

## ***Luverne is turning 150 years old***

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

*By Jane Wildung Lanphere*



**In August 1919, Leader Publishing Company of Pipestone began to distribute a history of Rock County in World War I. (Used copies are still available through the Rock County Historical Society – 507 283-2122)**

Luverne saw significant progress and improvement from the turn of the century through the middle of the 1910's. The reality of the war in Europe spread when citizens in this community bonded together to help their families, friends and former neighbors in Europe.

For the most part, the people of Europe greeted the outbreak of war with jubilation. The great majority of people – within government and without – assumed that their country would be victorious within months, and could not envision the possibility of a longer conflict.

On August 1, 1914, four days after Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, two more great European powers – Russia and Germany – declared war on each other; the same day, France ordered a general mobilization. The so-called "Great War" that ensured would be one of the unprecedented



destruction and loss of life, resulting in the deaths of some 20 million soldiers and civilians and the physical devastation of much of the European continent. That devastation directly affected the citizens of Luverne as many of their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and friends remained in the "homeland". After all, Luverne was the home of immigrants. Cities, towns and farmlands across Europe were devastated by the war. Government and industrial production supported the war effort. People were unable to find the necessities of life like food, clothing

and shelter.

Families and friends from America stepped in to help the people of Europe. As early as August 21, 1914, Luverne mayor J. W. Hawkinson received an appeal to aid the Red Cross to care for the "sufferers in the great European war". People donated money, collected goods and prepared boxes for shipments.

The Rock County Herald announced that same day that two Luverne girls were among the war refugees to reach Boston. Ms. Nora and Ms. Jessie Jacobsen had been spending the summer in Europe before the war broke out. They were finally able to board emergency passage on a ship leaving from Naples to America. Until the ship left the Straits of Gibraltar, the vessel was a pawn in a cat and mouse struggle between British and German warships.

**Luverne is turning 150/see page 7**

# Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Dec. 30, 2016, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$3,170. In the memorial section below, the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials. THANK YOU, READERS!

## NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled (Dec. 30, 2016). Please watch for the next issue, April 2017, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

## Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

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

## Financial summary:

Balance 9/30/16	\$733.65
Donations:	3,170.00
DFS Support:	919.07
Expenses:	
Printing:	919.07
Postage	1,462.63
Labels	509.12
Balance 12/31/16	\$1,931.90

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and click on the DONATE button.

### **Helen (Long) Sell '38**

Arthur Tangeman '38

### **Arlyn McClure '46**

Arla (McClure) Cousins '73

Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46

Jeff McClure '70

John '45 & Imogene (Lemke)

'47 Krogmann

Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts

Ruth (Gonnerman) McClure '47

Sandra (McClure) Johnson '76

Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62

VanBatavia

### **Marilyn (Weston) Wiese '46**

Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46

### **Edith Mae (Winter) Briggs '47**

John '45 & Imogene (Lemke)

'47 Krogmann

Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen) '50

Luethje

### **Leo Berning '47**

Chad Tower '47

### **Roger Beers '50**

E. Curtis '44 & Eva Lou (Beers)

'43 Aanenson

### **Ellen (Groth) Long '56**

Larry Engel '56

### **Dennis Schadwinkel '63**

James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson)

'63 Rolfs

Joe Rowe '63

Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

### **Evan VerSteeg '63**

William '62 & Susan (Reimer)

'63 Mohr

### **Maynard LaFrenz '63**

James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson)

'63 Rolfs

Joe Rowe '63

Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts

Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

William '62 & Susan (Reimer)

'63 Mohr

### **Pat (Hagemann) Snitselaar '63**

James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson)

'63 Rolfs

Joe Rowe '63

Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

William '62 & Susan (Reimer)

'63 Mohr

### **Steven Heck '63**

Ardell '62 & Jayona (Collins) '65

Bowman

Christopher '92 & Kari Wulf

Dave '64 & Randa (Smith) '65

Gangestad

David '92 & Laura Bowman

Gordon (Sam) '65 & Joyce

(Aanenson) '65 Hansen

James '59 & Gloria

(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

James '66 & Carol (Aanenson)

