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LUVERNE...THE EARLY YEARS

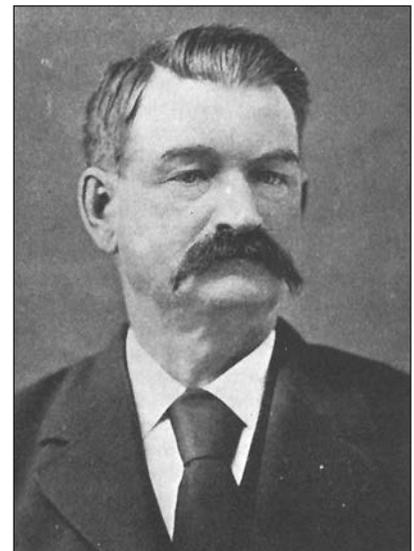
This is the second article of a series that will share the rich history of Luverne as this community prepares to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of its founding in 2017. Please feel free to contact the Luverne Area Chamber at luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us if you would like to participate in the planning of the celebration or have information to share.

The following article was written by E.A. Brown, one of Luverne's early leaders. In addition to serving as Luverne's first mayor, Mr. Brown was the active head of the Minneapolis commission house of E. A. Brown & Co., the president of the German State Bank, of Ellsworth, Minnesota; vice president of the First National Bank of Luverne; president of the Luverne Pressed Brick company; vice president of the Luverne Automobile company; vice president of the Luverne Realty company; and president and leading stockholder in the Luverne Telephone company.

HISTORY OF LUVERNE FROM 1867 TO 1880 By E. A. Brown

I have been requested by the Historical Club of Rock County to furnish some of the history of the early settlement of Luverne. While I wasn't one of the earliest settlers, I was acquainted with most of them and in that way acquired considerable of their history, when they came, who they were, and more or less about their families.

In writing the history of any people or country it must necessarily deal with people, as it



Philo Hawes

(Continued on page 6)

Honor Roll of Alumni News Contributors

Compiled by
Johnna Bowron Ahrendt

During this past quarter, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials and gifts totalling \$1,165. 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!

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 on Dec. 31. Please watch for the next issue in April 2016 for additional names of *Alumni News* contributors.

Alumni News Financial Summary

Balance 9/30/15	\$891.85
DFS Support:	\$1,540.00
Donations:	\$1,165.00
Expenses:	
Printing	\$982.27
Postage	\$1,600.08
Labels	\$203.21
Balance 12/31/15	\$811.29

Alice (Hamann) Schmuck '43
Allen Schmuck '68

Marlin Hudson '44
Diane Hudson - friend

Betty (Schmidt) Lorenzen '45
Ardis (Ormseth)
Mickelson '67

Franklin Wulf '50
Emery Braa '51

Mary Ellen (McRoberts) Emery '50
Winifred Haggard '50

Ann (Torrison) Whalen '51
Emery Braa '51

Arlene (Jauert) Nadeau '51
Darlene (Burmeister)
Johnson '51

Darlene (Braa) Spease '51
Darlene (Burmeister)
Johnson '51

Boyd Beyer '52
Emery Braa '51

Lorna (Henningsen) Schmidt '53
Janyce (Braa) Baustian
'61

Eleanor (Hellerud) Sargent '55
Lorraine (Dreessen)
Crouch '55

Mary Ann (Toms) Bendt '56
Bill Toms '64
Carol (Toms) Mulder '62
Dennis Toms '61
Sharon (Toms) Rypkema
'59

Charles Herreid '57
David Garcia '57

Anita (Godfrey) Cook '60
Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey
'62

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

Donna (Oye) Stoterau '60
Janyce (Braa) Baustian '61
Vivien (Atkinson) Wissink
'60

Carol (Mulligan) VanOrden '62
Barbara (Mulvilhill) Priesz
'62
Beatrice (Olson) Maxwell
'62

Linda Godfrey '65
Family & Friends of Linda
Godfrey

Steven Schneekloth '66
Howard '71 & Cindy
(VanWettering) '72 Schneekloth
James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting

Ruth (Rohlick) Nielsen '68
Janyce (Braa) Baustian '61

Karen (Schmuck) Widboom '70
Allen Schmuck '68

Brad Stepp '74
Jon Bot '74

Nathan Skattum '91
Alexander '00 & Sally Serie
Kirk & Sommer (Serie) '95
Darling
Rick '70 & Carol
(Schumacher) '70 Serie

Hugh Leslie
Allen & Sharon (Leslie) '65
Gilman
Bruce & Nancy Clark

Contributions

Carolyn (Thompson) Holbert '58

Leonard '45 and Irene (Lapic) '45
Hansen

Melinda (Blashill) Ohlenkamp '96

What We've Heard

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

LEN HANSEN (LHS 1945) sends word from his home in St. Peter, MN: "My sincere thanks for receiving the Alumni News but particularly for the picture and tribute to the Class of 1945. We were unable to attend but were happy for the members that could."

"Our fondest memories included IRENE (LAPIC) HANSEN being homecoming queen in 1944, secretary of our senior class and being elected to the National Honor Society. I was fortunate to be on the 1944 District Basketball Championship Team, on the 1945 Regional Relay and Track Champions, being president of our senior class and recipient of the American Legion Award for Scholarship and Athletics."

"We are sorry for the loss of so many of our 1945 classmates but at the age of 88 years, we survivors are lucky!"

LINDA LIMESAND (former elementary faculty) shared this announcement about her son Sean's recent honors: "The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) has announced that SEAN LIMESAND is the 2015 recipient of the Research Faculty of the Year Award. This award was created to recognize and honor outstanding achievements and contributions in research by a faculty member in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). Sean graduated from Luverne High School in 1991 and is currently a Professor in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences."

DARLENE BURMEISTER JOHNSON (LHS 1951) sends a message in fond memory of Arlene Jauert Nadeau (LHS 1951). Darlene and Arlene shared membership in "The Golden Girls (& Guys) Club." This club meets for lunch the 3rd Tuesday of the month somewhere in the Twin Cities. Members of the club are: Viola and John Fritz (LHS 1950); Darlene Burmeister Johnson (LHS 1951) and Walt Johnson; Alice Hoiland Larson (LHS 1951); JoAnn Church Rhoda (LHS 1951); Judy Parry (wife of Don Parry - LHS 1951); Darlene Braa Spease (LHS 1951); and Lonell Heronimus Wills and Don Wills. Darlene extends an invitation from her home in Brooklyn Park for anyone from Luverne to join them!

CAROLYN THOMPSON HOLBERT (LHS 1958) sends a note from her home in Robstown, TX. She writes about a special experience she had during her vacation. "I want to send a big THANK YOU to Papik Motors. We were traveling from Sioux Falls with LEE THOMPSON (LHS 1961) on our way to

Worthington to see my sister JO ANN THOMPSON SWANSON (LHS 1960). Driving our car from Texas and with the cooler weather in the Midwest, our right tire light on the dash came on. We stopped at Papik Motors and they were more than happy to help a Luverne graduate out! We needed nitrogen air and it is hard to find. They serviced us at the dealership and sent us on our way with no charge. What a helpful and great staff they have. Thanks again!"

"I always look forward to reading my Alumni News! Thanks for keeping me up to date with what happens in our hometown!"

