

Rich and Cammy (Martin) Iverson (LHS ’64) send greetings from Amery, WI. Rich retired in March 2008 when they moved back to the Minneapolis area. Both Cammy and Rich are involved in the development of their vineyard in western Wisconsin. Rich also enjoys playing in tennis leagues and Cammy is a facilitator for women’s legacy writing groups. The Iversons enjoy spending time with their daughters’ families and following their five grandchildren.

E.I. Olson (LHS ’38) of Golden Valley, MN, had a great time visiting Luverne. He took the opportunity to explore old haunts and meeting up with classmates Warren Herreid and Helmer Haakenson. Classmates met in what they called an impromptu mini-reunion at the “good ole” Magnolia Steak House for a night of reminiscing and tall tales. A good time was had by all!

Marilyn (Hatting) Hoiland (LHS ’55) writes from Tempe, AZ, where she has lived since 1961. Marilyn loves receiving each issue of the Alumni News and still thinks of Luverne as “home” … but when the weather is a little nicer!

Greetings are sent to all LHS Alumni from Rochester, MN, and Vivien (Atkinson) Wissink. Vivien is looking forward to seeing her 1960 classmates at their 50th reunion on July 16-18, 2010. She challenges her classmates to make plans to attend the reunion and she is looking forward to hearing about all the reunion plans coming together.
sacrifices.

Haakenson’s voice broke when he described a surprise homecoming and how his mother gave him the “biggest hug I ever had.” He added, “You learn to love your folks.”

Interviews with veterans

When Stratmann asked them about their most memorable military experiences, many of the men kept the conversation light. They spoke of romantic encounters during leave — many of which resulted in marriages that lasted 60 years or more.

Warren Herreid Sr. spoke of the day his oldest son, Warren Herreid Jr. was to be born. He was oversees and “liberated” some wine to celebrate with his comrades on his son’s due date.

“Then we found out he hadn’t been born yet,” Herreid laughed, adding that they celebrated again when he got news of the official birth.

Bill Veenhof also joked about non-military escapades but said the horrors of war will always haunt him.

“I recently heard this Iranian president who said the holocaust didn’t happen,” Veenhof said.

“I happen to know there was a holocaust, because I helped to liberate a concentration camp. ... It was the worst site I’ve ever seen in my whole life.”

He described a war-destroyed German city where a buzz bomb factory had stored piles of bodies of victims.

“They were carrying them across the street and dumping them in a ditch seven feet wide and about 150 feet long,” Veenhof said, searching for words to describe it.

“That’s the story that keeps coming back to me. ... There are times I don’t like to think about.”

Stratmann asked the veterans about their hopes to see the World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., through Honor Flight.

The national Honor Flight organization was formed in 2004 for the express purpose of funding flights for veterans to see the memorial built in their name.

How to give:

Honor Flight buttons are available for $5 at the Chamber office, Glen’s Food Center, First Farmers and Merchants Bank and Exchange State Bank.

For additional information contact Jane Wildung Lanphere, (888) 283-4061, (507) 920-5197 or luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us.

Several of the men admitted they’ve seen the memorial already, but they dearly hoped their friends could go.

Others said they liked the Honor Flight concept of sending them with their friends and with caregivers.

“I’m looking forward to the trip,” said Casey Van Englenhoven, who sounded grateful that there would be wheelchairs available.

“I’m not very good on my feet ... I’m just tickled to death that they’ll do that for us.”

A song in their honor

A highlight of the Dec. 30 radio interviews was a live performance of a song written exclusively for World War II veterans.

Lonny Carpenter, a Lake Benton pastor, wrote the song he said was inspired by World War II veterans.

“I just so appreciate all you gentlemen and what you’ve done,” Carpenter said before he started strumming his guitar.

The song, “The Greatest Generation,” is about World War II and how younger generations are thankful for the service of World War II veterans.

“... your sacrifice is not forgotten. It’ll never fade away,” Carpenter writes in Verse 4.

“We will never forget your love and all you had to pay, for all your sacrifice those days for the U-S-of A.”

Carpenter announced Tuesday that he plans to sell the CD he recorded, and 30 percent of the proceeds will go to Honor Flight.