'66 Hatting

Jim & Pat (Hatting) '59 Phillips

Joe Rowe '63

Josh '92 & Stacy Gangestad

Kevin '78 & Mary Aaker

Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts

Mick & Joan (Aanenson) '75

Berry

Micky '92 & Heidi (Papik) '94

Sehr

Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

Roger '63 & Barb VanBatavia

Sandra (Hatting) Heck '64

Todd '75 & Shawn (Klosterbuer)

'79 Mann

Twila (Drost) VerSteeg '64

William '62 & Susan (Reimer)

'63 Mohr

### **Diane (VandeHoef) Thompson '66**

Dawn Maxwell '73

James '66 & Carol (Aanenson)

'66 Hatting

Jennifer Holsen '66

Pamela Holsen '66

Twila (Drost) VerSteeg '64

### **Jerry Untiedt '66**

Class of 1966

### **Dennis Gyberg '70**

Class of 1970

Rick '70 & Carol (Schumacher)

'70 Serie

Financial contributions/see page 8

# What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

**DAVID GARCIA (LHS 1957)** sends a note from his home in Metamora, IL. He writes: "Warmest regards to all the graduates of Luverne High; and looking forward to the 1957 class reunion this summer."

From Adrian, MN comes an update from **KAY (DOYLE) COX (LHS 1943)**. Kay writes: "This is the first time I have written to the Alumni News even though I have loved receiving it!

I married Tom Cox on May 6, 1950 and we had five children – Mike, Mark, Mary, Ann and Alan. All of our children were born in Adrian and graduated from Adrian High School. All our children went on to college and all have great and rewarding jobs. My 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren bless my life. Tom died in 1993 and I still miss him very much. Today, I live alone in an apartment.

I love to read and write. That is my hobby and life style. I have written a column for the Nobles County Review since 1993. (I wrote for the Luverne High School paper, The Echo, when I was in school which is probably how I got my start.) I also volunteer around the community for Hospice, D.A.C. in Worthington, R.S.V.P., and Catholic Daughters. This has also given me the opportunity to serve on many boards throughout the years and I find that extremely rewarding. In my spare time, I am a loyal Viking fan and am a big supporter of every sport in Adrian.

Please accept my apologies for never writing before my 91<sup>st</sup> year of life! Keep the news coming!"

The Sunday, October 23, 2016 edition of the Argus Leader of Sioux Falls featured a story of LHS alum, **JONO BOT**. The article was written by City Columnist Stu Whitney:

Jon Bot could have stayed home. No one would have blamed



Photo Jay Pickthorn, Sioux Falls Argus Leader

Jon Bot, owner of Botski's Bar and Grill in Sioux Falls, chats with regulars during happy hour in August when the Argus Leader interviewed him.

him.

The 60-year old owner of Botski's Bar & Grill on the east side of Sioux Falls gets worn down these days, the result of chemotherapy and other treatments. He was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer over the summer and will leave in early November for the Mayo Clinic to undergo a stem cell transplant.

But here was Bot on a recent night, pouring beers behind the bar, mingling with customers and cracking jokes – managing to avoid being the center of attention thought everything revolved around him.

In other words, it was business as usual for the man everyone knows as Jono, whose customers have followed and supported him for more than 25 years, and never more faithfully than right now.

"We've had a good following," shrugs Bot, who ran Jono's Bar and Grill not far from the Sioux Falls Arena for 17 years before selling that establishment and opening Botski's in 2012. "This is a bump in the road that I've got to deal with."

He fills a few orders and greets a familiar face at the door, eliciting a smile. That approach makes good business sense but also reflects

Bot's personality, which remains upbeat despite his health challenges.

"Everybody wants to be around Jono," says Botski's regular Mike Pap, who grew up in Minnesota with Bot and has been his friends for more than four decades. "And he wants to be right here."

The onset of multiple myeloma, an incurable form of cancer related to lymphoma and leukemia, makes that difficult. Chemotherapy treatments are draining, and his regimen of 10 pills twice a day offers a ritualistic reminder of the challenge that he faces.