ALICE HENNINGSEN PHILLIPS (LHS 1953) sends greetings to Luverne alums from her home in Brookville, OH. "Although I have been an Ohio resident for the past 40 years, Luverne will always be "home." I have many fond memories of the time I lived there and look forward to and enjoy my Luverne visits. Good to see the Main Street restorations and the new businesses. The Alumni News is an excellent way to keep up to date."

"After 31 years in management of special needs transportation, I am enjoying my retirement and now focus on "scheduling my own transportation."

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, MN 56156

E-mail luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Year of Graduation _____

Comments: _____

Please add my e-mail address into the directory. Don't worry, it will not be shared with anyone.

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Serie

1940 – 1949

Dorothea “Dottie” Marietta Goembel ’40 passed away on December 30, 2015 at Parkview Manor in Ellsworth, MN. Born and raised in Luverne, she wed Ted Anderson on July 4, 1941. The couple later divorced in 1967 and Dottie moved to California to live and work. In 1975, Dottie returned to Rock County where she operated a café in Magnolia, Minnesota. On November 4, 1978 Dottie married Leon Goembel and they lived on a farm near Magnolia. Dottie worked at various businesses including George’s Bakery and Myhre Studio. The couple later retired and moved to Poplar Creek in Luverne, before moving to the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in July 2010. Dottie remained at the home until August 2013, when she moved to Parkview Manor in Ellsworth. Dottie participated in a variety of Christian denominations and was a member of Royal Neighbors. Until her sight became impaired, she enjoyed writing poetry, sewing, knitting, and crocheting dolls.

Dottie is survived by her seven children, **Stephanie** (Gary) **Frackman ’62** of Anchorage, Alaska, **Juli** (Cal) **Kuipers ’63** of North Mankato, Minnesota, **Wendy** (Richard) **Grill ’67** of Luverne, Daniel (Becky) Anderson of Larchwood, Iowa, Stephen (Donna) Anderson of Lindon, Utah, Thomas (Ronny) Anderson of Chandler, Arizona, and Barbara Wise of Grand Junction, Colorado; five step children; 27 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 12 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leon; daughter, **Michele Perkins ’61**; son, **James Anderson ’65**; four sisters, **Roberta Leicher ’36**, **Ann Hollaren ’41**, Theo Bickford and Mary Leicher; and one brother, **James Leicher ’38**.

Ruth Leone (Goembel) Wetzel ’41 passed away on August 12, 2015 at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, MO. After graduating from high school, Ruth married Lionel Wetzel on November 9, 1947 in Luverne. She was a homemaker and loved reading and gardening. She lived in Lake St. Louis, MO and finally, in Neosho, MO. Ruth is survived by her husband, Lionel; her daughter Barbara (David) Parker; one grandson, Matthew Bell; and one great-granddaughter, Caylie Bell.

Maurice Roger Fitzer ’44 passed away with family by his side at the Good Samaritan Society – Mary Jane Brown Home on January 4, 2016. Maurice was born on the family farm which later became a Century Farm in 2003. On April 9, 1948 Maurice was united in marriage to Helen Stein. They continued to live on the family farm and raised their children there. In 1983, Maurice retired and the couple moved into town. Even after retirement, he enjoyed heading out to the

farm and helping his son continue the family heritage. Maurice was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne for 57 years. During his life he served the church as an Elder and a Deacon. He served his community as past director of the Beaver Creek Elevator, Beaver Creek Mutual Insurance, and the Rock County Coop Oil Company. He was a member of the Lions Club, the Agricultural Soil and Conservation committee, and the Luverne Township Board. He was also a dedicated member of the Rock County Historical Society – to which he was integral for preserving the agricultural history of Rock County. He was passionate about farming and gardening. Maurice enjoyed fishing and spending time at the cabin they owned in Lake Benton. He especially loved being with his grandchildren. Maurice and Helen eventually downsized from their house to an apartment before moving to Poplar Creek Assisted Living.

Maurice is lovingly remembered by his wife of 67 years, Helen; two sons, **Gregg** (Laurie) **Fitzer ’68** of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota and **Geff** (Jackie) **Fitzer ’78** of Luverne; eight grandchildren, Gina (Kris) Jacobsen, Katie (Dennis) Haugland, Grant (Alexandra) Fitzer, Brynn Fitzer, Tori (Matthew) Carper, **Chris Fitzer ’07** (Jessica Quittem), **Mikki Fitzer ’10** and **Connor Fitzer ’11** (Lauren Muller); and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, **Gary Fitzer ’75**; and a sister, **Margaret Nelson ’45**.

Marlin Hudson ’44 passed away on September 21, 2015 at his home in Sheboygan Falls, WI. After graduation, Marlin served in the United States Army in WWII as a motor messenger at the Battle of the Bulge, and also served during the Korean War. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and UW-Oshkosh, WI and then attained his Master’s Degree at Antioch College, Ohio. He married Diane DeWitt on October 6, 1951 in Sheboygan, WI. Marlin retired from teaching at Farnsworth Middle School, Sheboygan in 1985. He enjoyed gardening, golfing, and was a Packer fan. Marlin was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church as an elder and Sunday School teacher.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; children, Dirk (Tami) Hudson, Mark (special friend, Linda), Amy Clemens, Lisa (David) Bunke, Sara (Mark) Watkins, Eric (Carmon) Hudson; AFS son, Toon VanZundert; 11 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Gage Hudson; son-in-law, Michael Clemens; sister, Delores Dunn; brother-in-

law Peter DeWitt; and friend, Jamie Tolman.

Kenneth Nelson '45 of Aurora, Colorado, died October 25, 2015. After graduating from Luverne High School, Kenneth attended and graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Banking in Madison, WI. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was stationed at Percy Jones General Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan with the army Medical Corps. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1947. On November 19, 1950, he married **Shirley Wiese '47**. They raised their family in three different towns in Minnesota, one town in Nebraska, one in South Dakota and two in Iowa before settling in Aurora, CO. Ken volunteered at the Heather Gardens Community Center and enjoyed dominos and round table discussions.

Kenneth is survived by his children, Kristine Nelson, Bradley (Robin) Nelson, Brett (Pam) Nelson, and Sara (Bob Leonard) Nelson; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Marge Nelson; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley and his brother, **Darwin Nelson '38**.

Roger Ray Jensen '47 passed away on November 24, 2015. After graduating from high school Roger attended North Dakota State University and joined the Navy where he trained pilots in Texas for the Korean War. In 1954 he married Annmarie Miller. They lived in Bloomington, MN until Annmarie passed away. He married Geraldine Krieg and they moved to Slayton where Roger owned and operated Slayton International for 25 years. After "retiring" he worked for the U.S. Post Office, Finley Engineering and sold real estate. Roger was involved in many local civic organizations and was a volunteer member of the Slayton Fire Department for 21 years. He also participated in many events to raise money and awareness for MS.

Roger is survived by his wife, Geraldine; children Broch Jensen, Heidi (Larry) Rachuy, Brad (Terrie) Jensen, Dean (Shereen) Jensen, Wayne (Evonne) Jensen, Lynette (Andrew) Markofski; 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and extended family and friends.