The Dec. 30 recording, including Carpenter’s performance of the full song, will be aired on WNAX Yankton. The show will be aired on “Judy’s Journal” at 10:50 a.m. Jan. 18-22, Jan. 25-29 and Feb. 1-5.

The station can be found on the A.M. dial at 570, and online at wnax.com.
Joyce Wessels will be among Rock County residents lending family memoirs to the Herreid Military Museum for the WWI display. She has a detailed and elaborate scrapbook of her father’s service during WWI. His name was Thomas Reemts and he was 28 years old when he received notice in January 1918 that he should report for duty. Wessels’ scrapbook notes, “He realized his carefree days on the (rural Ellsworth) farm would soon be a thing of the past.”

**WWI display seeks items from community**

Ninety years ago, on November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared the observance of Veteran’s Day. That date was chosen because a mere year earlier, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the Treaty of Versailles was signed for the most part ending World War I.

For decades the world called that horrific conflict *the war to end all wars!* If that were only the case! Less than thirty years later America would be fighting a war in two separate theatres.

The Herreid Military Museum, which opened July 18, 2009, in the completely renovated Sheriff’s Home and Jail at the Rock County Courthouse Square, pays homage to the service of the brave men and women from Rock County who served in World War II.

In honor of the anniversary of Veterans Day, the Herreid Military Museum Committee begins the second phase of exhibit development.

The west portion of the museum will be dedicated to the story of Rock County citizen’s service in World War I.

Display items on the west side of the museum will be integrated into the current displays and a new exhibit will emerge on the west wall portion of the museum floor.

The Herreid Military Museum Committee is searching for pictures, letters, artifacts, stories and other memorabilia focusing on WWI.

The Committee invites Alumni to share the story of their families as the exhibit is developed.

If you have items (originals or copies) that you are willing to donate or loan, please contact Staff at the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building.

Contact: Jane Wildung Lanphere or Lorna Bryan of the Luverne Area Chamber Staffing the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building

213 East Luverne Street
Luverne, MN 56156
888 283-4061
luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us
### Alumni News staff seeks addresses

Listed below you will find alumni that we do not have a current address for. They are not receiving Alumni Newsletter. If you know of their whereabouts I would like your help in updating our files by furnishing their information. That also includes name changes and/or deceased. Please contact me at piersonprp@frontiernet.net or 507-669-2371 and leave a message. Thank you.

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<td>Class of 2021</td>
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Class of 1981
Abigail Himmelein
Sherry Korthals
Dellcene Nelson Truty
Jeff Abell
Tami Sturm
Nancy Rawls
Katherine Viessman
Mary Jo Welch Vail
Suzanne Korthals
Deanne Guy
Michele Mann Cofell
Terry Anderson
Arlis Slagel
Kerrilyn Gacke
Jared Engen
Mary Kraayenhof
Mark Dye
Antonio Malva
Jody Holm
Kerrilyn Gacke
Ann Caley Brantsen
Brenda Halverson
Wendy Cragoe Klemme
James Klosterbuer
Catherine LeBrun
Wayne Johnson
Wendy Cragoe Klemme
James Klosterbuer
Ariadna Luce
Patrick McFadden
Brenda Kruger Meyer
Bryan Miller
Ronald Richters
Trudy Krostine Schneidermann
Brian Stroh
Todd Platequal
Deanne Guy
Kimberly Heck
Ruth Fick Immerfall
Mandel Zwann
Ruth Fick Immerfall
Brian Hansen
Debbie Petersen
Todd DeGroot
Bryan Pike
Donna Swenson
Thomas Swenson
Kiem Ta
Myra Swenson
LaDawn Swenson

Class of 1988
Kathy Broer
James Busi
Sandrine Combies
Jeffrey DeGroot
Brenda Halverson
Pamela Kessler
Scott Kruger
Michelle Sandbulte Krull
Jon Maras
Janeen Marr
Chad McClure
Timothy McFadden
Lance Olhausen
Vincent Stickels
David Streeby
Peggy Stroh
Robyn Swenson
Bryan Thorson
Troy TofteIand
Ann Zewiske
Mandel Zwann

Class of 1983
Brenda Pike Dessendeaugh
Michelle Niessink Drake
Kenneth Holzman
Nikki Jansen
Sarah Johnson
Donna Cauwels Mulligan
Julie Loose Ober
Delores Wynia Peery
Debbie Petersen
Torben Sorensen
Bonnie Brinkhous Walters