The original plan was for Bot to follow in the footsteps of his father, Al, who ran Bot Drug Store in Luverne for 34 years. Jono signed up to study pharmacy at South Dakota State after high school before choosing to take a different path.

He started working for his uncle at a Marshall bar while studying restaurant management at Southwest State, gaining valuable experience that he would use when he relocated to South Dakota.

After serving as assistant manager at the First Edition restaurant in Sioux Falls, Bot was

# Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

## 1930-1939

**Altie (Sterud) Domsitz '32** died June 2, 2015, in Sioux Falls, SD. She attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls after high school and was united in marriage to Myron G. Domsitz on February 4, 1935 in Aurora, SD. They lived in Iowa City, IA, Corpus Christie, TX, Terry Town, NY and Potomac, MD. When Mike retired from the Bureau of Standards they returned to live in Brookings, SD, before moving to Dow Rummel Village in Sioux Falls.

Altie was preceded in death by her husband Mike, and three brothers, Paul, Joel and Lloyd.

## 1940-1949

**Elmer K. Thon, Jr. '42** died on November 15, 2015, in Cumberland, WI. Elmer was married in Luverne, MN to Alta B. Else on October 10, 1942. Elmer entered the US Air Force and served his country during World War II. He started and operated Elmer's Plumbing before moving to Sibley, IA.

He studied steam engineering and was employed as superintendent of a power plant in Brookings SD. In 1971 they moved to River Falls, WI where he served as Utility Administrator until his retirement in 1986. Elmer and Alta wintered in Florida, Arizona and Texas. He was also a talented and prolific woodcarver.

Elmer is survived by his children, Jerry (Beverly) Thon, Cumberland, and Bob (Syble) Thon, Hudson; six grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

## 1950 -1959

**Lorna (Hawes) Watts '54** died October 05, 2016, in Luverne, MN.

Lorna worked as a telephone operator and also as a receptionist for Dr. Odland

after graduating from high school. She married **Ralph Watts '52** on December 15, 1956, in Luverne where the couple lived and farmed. Lorna also worked with her husband at several businesses, including Mid-States Sporting Goods, Ralph Watts Fur Co. and Luverne Silo. She was a member of the United Methodist Church.

Lorna is survived by her husband, **Ralph '52**, Luverne; five children, **Julie '76** (fiancé, Bob Rocca) Watts, Maple Grove; **Valerie '77** (Terry) Egger, Alexandria; Tim Watts, Ellinwood, KS; **Greg '80** (Barb) Watts, Norfolk, NE; and **Jane '85** (Tom) Heiberger, Brandon, SD; seven grandchildren; sister, **Beverly '64** (David) Skyberg, Detroit Lakes; and **Larry '60** (**Mary '61**) Hawes, Beaver Creek. She was preceded in death by son, **Steven '87** Watts; brother, **Randy '78** Hawes; and a sister, **Donna Jean '55** Knudson.

## 1960-1969

**Dennis R. Schadwinkel '63** died November 28, 2016, in Luverne. After graduation, he served in the Minnesota National Guard and sold insurance for Combined Insurance. Later he worked at various gas stations in Luverne, Herman Motors and Manley Tires. After retiring, Dennis worked part time at Glen's Foods. He was active in the Methodist Church, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, American Legion, VFW and the Luverne Lions Club where he served as President in 1995 and received the Melvin Jones Award.

Denny is survived by his son, **Todd '86**, Sioux Falls, SD; sister, **Barbara '60** (Don) Westerbur, Jasper; two nephews; four nieces and many great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Rick Schnepf and a sister, Connie Swensen.

**mann) Snitselaar '63** passed away on September 11, 2016. Patsy married Paul Snitselaar on March 17, 1965, in Las Cruces, NM. She loved reading and spending time with her family.

Patsy is survived by her husband, Paul; two children, Christopher (Dawn) Snitselaar and Carrie (Chad) Vanek; two brothers **Michael '60** (Joyce) Hagemann and **Andrew '61** (Dorothy) Hagemann; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother, Bobby Hagemann.