Edwina Carroll Rust '48 died in Sioux Falls, SD on December 23, 2015. After graduation, Edwina married LeRoy Rust on May 20, 1949 in Luverne. The couple began their life together living in a trailer on LeRoy's parents' farm near Adrian, Minnesota. They were proud of each of their five children, and Edwina tried her best to pass along her confidence, integrity and unconditional love to each of them. They lived and operated the farm until 1997, when their youngest son took over the farming operation and they moved into town. Edwina was a member of First Baptist Church in Luverne, where she taught Sunday school and enjoyed Bible studies. She was a voracious reader and loved word searches and puzzle books. She took great

pleasure in the simple things including nature's beauty. She will be remembered most for her deep and simple faith.

Edwina is lovingly remembered by her husband of 66 years, LeRoy; five children, David (Mary) of West St. Paul, Minnesota, Rebecca (Steve) Lee of Sioux Falls, James (Gail) of Magnolia, Minnesota, **Laura (James) Slade '82** of Sioux Falls, and **John (Karen) '85** of Adrian, Minnesota; 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; two sisters, Kay Cox of Adrian, and **Laura May Bosch '46** of Brandon, South Dakota; brother-in-law, Ron Ehrisman of Sioux Falls; and other family and friends. She was preceded in death by two sisters, **Margaret Lynch '35** and Alice Ehrisman; brother, Paul Doyle; two half-sisters, Florence Gengler and Lucille Bainbridge; and three brothers-in-law.

1950 – 1959

Mary (McRobert) Emery '50 passed away November 25, 2015 in Luverne. After graduation from high school, Mary attended the University of South Dakota and married **Howard Emery '46** on July 14, 1952. The couple farmed near Luverne until 1985 when they moved to Scottsdale, AZ, and where Mary worked at AMK Storage. In 2011 they returned to Luverne to complete their retirement. Mary entered the Minnesota Veterans Home in 2012. During her life, Mary was involved in her church, the Luverne Eagles Auxiliary, Kappa Alpha Beta and PEO. She enjoyed knitting, reading, traveling and dancing.

Mary is survived by her son, **Mark (Deb) Emery '72**; four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; thirteen step great-grandchildren; a sister, **Sara (Richard) Dorn '47**; and brother-in-law, Buster (Ardella) Emery. She was preceded in death by her husband Howard, and a son, Thomas.

Arlene Jauert Nadeau '51 died November 12, 2015 in Oakdale, MN. Celebrated as a generous woman who devoted her life to family, she is remembered for her gentle touch, quick smile and thoughtfulness. Arlene enjoyed gardening, travel and was remembered as "Cookie Grandma".

She is survived by her children Renee (Rich) Armstrong, Sharon (Cameron) Gloss, and Steve Nadeau; 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Arlene was preceded in death by her first husband, Roger Oldre and their son, Bruce, and second husband, James Nadeau.

Donald L. Parry '51 passed away on October 29, 2015. Roger served his country in the Korean War and was a member of Compass Lodge and OES in Robbinsdale, MN. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judy; sons Kirk (Dori) Parry, Scott (Anabelle) Parry and Steve (Cari) Parry; daughters Julie Friese and Stacy (Jeff) Pipping; 12 grandchildren;



Luverne, the early years/continued from page 1 _____

is the people that make the history. In every movement and migration of peoples from one locality to another they are generally inspired by the thoughts that they may better their fortune in a new home.

The period immediately after the Civil War was the start of a large number of soldiers returning to their home to find they did not fit in with the established order of things. This has always been the case after wars and necessitated the re-establishment of homes and people. After the close of the Civil War in 1865 the soldiers, who were discharges as well as others, began looking for new homes and many of them thought they would like the adventure of the wild west, or at that time it was known as "Beyond the Mississippi." Thus the settlement of this community came about largely through the movement of the people to find new homes and to better their conditions.

Our first permanent settler that we have record of making a home on the land now that is included as the city of Luverne, was Mr. Philo Hawes. He was a soldier in the Civil War, but immediately after his discharge he took up stage driving and he has related to me his adventures while driving the stage from the head of Lake Superiors to St. Paul. There was a little town established at the head of the lake some years before, by the name of Fond U Lac and they had to get their mail from St. Paul, where it was brought by rail as there were no railroads in Minnesota at that time north of St. Paul. His family lives at Cannon Falls, Minnesota at this time, but being interested in

mail contracts and carrying of mail he and some of his associates bid on a contract in 1867, that provided for carrying mail by stage from Winnebago City, Minnesota to Yankton, South Dakota, via Sioux Falls, as there was an army post established in Sioux Falls at that time and the government wished to open up this western country to settlers and thoughts that a mail route through here would be some inducement. This route coming out of Winnebago City came to Jackson, Minnesota where there were a few settlers at the time, thence west to Graham Lakes in northeastern part of Nobles County, where there were a few settlers also, and from there west to Sioux Falls and Yankton.

After obtaining this contract Mr. Hawes drove thought and had to block out a road and he did this largely, he told me, by taking a compass and getting his course from Graham Lakes southwest and carrying in his wagon a quantity of willow brush he had cut. He sharpened them and stuck them on the top of hills where he could see from one to another. He happened to hit the Rock River where Luverne is now located and then followed southwest with his road which lay considerably south of Beaver Creek, as of courses there was nothing like a bridge anywhere but all open prairie and he wanted to avoid running the road too close to these creeks, keeping to the high land. After he had this done he had to provide places for his men to stay over night and to feed their horses, therefore, he

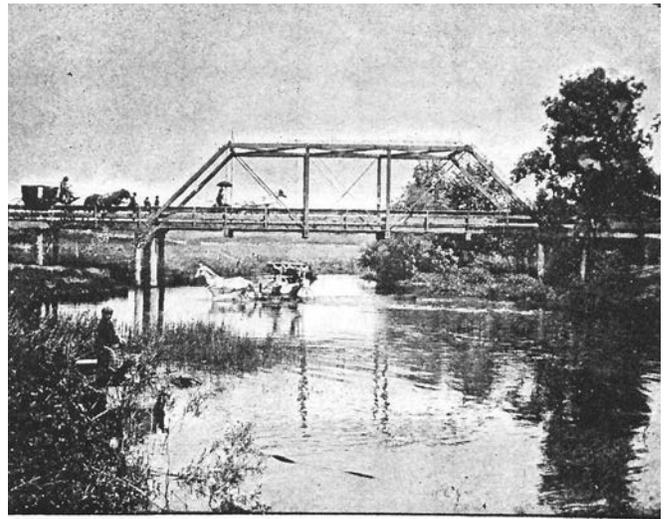
located where he had crossed the river at Luverne, one of the places for his night stops for the stage. So he dug what was called a dugout in the side of the hill in the east part of town not too far from the present Rock Island depot and then he had one of two men stop here for a time to construct the dugout and put up hay for the horses. This brief sketch perhaps leads up to why Luverne happens to be located where it is. This was in August 1867 that he settled this wayside stopping place for his men who were carrying the mail. They were expected to make one trip a week with a change of horses.