Class of 1980
Suzanne Almeida
Craig Anderson
Todd Baker
Ronald Briggs
Todd Cook
Ann Davis
Bruce Haraldson
Karen Lonneman
Myron Lupkes
Michael Mitchell
Bryan Pike
Donna Swenson
Thomas Swenson
Kiem Ta

Class of 1975
Terry Anderson
Jeff Benson
Tachi Cazal
Kevin Fought
Kerrilyn Gacke
Jody Holm
Mary Kraayenhof
Nancy Navara
Bev Rawls
Bill Schrank

Class of 1972
Harley Blattner
Jeanne Clark
Jeri Crowder
Garnetta Slagel Cunningham
Kristie Cook Davis

Class of 1973
Susan Dehnerder
LeAnn Sedlacek Donahue
Larry Feuerhelm
Don Maras
Phil Maras
Bruce McClure
Gary Meinudes
George Milioris
Terry Schmidt

Class of 1974
Todd Anderson
Greg Benson
Jeff Boone
Ann Caley Brantsen
Tom Burns
Mark Dye
Dale Gangstad
Cindy Hansen
Roger Harms
Bruce Hartz
Jim Hofstet
Delwyn Huenink
Jim Kreuter
Tom Medill
Saralee Bakker Meinders
Marlin Melzer

Class of 1977
Brad Ackerman
Lisa Anderson Bass
Becky Frahm Bram
Wade Brooks
Darlene Koens Domeyer
Keiko Matsumaga
Marty Klosterbauer
Donald Lenz
Scott Pedersen
Arlis Slagel
Carol Staeffer Stueven
Kathy Thorson
Dawn VanHof VanderBeck
Brenda Weinzetl Vanland
Kartherine Viessman

Class of 1978
Perry Klosterbauer
Jack Kruger
Maria Ladstaetter
Dave Lange
Lori Lowe
Machelle Olmans
Bruce TofteIand

Class of 1976
Paul Alvik
Barbara Briggs
Christine Carlsen Debey
Julie Emery
Kevin Engen
Julie Scherhorn Fodness
Kathryn Korthank Hering
Steven Hoffman
Gracia Shelton Ladd
Jay Lindmeyer
Antonio Malva
Gloria Meyer
Sharon Frahm Nieuwoer
Shirley Plasterer Olson
DeAnna Rawls
William Ripley
Cindy Adamson Smedsrud
Cheryl VanDyk
Amanda Vicario
Donna Vocca

(Missing addresses cont. on p. 8)
Class of 1972 (cont)
Dennis Davis
Becky DeBates
JoAnn Jensen Emery
Lynn Walmsley Evans
Steve Loger
Dennis McNeil Jr
Virginia Swenson Moore
Joel Alan Nath
Vicki Nelson
Dean Olson
Sheri Karimi Sahlavi
Mike Sullivan
Charles Thompson
Jeanne Murphy Watson
Scott Wendt

Class of 1965
Yoshinao Akima
Morris Deitemann
Jim Geving
Randall Goembel
Gayle Petersen Henderson
David Kruger
Jean Johnson Riedeau
Donald Schmuck Jr

Class of 1961
Helga Lybye Dahlgaard

Class of 1959
Joan Gabrielson
Donna Moulton
Erich Vogt
Garrett Ahrendt Williamson

Class of 1954
Marilyn Meyer Munns
Reinhold Schmuck

Class of 1951
Delores Bullis Korgel

Class of 1947
Betty Thomas

Class of 1943
Donna Mae Cowan Couch
Anna Birkeland Larsen

Class of 1940
Grace Dubbe Lemon

Class of 1937
Arthur Covey
Janice Edmonds
Evelyn Skyberg Erickson
Alvin Martin
Dorothy Creeger Rath
William Wendt

Class of 1931
Gertrude Bendrich
Gertrude Williams Beneluck
Juanita Buchan
Carolyn Quinn Jay
Vernon Osgood
Leone Richards

Class of 1968
Allan Aust
Linda Clausen
 Nicolette Howard Darlow
Gary Frakes
Rodney McClure
Mary Maras Moorshead
Bill Murphy
Francis Rademacher
Linda Wyatt