**Steven R. Heck '63** passed away on November 13, 2016, in Luverne. He served his country in the Minnesota National Guard and married **Sandy Hatting '64** on September 24, 1966, in Luverne. Steve worked as a Design engineer at Luverne Truck Equipment in Brandon, SD. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Sioux Falls HOG Chapter and enjoyed attending the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally every August in the Black Hills.

Steve is survived by his wife, **Sandy '64**, Luverne; four children, Kimberly (Mike) Monmaney, Sioux Falls, SD, Kristine (Chad Gruis) Heck, Luverne, **Kirby '92** (Wendy) Heck, Colorado Springs, CO, and **Korey '94** Heck, Luverne; eight grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**Maynard Lafrenz '63** died November 15, 2016, in Slayton, MN. After high school, Maynard worked at Luverne Oil and then at Schoon Motor. Eventually he became self-employed doing auto body restoration. He later purchased an Exhaust Pros franchise in Luverne which he operated until his retirement. Maynard became active in local government as a city councilman and began serving his

third 4-year term shortly before becoming disabled. He became a resident of the Lyon County Care Center in Rock Rapids, IA, and in the October 2015, he moved to the Golden Living Center in Slayton. He enjoyed car racing, the Minnesota Vikings and his dog, Sheeba.

Maynard is survived by two siblings, Jimmie Lafrenz (Janice Larson) of Beaver Creek, and **Wanda '58** Kafka of Luverne; two nieces; two great-nieces; and eight great-great nieces and nephews; and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, LaVern Kafka.

**Laurel L. (Westerbur) Anderson '64** passed away on December 21, 2016, in Brandon, SD. On September 16, 1978, Laurel was united in marriage to **James Anderson '65** in Luverne, where they resided. She worked as a bookkeeper and a waitress.

In 2002, the couple purchased and ran South Dakota Transport Services in Sioux Falls, SD, retiring in 2010. After Jim's death in December, 2013, Laurel moved to Sioux Falls. Her final home was at Bethany Home in Brandon, SD.

Laurel is survived by her step-children, **Ralph '85** (Jane) Anderson, Worthington, MN, Dawn Anderson, Adrian, MN, April Anderson, Worthington, MN, and **Michael '92** (Shannon) Anderson, Sibley, IA; eight grandchildren; two great grandchildren; siblings **Ron '64** (Bobbie) Westerbur, Mt. Iron, MN, **Glen '72** Westerbur, Lincoln, NE, **Lee Ann '73** (Burton) Vermeer, Valley Springs, SD, **Linda '77** (Rick) Johnson, Fergus Falls, MN; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, **James '65**.

**Diane (VandeHoef) Thompson '66** died November 5, 2016, in Brandon, SD. Diane married **Steve Thompson '66** on September 16, 1967. After Steve enlisted in the Army, they lived in the Panama Canal Zone, Killeen, TX, Sioux Falls, SD, Omaha, NE, Lincoln, NE, Orange City, IA and finally, Brandon, SD. Diane and Steve established the 1948 Trading Company in 2002 and worked in it together until 2013. They were named Brandon Business Owners of the Year in 2006. As a couple and a young family, Steve and Diane traveled the US and Canada extensively. Diane was devoted to her family and friends, enjoying their accomplishments, big or small.

Diane is survived by her husband Steve; daughter Kimberly (Jesse) Moffitt, Sioux Center; son Richard (Amy), Brandon; six grandchildren and three siblings, **Elaine '67 (Allen '66)** Boeve, Steen, **LaDonna '73** (Jerry) Behnke, Rapid City, and **Kevin '81** VandeHoef, Larchwood, IA. Diane was preceded in death by an infant brother, Milo Dean, and another brother, **Milen Dale '69**.