The next year in 1868 Mr. Hawes concluded he could make his home on this land and enter it as a homestead. So, with some men to help him, he stayed for a time and constructed a log house near the site of the dugout he had building on the hill, a little southeast of the present Rock Island depot. The year he building the dugout, 1867, another family settled in the southern part of the county in Clinton township, unbeknown to him. This was a widow and her family of several boys and two girls. Some of the boys were ex-soldiers, as well as one son-in-law, Mr. Ferguson. Thus two families settled in the county about the same month but it was two or three months before they knew but what they were the only settlers. The Estey boys came up from the south on a hunting expedition and ran into this settler's dugout in Luverne. But there were other settlers drifting in, in 1868 and 1869, all settling along the river so they could have a little timber on their farms with which to build log cabins and stales and for fuel.

When Mr. Hawes settled in 1868 he had a half-brother who came with him, Ed McKenzie. He also had two children at this time, Charles O., who lived here for years afterwards, and his daughter, Eva Luverne. He established a post office in 1868 and gave it the name of Luverne after his daughter. That is the name which we still carry for our city. A few years later a third child was born in the family, Carrie, who is now Mrs. A. B. Watson.

In this year of 1868 and 1896 there was quite an influx of settlers in the eastern part of the county and it was this year that P. F. Kelly and J. F. Shoemaker settled near the Mounds. Mr. Shoemaker has related to me how he happened to settle there. He and Mr. Kelly were soldiers in the regular army located in Sioux Falls in 1868 and one morning it was discovered that a number of their horses and mules had strayed away. Mr. Shoemaker and Mr. Kelly were detailed to follow the trail of the horses through wet grass and came over into the valley of the Rock River before they discovered them, and the beauty of the valley so attracted them that when they were discharged from the army and returned to northeastern Iowa where their families were, they organized a colony of immediate neighbors to settle in the vicinity of the Mounds. This colony included the McDermott family, the Lynch family, the Kelly family, the Brazell family and the Ryan family, besides others.

The next active promoter that arrived on the



EAST END MAIN STREET.

scene were the Kniss brothers, George and Pierce. They were ex-soldiers looking for a home and Pierce entered his homestead on the west side of what is now known as Kniss Avenue and south of Luverne Street and in 1870 he build a log house on the southwest corner of Kniss Avenue and Warren Street. This house had a dirt floor but he split shingles from cottonwood trees which were plentiful along the river and shingled the roof in this way, as quite a number of the early settlers did. His brother, George, took as a homestead eighty acres of adjoining land. He also had a pre-emption in Clinton township of one hundred acres in the southwest quarter of section 14.

Mr. Martin Webber has related that when he and his brother, George, came west they reached the Rock River September 23rd, 1870, the only two buildings on the site of what is now Luverne was the Kniss log house in the west part and the log house of Mr. Hawes in the extreme east part of the city. P. J. Kniss, being a surveyor, induced Mr. Hawes to let him plot a few blocks of his land on the east edge of the city, so to try to establish a village here. He returned to Wisconsin to spend the winter and was married while there. He came back again in the spring of '71 to locate on his homestead. Thus a city was begun and that year George Daniels, who had a homestead north of town, build a small building that was termed drug store but handled a few groceries also, on the land now occupied by the Luverne creamery.

B. S. Wold and Sandy McKay came in the summer of 1871 and bought a lot and established a store in the east part of town. The building is still standing at this time (1934) and is occupied by Snook's Grocery. Lumber was then obtainable by driving to Worthington, as the railroad had been built there during '71 and a village established there. However, I do not think that Mr. Wold and Mr. McKay were the first people to sell groceries and other goods on the site of what is now Luverne, for Abraham McMurphy had hauled in a few groceries and sold them out from the



The new location will provide handicapped accessible display and research space as well as offer a climate controlled facility to maintain the historic treasures of Rock County.

BETTY MANN SENDS AN INVITATION TO LHS ALUMNI

Betty Mann (LHS 1948) as president of the Rock County Historical Society is leading the charge in the development of the new "HISTORY CENTER." The former Herman Motor Building will become the official permanent museum and offices of the RCHS. This is a "dream come true" for Mann who has worked to archive, organize and conserve the rich history of Rock County.

The Rock County Historical Society has entered into a design and construction management contract with the non-profit Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership of Slayton, MN to develop the site as museum space and offices. Progress on the project is slow but steady.

A new roof has been put on the building, interior spaces have been gutted, windows and doors are being replaced or closed off and soon construction will begin in the interior. Exterior work is scheduled for the spring or summer.

The History Center will offer fully accessible space for displays, offices, research area, conference rooms, storage and exhibits of approximately 10,000 square feet. Mann has established a display committee that is developing how the exhibit space will be used and what will be displayed.

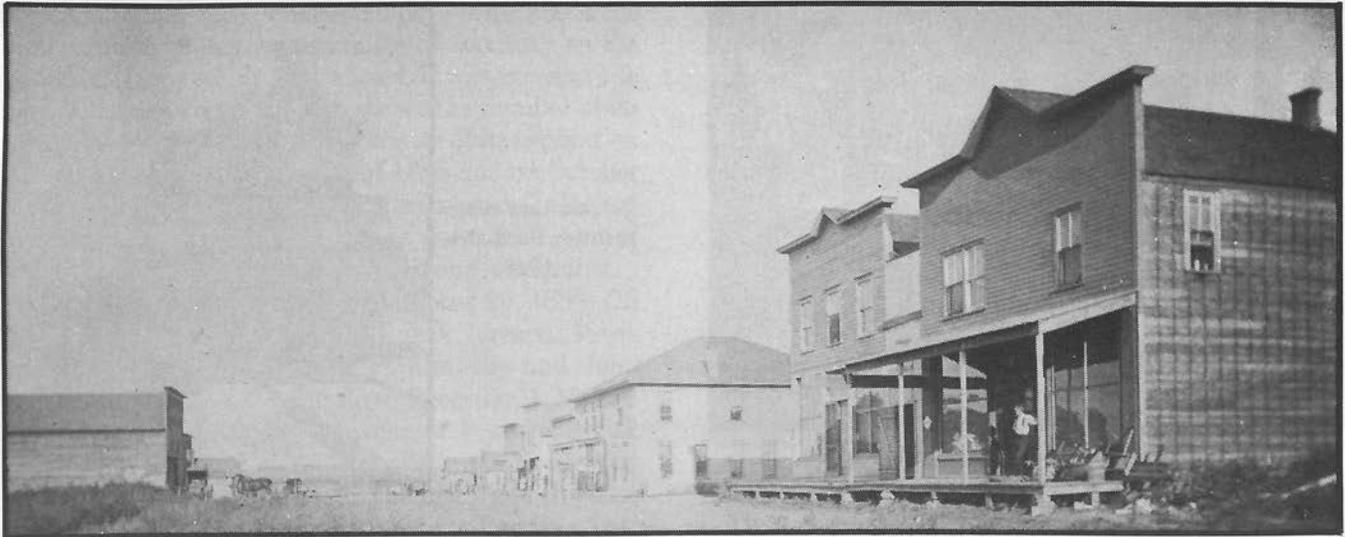
Excitement continues to mount as this building finds a new purpose and becomes a cornerstone of

Luverne downtown restoration.

Mann sends a special invitation to all Luverne Alumni to join together in the preservation of the history of our school, city and county. "I invite you to become a member of the Rock County Historical Society in 2016.