Class of 1966
Linda Anderson
Umiiyi Parariboe Santoso

Class of 1958
Dennis Dubbe

Class of 1956
None

Class of 1953
None

Class of 1950
Gary Breiland
Clara Woltjer Homer
Clarice Torgerson Smith

Class of 1946
Jack Armstrong
Arlen Dicks
Edwin Mitchell
Charles Schneekloth

Class of 1939
Anna Nelson Byhre
Jack Rolfling

Class of 1936
Pearl Moi Bertrand
Mary Ann Tomsenson Nix
Mary Ann Tomsenson Nix
Evelyn Top
Marylin Peterson Wightman

Class of 1933
Norma Johnson Brust
Esther Hoime Micheel
Betty Haggard Pint

Class of 1973 (cont)
Debra Meyer Tilberg
Rochelle Wills
Edyth Mulder Wuydts

Class of 1970
Rainer Adamek
Gerald Bartholmaus
Robert Cook
Susan Crowder
Duane Foresberg
Eufrasio Gouveia
Roger Holmgren
John Holseen
Barbara Kor
Michael Larson
Eugene Siebenahler
Man Hysom Tarara
Vickie Anderson Throop

Class of 1964
Donna Goehle
Carol Norgard Harris
Cheryl Larsen Herrmann
Herbert Swanson
Sarahathwity Thambiah
Brian Wells

Class of 1960
Virginia Hora
Jeanette Shanks
Nesha Henely Skarbic
Jean Mitchell VanZanten

Class of 1955
Camille Paulson Hartmann
Margaret Larsen
Virginia Bryan VonHolt

Class of 1949
Jim King

Class of 1945
Wanda Thomas Klink
Doris Jensen Korthaus
Dorothy Thoms

Class of 1942
Phyllis Wendt Ritacco
Mildred Rogness Sheehan

Class of 1938
Beverly Marr

Class of 1935
Marion Berg
Maynard Davis
John Hawkinson
Elwood Hetland
Alice Larsen
Harvey Swenson
Ernest Tofeland
Margaret Vining

Class of 1930
Norma Helling Docken
Jessie Johnson Linn
Gladys Streeter Mennenga

Class of 1971
Sharon Hendrickson Hermanson
Steven Lugibill
Kyoko Kogura Mitsufujio
JoAnn Blount Neuhauser
Sandra Schutz
Chris Mohr Tororilla

Class of 1969
Jennifer Hendricks Breckenridge
Nancy Winter Browne
Barb Korthals Fletcher

Class of 1967
Loree Iveland Brown
Dominique Cheutin Otero
Patrick Creswell
Dennis Lemke
Mark Roberts
Jillene Smith
Terry Springer
Rochelle Thomas
JoAnne Visker Turner

Class of 1963
Susan Iveland Blankartz
Jeff Hagen
Allan Henely
Chuck Kienast
Jerry Sere

Class of 1957
Donna Tomlinson
Judy Urry

Class of 1952
Loren Hansen

Class of 1948
Alfred Anderson
Betti Moestad Schmidt

Class of 1944
Marvin Hill
Patricia Schriever

Class of 1941
Phyllis Steuven Brower
Mildred Bucknam Coonradt
Delores Blum Rhinesmith
Arlene Phillips Stewart
Marjorie Strouth

Class of 1934
Delphia Stein Haug
Leola Pack Lampy
James Merrill
Myrna Earl Tage

Class of 1932
James Hagedorn
Hazel Nelson Kruse
Helen Linville Shaw
Luverne Education Association names Teacher of the Year, Friend of Education

Greta Van Der Brink (left) accepts the Friend of Education Award on behalf of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Angela Ahrendt is the 2010 Teacher of the Year in Luverne.

Local volunteers, LHS graduate honored

By Lori Ehde

First-grade teacher Angela Ahrendt is the 2010 Teacher of the Year in Luverne, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program is the new Friend of Education.

The two were honored during an ice cream social celebration after school on Nov. 16 in the Luverne Elementary commons.

The annual event is the kickoff to American Education Week Nov. 15-21.

Rock County Administrator Kyle Oldre spoke at the event.