You will find out first-hand about all the exciting things that are happening with our organization and with our beautiful historic treasures. Our membership levels are: \$25/single and \$50/couple. Enhanced membership levels are: \$100/stone, \$250/boulder, \$500/large boulder, and \$1,000/rock outcrop. **Send your check and contact information (including name, address, phone and email) to: Rock County Historical Society, 123 North Freeman Avenue, Luverne MN 56156.** Join me as we preserve the history of our community!"

Betty also reminds LHS alumni that funds continue to be needed to complete the restoration of the Herman Motor Building. All donations for the History Center continue to be matched "dollar for dollar" thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. Your gift of \$50 will mean a building campaign contribution of \$100. Your donation of \$1,000 provides \$2,000 to the building project. Any and all size gifts will be matched. Please consider supporting this great project so that history will come alive in Luverne!



Street scene of very early Hardwick

In this picture the building on the south side of the street has horses tied in front. Could this be the Livery Barn? This could show the town about that time in its history.

HARDWICK CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 23-25, 2017

The year 2017 will mark a significant milestone for Hardwick as the City celebrates its 125th anniversary. Colleen (Obermoeller) Deutsch, Joni Peterson and Lorna (Siebenahler) Bryan have formed a committee to begin planning for the Hardwick All-School Reunion.

They want to invite all interested people to join them in the planning and the fun! If you would like to serve on the committee or if you have a great idea to share... please contact Lorna at lorna@frontiernet.net.

To celebrate and honor the rich contributions of Hardwick, a series of articles and photos will be included in the next editions of Alumni News. If you have photos and/or memories to share - please send to luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us.

The following information has been taken from "A CENTURY OF HISTORY." This book was printed in 1992 for the celebration of Hardwick's 100th anniversary.

"BEGINNINGS" - HISTORY OF HARDWICK 1892-1992

"Because of the need for a railroad to transport grain, a town was born. The history of Hardwick dates back to 1892, but the actual history of the area began many hundreds of years before. Most of this history is clouded and unknown. But we do know that during the 1890's, the Sioux Indians lived in the area.

In the year of 1873 the town of Gregory was founded. It consisted of the north half of Rock County. One by one, the townships comprising the original Gregory township withdrew.

As the several precincts withdrew, no arrangements

were made for apportioning the debt of the mother township, and the last one found itself saddled with a good size debt, and not much to show for it except the name Gregory.

The inhabitants of that territory asked for relief, presenting a petition headed by Lars G. Kartrude, on July 15, 1878. The matter was referred to the county attorney at that time, and on July 24, the commissioners made provisions for the reorganization of the township under the name of Dover.

Dover township was organized and the first officers chosen as the home of Lars G. Kartrude on Section 32, August 12, 1878. It went under the name of Dover until January 6, 1880 when the commissioners changed the name to Denver, having been notified that there was another Dover township in Minnesota. Denver was the last of the Rock County townships to be organized.

The honor of erecting the first building on the site of the present town of Hardwick belongs to a young Norwegian emigrant named Knute Taamasgaard.

He was employed at the time on the farm of Otter Otterson, and made a "squatters" settlement on the land. He constructed a dug out and sod shanty in which he and his wife lived for two years.

In the Rock County Herald for December 1892, they reported that "No town in Rock County of equal age had come to the front more rapidly or developed brighter prospects of becoming a prosperous business point than Hardwick."

Remembering our Classmates/continued from page 5

brother-in-law Jack Bork; sisters-in-law Marilyn (Don) Petersmeyer, Joanne Stover, and Shirley Parry; and many nieces and nephews.

Darlene Mae (Braa) Spease '51 died on November 30, 2015 in Minneapolis. She graduated from Luverne High School and married **Loren William Spease '48** on April 15, 1953. They made their home in Brookings, SD following Loren's completion of chiropractic school. Darlene had a 20+ year career with SDSU Library and was involved in church/bible studies, various community organizations and volunteer activities. She was a talented knitter and seamstress.

Darlene is survived by four children, Bryce Spease, Craig (Karen) Spease, Laura (Bruce) Cardwell and Julie (Quinten) Hofer; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren; and siblings **Shirley '53** (Bill) **McQoid** and **Bill '58** (Carol) **Braa**. Services were held in Brookings, SD.

Norma Hoiland Gertz, '53 passed away November 7, 2015 at Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls, SD. She grew up on a farm near Luverne and married Karen Gertz on July 3, 1955. They began farming southeast of Luverne and in 1966 they moved to a farm south of Jasper in Rose Dell Township where Norma resided until her passing. Norma served at her church and enjoyed water walking exercise, puzzles, senior citizens activities, gardening, reading, playing cards and time spent with family.

She is survived by her children, Bernice Gertz, Ileen Gertz, and Wayne (Lori) Gertz; a grandson, **Gary Gertz '13** and a sister, **Florence Helle '48**. She was preceded in death by her husband, Karen.

Roger Rohlck '54 died November 24, 2015 in St. Cloud, MN. After high school, Roger served in the U.S. Army and on August 11, 1957 he married Verna Janousek in Gregory, SD. Roger worked as a district sales manager at Pioneer for 35 years before retiring in 2000. He was a chairman of the board at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and member of the Good Shepherd Foundation Board, the St. Cloud Symphony Board and three different timeshare boards: Breezy Shores in Detroit Lakes, Izaty's at Mille Lacs Lake and Lawrence Welk Villas in Escondido, CA. Roger enjoyed traveling, going to the lake and golfing. He also took pride in his flower gardens, antiques, and spending time telling stories and being outdoors.

Roger is survived by his wife, Verna; a sister, **Carol (William) Braa '58**, a nephew and nieces and many extended family members. He was preceded in death by a sister, **Ruth Ann Nielsen '68**.

Eleanor Hellerud Sargent '55 died Thursday, November 12, 2015 in Alcester, SD. After graduating from high school, Eleanor worked as a telephone operator by day and at the Verne Drive Inn Theatre at night. She married Louis Sargent on

December 1, 1955. Eleanor became a travel agent and the owner of the Round Wind Travel Agency in Luverne. While in the travel business, she and Louis traveled all over the world. During retirement Eleanor enjoyed more traveling, reading and becoming more active in her church. Eleanor is survived by her son, **Tom '76** (Karla) **Sargent**, Sioux Falls, SD; and a brother Robert (Jeanne) Hills, MN. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, Louis.

Mary Toms Bendt, '56 passed away November 6, 2015 at the Dougherty House Hospice Cottage in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduating from high school, Mary married Chester "Chet" Bendt in Luverne on September 1, 1956. They moved to Sioux Falls in 1978 where they owned and operated The OK Shoe Repair and Mary's Mending. In the fall of 2005 they returned to Luverne. Mary enjoyed baking, crocheting, sewing, playing cards and her pets. She is survived by four children, **Kathy '75** (Lee) Hamann, Christy (Jerry) Reisch, Chester, Jr., and **David '77** (Doreen) Bendt; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; a brother, **Bill '64** (Judy) **Toms**; and two sisters, **Carol Mulder '62** and **Sharon '59** (Dennis) **Rypkema**.

1960 – 1969

Anita Marie (Godfrey) Cook '60 died in her sleep on Nov. 17, 2015 in Shelton, Washington. She was the oldest of the "six Godfrey kids". Following her graduation from Luverne High School she attended beauty school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On June 6, 1971 Anita married Ronald Cook. While Ron was in the United States Navy, they spent time living in Florida, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Following Ron's retirement the couple returned to Minnesota and lived in the Twin Cities. In 2008, they moved to the Shelton, Washington area. Anita was happy wherever she was and made many friends as she traveled with her Navy husband, Ron. She was always teased by her siblings about how her eyes would close as she smiled and laughed. Her three remaining siblings and family and friends will miss that easy smile. Anita was active in her church, enjoyed crafts and was an avid reader.

She is survived by her husband, Ron; daughter, Jennifer Cook; siblings, **George '61** (Donna) **Godfrey**, **Carol '62** (Robert) **Lundholm**, **Cathlaine, (or Helen) Godfrey '66**; sister-in-law, Janice Godfrey; and other family and friends. Anita was preceded in death by two siblings, **James Godfrey '63** and **Linda Godfrey '65**. She was buried in Luverne near her parents and her sister, Linda.

Carol Mulligan Van Orden, '62 passed away on July 30, 2015 in Vancouver, Washington. After being very active in high school, Carol continued her involvement by helping the less fortunate while having

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corner of Mr. Hawe's log house. Soon after he moved to his homestead which was in the center of Section 12, Clinton Township. So by this time the town was established and in '72 made quite rapid progress.

Mr. W. H. Glass came in 1872 and established a store across the street from the Wold and McKay store. Also in '72 and '73 there was quite a growth and at this time Hoffelman Bros. started a blacksmith shop. In fact '72 we had two lawyers, Mr. Charles Crosby, who became a partner of P. J. Kniss in the real estate business, and in the same year Mr. B. D. Healey arrived. There wasn't much to do in the law at that time, practically nothing, but they found considerable to do in making out papers for settlers who were entering land and filling out papers and work of that nature. The land office was at Jackson, which had been established a few years before where all filings for pre-emptions and homesteads had to be entered.

The year in 1873 many others came that entered into building up of the village, among them the Crawford Brothers. In '72 two physicians arrived in Luverne, a Dr. Wilson, who bought out the drug store Mr. Daniels had, and operated the drug store and practiced medicine. Also this year Dr. Vary arrived but not with the idea of practicing so much as establishing a hotel, which he did. During this and the following year he build a small hotel on the corner immediately west of the present Luverne Creamery.

The Crawfords were next to come and Robert O. Crawford was also a physician. Ira established a grocery store and a younger brother, W. O., practice law. Ira Crawford later took up a homestead and located his family immediately west of Beaver Creek. The family still have the land and three of his sons still live at Beaver Creek. Ira had many unique ways of doing business and was always agreeable to his customers.

As I remember when I was a boy whenever I came into the store he admonished us that if we did not find the goods as represented by him, "just bring the paper back and get your money back." He lived near Beaver Creek after selling the grocery store, on the farm for years, an honored and respected citizen.

I have spoken heretofore of the coming of Martin Webber and his brother as young men. They squatted on the west half of section 14 immediately south and adjoining the city and put in the winter a little sod shanty they built. He related to me that they caught many beavers, muskrats, and mink.

They afterwards homesteaded on land two miles west of town, part of which is occupied by Mr. Charles Husen now. But to show a few of the hardships that settlers had to encounter Mr. Webber has related how in the fall of '71 he and his brother took a trip for the purpose of hunting antelope, deer, and other kinds of animals to what is known as Split Rock Creek somewhere near where Garretson is now located. While taking a gun from the back end of the wagon it

was discharged and shot into the arm above the elbow. His brother brought him back to Luverne but there was no physician here or nearer than Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls had been an army post but they had removed the soldiers elsewhere, but a Dr. Phillips came in that year and located in the old army barracks. Mr. George Webber brought Dr. Phillips to Luverne to attend his brother. Dr. Phillips protested that he could not amputate the arm because he wasn't equipped for that kind of work, but he did bandage it up the best he could and put it in a sling. Mr. Webber carried his helpless arm in a sling for fifteen months or until after Dr. Wilson and Dr. Vary arrived in the winter of '72 and '73 they amputated it. I am relating this to give the present settlers a clear idea of what people had to endure in a new county on the frontier. Mr. Webber, after his calamity, read law with Mr. W. O. Crawford and was admitted to the bar in 1876 and continued an honorable and useful citizen to this day.

Mr. Clarence Older came in 1871 as a young man and took up a homestead and he agreed to teach a private school as there was no public schools established at that time. He had six pupils during the winter of '71 and '72. The school was held in a part of Mr. Hawes small log house which had been enlarged by that time by a board addition which made it somewhat more commodious than at first. Mr. C.O. Hawes, Mr. Daniels, Mr. McKenzie, one or two of the Norton children were the scholars. By the next summer of 1872 they had a school near the Mounds taught by Mr. Webber's sister, Ella, and the few scholars that were around Luverne had to go up there either on foot or horseback. The next year there was a school established in the village of Luverne taught by Miss Ella Donaldson, sister of Mrs. P. J. Kniss. The next summer the school was taught by Miss Jennie Grout and they had their first winter school in the winter of '75 and '76 taught by Eli Grout.

The business district by '73, '74, and '75 had grown considerably. The firm of Bartlett and Jacobson was established. Mr. Jacobson was the father of our present citizen, Mr. William Jacobson. They carried a good general stock of goods. At this time there was a hardware store established by the Howard Bros. and a lumber yard by the firm of Hinds and Herron. Mr. Herron was from Wisconsin and Mr. Hinds from Maine. This lumber had to be hauled from Worthington, the nearest railroad point, over the prairie roads and unbridged creeks.

In 1876 came Mr. Nels Reynolds and wife built a store that was used for a hardware and tin shop. Mr. Reynolds afterwards took up the law and was a resident for about fifty years, practicing lay and for many years was a municipal judge.

In 1876 a new firm, to deal in general merchandise, was established on the south side of Main Street

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Fourteen buildings were erected during that first year. In the first report of buildings in Hardwick it lists two stores and a livery barn, a hotel and a blacksmith shop.

John Scharnberg - hotel	\$3,000
School building	\$1,000
J.H. Dressen - store building	\$1,000
Herman Lenz - store building	\$1,000
Thomas Trenhaile - residence	\$ 800
J. T. Holverson - livery barn	\$ 800
W. E. Little - residence	\$ 650
J. C. Johnston & Co. - lumber shed	\$ 600
A. A. Walvatne - store building	\$ 500
William Olson - blacksmith shop	\$ 500
Charles Anderson - residence	\$ 400
J. B. Reed - residence	\$ 300
E. Olson - blacksmith shop	\$ 300
<u>Henry Melarchy - butcher shop</u>	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total Valuation	\$11,500

People living in the northern part of the county were a long ways from a convenient market place. They were eager for a railroad station to be established. On September 11, 1884 the tracklayers of the Burlington railroad reached the tentative town site (NW ¼ of Section 26, Denver township) from the south. At that time, the farm was occupied by Otter Otterson, who deeded land for the depot.

The town was originally called Denver. In October, 1884, the town was to be named Jasper. At that time a petition signed by 69 residents was presented to E. S. Burlington, site agent of the Burlington railroad.