Oldre is a 1983 Luverne High School graduate, and he spoke about the influence teachers have in people’s lives long after high school.

He said he surveyed county employees who are LHS graduates about their teachers. He asked them who their most influential teachers were and why.

He shared some of those responses during the ice cream social, and then reflected on the conclusions he reached from the responses.

“You as educators have a lifelong impact on everyone you touch,” Oldre said to the crowd of teachers in the room.

“You are the ones who prepare the workforce...
that I and everyone else depend on to do what we do in our vocations. Your impact is much deeper than teaching a single skill; you teach about life.”

To put this in perspective, Oldre listed county government leaders who graduated from LHS.

“For county government, you have prepared the following,” he said, “three county commissioners, an auditor/treasurer, highway engineer, human services director, criminal investigator, deputy sheriff, accountant, geographical information specialist, information technology specialist, fiscal supervisor, veterans services officer, district court judge, a county administrator and many others.”

He said these employees and other LHS graduates are grateful for their teachers.

“We thank you for the great job you did in preparing us, and now we challenge you to keep developing the future and our replacements,” Oldre said.

“For now you have second and third generations with you, and we trust they will do great things because of the foundation you are giving them.”

Friend of Education

Luverne Child Guide Coordinator Lisa Dinger presented the Friend of Education Award to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Dinger coordinates the RSVP volunteers who spend time with Luverne students.

She said more than 50 RSVP volunteers donate their time in the following ways: Big Buddies Program, Bookin’ Buddies, Homework Club, office help, Community Education help, Early Childhood help, morning greeters, classroom readers, Kids in the Commons activities, Foster Grandparents and the BackPack Program.

More than a dozen RSVP volunteers were on hand for the celebration Monday, and RSVP coordinator Greta Van Der Brink accepted the award.

“We want to thank them for all of their contributions,” Dinger said, “Because these programs wouldn’t work without the many volunteers and without Greta to coordinate them.”

Van Der Brink said, “I’m not the one who earned this. It’s the volunteers themselves. They’re always so eager to help. They’re a very faithful bunch.”

“She recognized the teachers and school staff, too. "You have a big load," she said. "It’s very important the work that you do with these students. You influence them and their families now, and their future families.”


Teacher of the Year

Jeanne Bowron, 2008 Teacher of the Year, introduced Angela Ahrendt as the new Teacher of the Year for 2010.

Without immediately revealing her name, Bowron said the new Teacher of the Year has her master’s degree, married her high school sweetheart (Brad), is a graduate of Luverne High School, is a “huge asset” to the RTI and Title I programs, has had additional training in Reading Recovery and is a first-grade teacher.

Bowron quoted some of Ahrendt’s co-workers who nominated her.

They described her as “organized and efficient,” “a team player,” “always asking questions and searching for answers,” “truly caring about the well-being of students,” “having a wonderful rapport with students and fellow educators,” being “innovative with teaching ideas.”

Ahrendt accepted the award with smiles and tears. She thanked her colleagues for the award and spoke about her own education in the Luverne district.

“I graduated from Luverne in 1989 and I felt I was very prepared for college,” Ahrendt said.

“I’m very surprised,” she said about the award. “Thank you all. It’s a joy to work here every day.”

Luverne Education Association has named a Teacher of the Year since 1972.

All members of the Luverne Education Association are eligible to nominate one or more of their peers for the honor of Teacher of the Year.

The recipient is chosen by an LEA committee of former Teachers of the Year, based on nominations.

Alumni News Obituaries

1920-1929-

1930-1939-
Ethel Carstens Grant ’33 passed away September 26, 2009. Her son Douglas and her daughter Leanne, two granddaughters and one great grandson survive her.

Dorothy Babcock Goodbread’35 passed away June 14, 2009

1940-1949-
Olga Nergaard Wieme ’40 passed away on March 1, 2009 in Sioux Falls South Dakota.
Leroy Anda ’44 passed away on July 21, 2009 In Plymouth, MN.
Patricia Snyder Hagemeier ’46 died September 20, 2009 in Casper, WY. Pat’s father, Roy Snyder, was the L.H.S band director in the 40’s.

1950-1959-
Harry Hoffman ’50 passed away December 4, 2009 after a lengthy illness.
Harriet Olson-Hall’51 passed away on October 9, 2009.