A section house was building on the land given by Mr. Otterson. He was employed to oversee the grain shipments from that point.

In October of 1886 the station was located on the line between section 35 and 26 and a side track was constructed. This was about one block south of the original designated site. In November a depot platform was building, but the station was not named or put on the time card of the company.

In 1887 the station was named Hardwick in honor of the master building of the Burlington railroad, J. L. Hardwick.

That year over two hundred carloads of grain and livestock were shipped from the station. For the next few years, Otterson continued to buy grain for E. A. Brown. John Otterson bought the Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota Grain Company, which succeeded Cudahy and Butler.

In 1891 a depot was erected and opened on September 1 with William Littel as depot agent."

Remembering our classmates/from p. 10

a passion for social justice. She traveled into the Deep South to register blacks to vote during the struggle for civil rights and was proud to be invited to attend the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter. Carol was also a huge sports fan, playing in league softball and bowling for many years. Carol moved to Hartland, WI, and eventually Portland, Oregon, as an office manager for Cigna Insurance. She was an innovator in the field of cyber security, being responsible for protecting the private information of those insured in the Pacific Northwest. Carol eventually retired as the Western Region Operations Manager for Cigna's worker's compensation division.

Carol is survived by her sons, Kurt Van Orden and Derrick (Sara) Van Orden; five grandchildren; brothers Robert (Mary Jean) Mulligan, Jack (Deloris) Mulligan, **James '54** (Dottie) Mulligan, William (Mary Lou) Mulligan, **Mike Mulligan '66**; and sister **Rosie '70** (Dale) **Moerke** and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers Donald Mulligan, Gene Mulligan and Richard Mulligan.

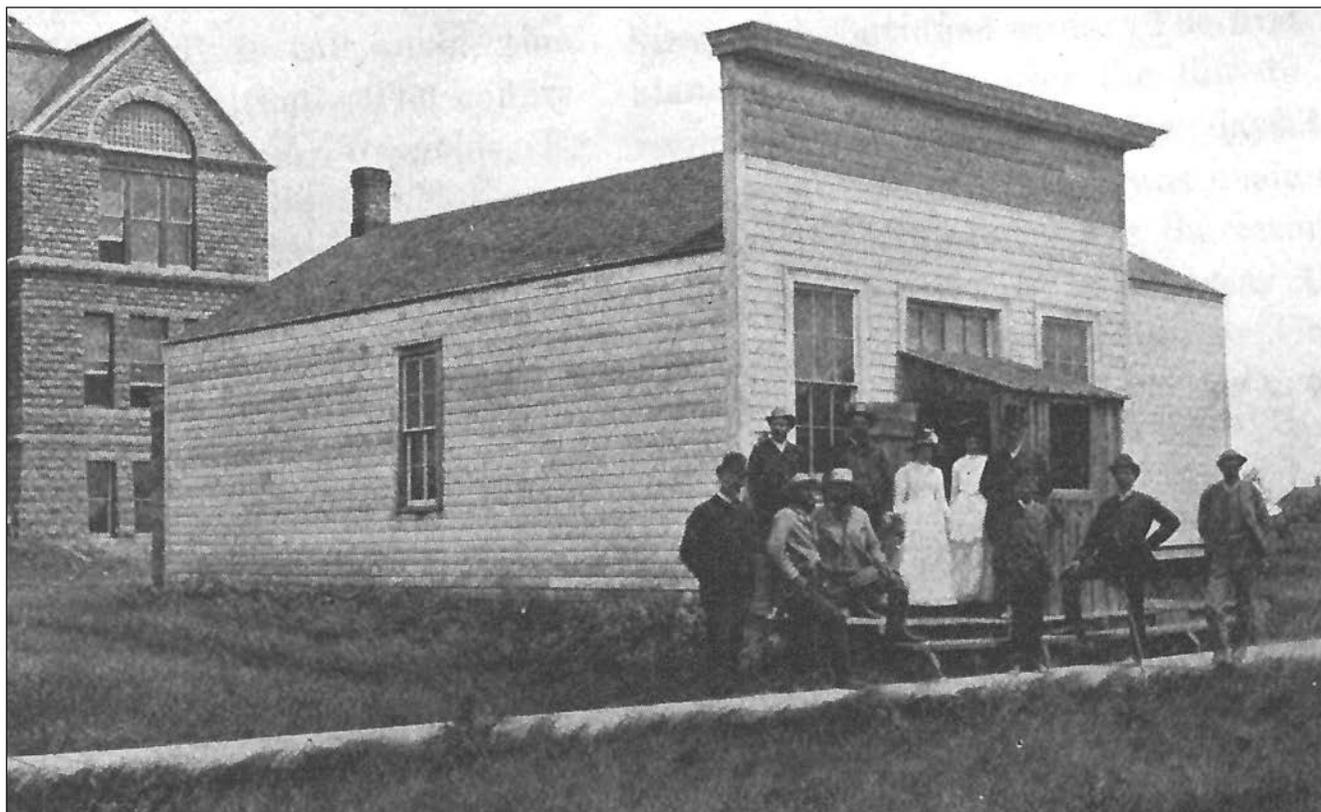
Former school staff

Mable Smith, 91, died Tuesday, October 27, 2015 in Spring Park, MN. Mable was a fifth grade teacher for 28 years at Luverne Elementary School, retiring in 1989. She was recognized as the 1977 Woman of the Year by the Luverne Business and Professional Women. Mable enjoyed traveling the world during her summer vacations and in retirement, visiting places like China, Chile, Greece, Germany, New Zealand and South Africa.

She is survived by a daughter, **Jeanne "64** (Ken) **Tempero**; grandchildren Suzelle Tempero and Gavin (Trisha) Tempero; great-granddaughter Eloise Mable; a sister, Marjorie Christensen; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by three siblings.

Hugh S. Leslie, 92, passed away on October 1, 2015 in Rochester, MN. Hugh was raised in Rock County and served his country in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945. He was stationed in Hawaii and was part of the invasion of the Philippines. His marriage to Mildred Young lasted 68 years. They lived in Luverne, Byron and Rochester. Hugh farmed, owned and operated the Tastee Freeze, and was employed by the Luverne Public schools as a custodian and bus driver in the 1950's and 1960's. He finished his working years at Rochester Community and Technical College. He enjoyed sports, especially the Twins and Vikings, and loved watching westerns, and spending time with family and friends.

Survivors include three children, **Sharon (Allen) Gilman '65**, **Rod (Patti) Leslie '67** and **Steven Leslie '68**; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Hugh was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred, and siblings, Kenneth Leslie, Edith Leslie, Laura Hengevold and Jeannetta Leslie; a grandson, Craig Leslie; and a great-grandson, Lennon Gilman.



The first building used as a courthouse for county officers was a small building next to the W. H. Glass store building. The building was 24 by 30 feet and the different officers had their desks in different positions around the walls of the building. This building was later moved to the site of the present courthouse.

Luverne the Early Years/Continued from page 11

in a small building about 25 by 60 feet. This was the firm of Landon and Nelson, Mr. Nelson being an older brother of Mr. Samuel Nelson, who is still in business. This establishment has grown from a very small beginning to its present large proportions and is the oldest, and largest business that has been in continuous operation since the early settlement of the village.

At about this time or 1875 our first contractor and building, who has been in the business continually since then, commenced business, this man being Mr. P.N. Gilham, who is well-known for his faithful and permanent type of work that he always puts out. Many of the prominent buildings of the city at the present time were built by him. Mr. Gilham, had been one of the early stage drivers for Mr. Hawes' stage route through the county. He was afterwards made sheriff.

The county had to be organized in order to have facilities for registering deeds and the doing business of this nature. This organizing occurred in 1870 and a board of county commissioners was appointed by the governor, consisting of Mr. Philo Hawes, E.N. Darling, L.B. McCollom, who was from the south part of the county. Officers were elected, Mr. Ed McKenzie, auditor; J.F. Shoemaker, treasurer; Amos Gregory, clerk of court; John Ferguson, register of deeds; J. Hart Loomis, superintendent of schools; and J. Rice, sheriff.

The first building used as a courthouse for county officers was a small building next to the W. H. Glass store building. The building was 24 by 30 feet and the different officers had their desks in different positions around the walls of the building. This building was later moved to the site of the present courthouse and a vault was built adjacent to it to hold the important papers and records. When court was held they had to rent some room in the village to be used as courtroom in which to dispense justice. There was no village organization for some time afterwards but the township of Luverne was organized. Mr. Amos Gregory was the first clerk and afterwards Mr. Martin Webber served in this capacity for several years.

There were no churches here at this time but in '73 there was a schoolhouse built and Mr. E. H. Bronson, a Methodist minister, settled near Beaver Creek on a homestead and held services here and in some other parts of the county in homes. As there were no schoolhouses or public buildings that could be utilized for this purpose, it was necessary that this be done. The first preaching service was held in '72. 1871 brought a Methodist minister by the name of Mr. Runyan, who lived in Iowa some twenty to thirty miles south and came up and held services in Clinton township in the Joseph Knight residence and Mr. Norton's home northeast of town.

Luverne the Early Years/continued from page 13

Mr. Joseph Jones who homesteaded the land on which Maplewood Cemetery is now located in 1871 was the first to do carpenter work and undertaking as whenever the necessity for a coffin came up he made it by hand with the lumber that he could obtain from the lumber yard and continued to do all this line of work for several years.

A little later about '76 or '77, Mr. C. C. Drew arrived and built a building wherein he carried a stock of furniture and thereafter took up the undertaking business which was afterward continued by his daughter, Mrs. I.I. Smith and the firm is still doing business under that name. (Mrs. Smith was the first licensed female undertaker in the State of Minnesota.)

In 1873 a Mr. Jenkins came in with an old Franklin printing press drawn by a yoke of oxen and started a newspaper that he called the Rock County Herald. He was a rather bibulous disposition and did not continue very long and about the year 1875 came A. C. Craft from Wisconsin and bought him out and gave us the first semblance of a newspaper that was a real newspaper. He soon sold out to two young men from Wisconsin, Mr. H.J. Miller and Mr. A. E. Stoughton. Mr. Stoughton soon afterwards sold out to Mr. Miller who continued one of the best newspapers in the state for many years, and at his death he was succeeded by the present editor, Mr. A.O. Moreaux who had come here with his parents in 1878 and had grown up in the business, starting in as what is known as a printer's devil.

One of the first dwelling houses which was put up in the city and built of lumber was put up by Mr. T.P. Grout in 1873. The house is still standing immediately west of Cottrell's blacksmith shop.

The winter of '72 and '73 was the most severe winter ever encountered by early settlers. We had a heavy snow and as the whole country was bare prairie, the severe wind piled up huge drifts. One instance of the hardships people endured during this storm has been related to me by Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Kniss who were living in their log house and had put up a small lean-to on the side of it for a summer kitchen.

They told that a settler from out in the country who was lost in the storm, but had found their house while wandering around, was taken in by them and cared for. There was no stable where the oxen could be sheltered, so they took them into the summer kitchen and kept them there for three days. This is merely related to show the hospitality and fellow-feeling exhibited to man and beast by early pioneers.

The first jewelry and watch repairer in our town was Mr. Charles Loose who established a place for repairing watches in the window of the Glass store building. He came in one of two times a week to take care of the work that was to be done. The first

permanent butcher that I remember was a Mr. Grant who opened a shop here in about

'76. Up to the time of the coming of Dr. C.A. Palmer, a dentist, people who had teeth that needed to be pulled had to rely on the doctors who seemed to be able to supply their needs in this respect.

About 1876 two young men came into the city from LeMars, Iowa with a wagon load of stationery and books and started a small store. These men were Mr. J.A. Harroun and Mr. Halbert. Mr. Harroun soon purchased Mr. Halbert's interest and took in as a partner, Mr. C.O. Hawes. They enlarged the business, dealing in books, organs, pianos and other musical instruments. Mr. Harroun continued in business for fifty years, a successful man and reliable citizen.

A little later came Mr. E.H. Canfield, a young lawyer, who had studied law with Frank Kellogg at Rochester, and established himself here and has continued during all these years as a successful lawyer and dependable citizen. Mr. Canfield was our state senator for a time.

Our first banking establishment came in 1876 when Mr. P.J. Kniss and Mr. O.D. Brown started a private bank, conducted as Kniss and Brown. Mr. Kniss afterwards established the First National Bank and was its president for a number of years. Our first railroad also came in 1887, known as the Worthington and Sioux Falls Railroad and with its coming there was rapid expansion in the village and numerous new business firms.

Another early merchant was Mr. Battell, who store was located where the Nelson Bros. Store is now. Mr. A.A. Clifford conducted a general merchandise business on the corner immediately across and south of the above mentioned store.

Before closing I want to pay tribute to the pioneers of the village who took an active interest in the moral and religious welfare of the community by early organizing churches. I think the Methodists were the first to organize in 1874 and by 1877 they were building the first church, the building which is still standing. The Baptist organized in 1876 and by the next year were making plans to build a church which they completed in 1878. The Presbyterians organized the same year, 1878 and soon were making arrangement for the building of a church. The Catholics organized in 1878 and built their first church in 1879.

In covering some of the early history I have endeavored to show some of the men who were leaders in establishing the village from the early beginning in 1867 to 1880. The rapidity of the growth from that time on and the numerous changes in the citizenship you can best get from the local papers which were faithful in recording the changes and happenings. This community was fortunate in the type of men who settled it first, they being young, strong and of high ideals for building worthwhile homes and community of enlightenment and thrift.

The End

Reunions in the Making

Class of 1961—
55th Class Reunion
June 3-4, 2016

For more Reunion Info Contact
Tom Serie 507-220-0808
tomserie@comcast.net

Class of 1966—
50th Class Reunion
September 23 & 24,
2016

For more Reunion Info Contact
Jennifer Holsen
jenholsen@gmail.com

Hardwick's 125th Celebration



June 23-24-25, 2017

In conjunction with Hardwick Jubilee Days.
Added feature: Hardwick All School Reunion.
For more info contact Lorna Siebenahler Bryan:
email: lorna@frontiernet.net



**LUVERNE'S 150th
ANNIVERSARY
WEEKEND**

July 14-15-16, 2017

For more info contact the Luverne Area Chamber Office 507-283-4061 or
email: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

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

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