1960-1969-

1970-1979
William Mann ’72 passed away December 27, 2009 in Luverne, MN. After graduation William attended Winona State University where he received a Bachelors degree in nursing. He married Dawn Kindt on June 9, 1979. In 1983 the couple moved to Lacrosse, WI where Bill attended St. Francis School of Anesthesia graduating in 1983. Bill worked as a nurse anesthetist in different parts of the country most recently in Lenexa, KS. Bill will be remembered for the care he gave to others. He loved gardening and learning about plants. He enjoyed traveling, politics, motorcycling, fishing, bow hunting and photography. Bill is survived by his wife, Dawn’76, and daughter, Elise, sisters, Jan’64 (Dale) Good, Linda Berghorst ’65, Karen ’68 (Mike) Menson, Nancy ’70 (Tony) Konz, and Cheryl Michals ’78, parents--in-law Harold and Lois Kindt, brother in-law, Daniel ’78 (Joan) Kindt, David (Christie) Kindt and Darin ’89 (Diane) Kindt.

1980-1989-

1990-2000

About the money …

There has been a drastic slow down on the dollars given to both Dollars for Scholars and the Alumni News. Perhaps these program are just now beginning to feel the effects of the economy. This issue of the Alumni News may be first that doesn’t have information to share about a perpetual scholarship that’s been recently established.

Without Harvey (Allie) Ordung’s gift, that would be six months without a perpetual scholarship being established.

According to the budget, we will be short two grand to pay for this January issue of Alumni News (see page 2).

The team of Alumni News volunteers is working on a way to deliver the publication electronically, either by posting it on our Web site or by e-mailing it to alumni or both. Meanwhile, we’ll continue to incur publishing costs and we need your support.

To contribute to the April issue of the Alumni News, please consider sending a check to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156
Make sure your life history becomes part of Rock County’s history

By Lori Ehde

The Rock County Historical Society is looking for more members, and it may have found a new way to attract them.

About 500 letters were mailed last fall asking not only for members, but for their life stories.

With their paid dues, members are invited to share a page of their own history.

“Become a piece of the Rock!” is the theme of the drive that aims to record history in the lives of as many Rock County residents as possible.

By joining the Historical Society, potential members will be able to archive their personal views and accomplishments of the past year.

By maintaining an annual membership, residents will eventually have entire books on file of their lives, as told by themselves.

It will happen one page at a time, one member at a time, according to Historical Society volunteer Bryce Stoltenberg.

“The Rock County Historical Society already keeps data on everyone who dies here,” he said, referring to the obituary clippings at the museum.

“The idea is to take that to a whole new level. You get to record what people remember about their lives, a year at a time.”

He said those recollections and reflections can be enjoyed by future generations researching their ancestors, and it won’t be just obituaries.

The “reflection sheets” mailed with the 2010 membership information ask residents to answer specific questions about 2009.

For example, one of the questions is, “In 2009 I had a wonderful time doing ...”

It asks about favorite movies of the past year, where they liked to go out to eat, what their best season of the year was and why. One question probes, “In 2009 I wish I could have ...”

The sheet also asks for basic information such as job information and a current photograph.

But the “reflection sheets” are really only a guideline.

“With this program, you’re in control of what people will be able to look back and find out about you and what was important to you during your lifetime,” the letter says.

“You get to make the decision about how personal or impersonal your history is recorded.”

For those who want to expand on their life histories immediately, the Historical Society is ready to help with “area of interest” reflection sheets.

To get caught up on personal history, residents can focus on six categories based on stages of life (childhood, young adult, etc.). Thoughts can be included on military service, gardening, religion, etc.

“We want you to have fun thinking about the enjoyment you can bring to future generations as they learn about your past,” the letter says.

The point, Stoltenberg said, is to start having the history recorded now so that it’s protected and made a permanent part of Rock County History.

And that important historical information is tied to memberships with the Rock County Historical Society.

“Memberships are vital to the ongoing work of the Historical Society,” Stoltenberg said.

“We would really like to in the future be open more hours (at the museum) and increase our visibility in the community.”

Historical Society President Betty Mann said membership dues are a major source of revenue for the group, and she hopes the new membership drive will help.

“We’ve got to have an influx of money here, or we can’t keep going,” she said. “We need some financial support.”

Those who did not receive a membership letter and who would like to join can call the Historical Society at 283-2122. Mann can be e-mailed at mannmade@iw.net.

Membership is open to Rock County natives currently living somewhere else, and historical information can be recorded for members’ loved ones who have passed away.

“This will hopefully bring us more awareness and build more of a presence in Rock County,” Stoltenberg said.

“This lets us preserve history right down to every individual who wants that to happen.”
Compiled by Gregg Gropel

The map printed below indicates the number of Luverne graduates residing in each state, plus Washington, D.C. (January 3, 2010)

The above chart compares the current number of LHS graduates living in each state to the number of graduates who were residing in these states in January, 2009. The “Dif” column indicates the change since March, 2009. Minnesota is the most populous, followed by South Dakota, Iowa, Calif., etc.
Luverne grads walk for cure

Pictured below left, three cancer survivors, Sheila Siebenahler-Holland, Kim (Reisch) Vander-Poel and Staci (Israelson) Zwaan and participated in the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Walk Sunday, Sept. 27, in the Dakota Dome in Vermillion, S.D. They are all Luverne graduates. Sheila and Staci graduated with the class of 1984 and Kim in 1986. Sheila was diagnosed in August of 2008, Kim in December of 2008 and Staci in August of 2009. Each of their survival stories varies from lumpectomy to mastectomy, from 15 months of chemo treatment to no treatment and from 28 radiation treatments to no treatment. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Sheila said she hopes publicity for Sunday’s event creates more awareness of the disease and the need for early detection. “Cancer doesn’t care about age, so it is so important to catch it early,” she said. Pictured above, are (front, from left) Savannah Siebenahler, Carly Holland, Courtney Siebenahler, (back) Chazni Zwaan, MacKenzi Zwaan, Colleen Thomas, Monte Zwaan, Sheila Siebenahler-Holland, Staci Zwaan, Kim Vander-Poel, Kelsey Vander-Poel, and Awanda Siebenahler. The team members wore shirts that said, “Fight Like A Girl.” There was a 1-mile walk or a 5K run. Next year’s walk is on Oct 10, 2010, (10-10-10) in Vermillion, S.D.
Just Weeks Away
Arizona Reunion in Mesa

February 2010

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21  22  23  24  25  26  27
28

The Arizona Winter Reunion is scheduled for February 17, 2010. The reunion will be held at Superstition Springs Golf Course in Mesa, Arizona. Because of the event’s popularity, it has become necessary for attendees to pre-register. The pre-registration deadline is February 10, one week prior to the actual reunion. To pre-register contact Jim or Judy Herman. The Hermans can be reached via phone at their winter residence, (480) 380-6631.

Class of ’60
When: July 16, 17, 18, 2010
Location: Various Sites -
Class Headquarters at Sharkees
Contact: David Smith
405 S. Fairview Dr.
Luverne, Minnesota 56156
Phone: (507) 283-2877
E-mail: Truffles@iw.net

Class of ’95
When: Saturday, July 31, 2010
Location: City Park and Sharkee’s
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Contact: Amber Mollberg Walgrave
212 N. Freeman
Luverne, Minnesota 56156
Phone: (507) 449-4135
E-mail: ambermollberg@yahoo.com
For More Info: Go to Facebook, the group is called “Luverne High School Class of 1995”

Class of 1950 …
… will have its 60th reunion in Luverne on July 23 and 24 at the Luverne Country Club. A flyer has been sent, but in case classmates didn’t get the flyer they are asked to let Norm Torrison know.

He can be reached at ntorrison@aol.com or at 8870 N Sea Oaks Way #305 Vero Beach, Fl. 32963.

Also, classmates can contact Mavis Amundson 3001 Holly Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57105, phone 605-338-3571 or e-mail lormav@sio.midco.net.

Please let these two know if you are planning to attend.

Planning a reunion? Let us know. The staff is eager to announce each and every class reunion.
Alumni News Staff: Cindy Arends, Lori Ehde, Rhonna Jarchow, Carol McDonald, Patti Kirby Pierson, Gregg Gropel, Jane Wildung Lanphere and the Rock County Opportunities.

Alumni News
709 North Kniss Avenue
Luverne, MN 56156

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