**Jerome Untiedt '66** died November 9, 2016, in Georgia. Jerry graduated from Augustana Col-

lege in Sioux Falls, SD, and worked in the telephone communications field. He married Gloria VanDerAarde in 1969. He moved to Melbourne, FL and began his own online training company. He married Susan (Hough Fieg) in 2000. Jerry had many hobbies including music, woodworking, cooking and hiking. In 2011 he was inducted into the South Dakota Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Susan; his son Steven Untiedt, daughter-in-law, Jayme, grandson Wyatt; his daughters Caroline Ruzzamenti and Jennifer Untiedt and their mother, Gloria VanDerAarde; step-daughter Laura Fige Kasibante (Chief), step-son Brian Fieg (Emily), five stepgrandchildren, and several cousins, half-brothers and half-sisters.

## 1970-1979

**Dennis Gyberg '70** passed away November 26, 2016, in Luverne, MN. Denny attended Jackson Vocational School and returned to Luverne to farm. He married Kathleen (Mack) on August 18, 1984. Denny enjoyed camping, restoring classic cars, building three-wheelers and riding motorcycles.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Kathleen; three daughters, Jennifer (Andrew) Ainsworth, Lincoln, NE, Dawn (Brandon) Gunsalus, Luverne, **Dana '89** (Kris) Swanson, Luverne; mother Mabel Gyberg; two brothers, **Stanley '62** (Irene) Gyberg, Brandon and **Norman '66 (Darlene '69)** Gyberg, Magnolia; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Denny was preceded in death by his father and a brother, Steven.

**Eloise Saarloos '77** died on October 30, 2016 in Worthington, MN. She worked at Campbell's Soup for 19 years and then at various jobs until she passed away. Eloise enjoyed fishing, bowling, singing, the Minnesota Vikings and Twins games.

Eloise is survived by her fiancé, Doug Schafer; three brothers, **John '68** (Sue) Saarloos, Brandon, SD, **Robert '70 (Joyce '71)** Saarloos, Norwood-Young American, MN, and **Calvin '78 (Betty)** Saarloos, Luverne; a sister, **Laura '72 (Keith '74)** Woodley, Luverne; thirteen nieces and nephews and 17 great-nieces and great-nephews.

**Patricia "Pat" Jo (Vanderberg) Smedsrud '79** died October 24, 2016, in Sioux Falls, SD. She attended Granite Falls Vo-Tech, Augustana University and Mankato State University and received her Master's Degree and Doctorate from the University of Osteopathic Medicine & Health Sciences in Des Moines, IA.

Pat married **Steve Smedsrud '87** on August 12, 1995, at St. John Lutheran Church. Pat worked as a physical therapist at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center. In 2015, she began working at the Minnesota

approached by one of the regular customers about helping to finance his own operation. Bot took over the former Lee's Café on Burnside in 1990 and renamed it Jono's, hoping to shake up the local scene.

What was envisioned as an Italian-themed pasta restaurant soon became a relaxed sports bar, in keeping with Bot's personality. Well-prepared food was complemented by darts, billiards and a "Hall of Foam" in which customers earned a personalized mug if they sampled enough beer.

Bot started an outdoor music tradition called JonoFest that featured local bands and drew crowds of 1,000 or more to his parking lot, where quirky performer Skippy Blechinger belted out memorable renditions of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

The summer started with Bot showing concern over the health of his wife. Susan was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma and was scheduled to have her kidney removed in early July.

"After all the things she's helped me with over the years," says Jono, "I was really looking forward to taking care of her."

Instead, he found himself feeling increasingly weak and exhausted during her hospital stay, to the point where he needed crutches just to walk.

He felt really sick the day of my surgery but still waited around all day," says Susan. "When he came up to my room, he was wearing a mask, because they thought he had the flu and didn't want me exposed to it."

When it came time to pick up Susan from the hospital, Jono had to have a friend take him because he was too weak to drive. A few days later, on Sunday morning, Susan forced him to go to the emergency room.

He was in the hospital for several days as tests were performed, followed by the diagnosis of multiple myeloma, which affects about 30,000 people a year nationally and has a five-year survival rate of about 50 percent. "Cancer

## *Let's Hear from YOU!*

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni.

Include your **name, year of graduation, address, phone number and email** (also let us know if you would like your email included in our directory of alumni).

Send your news to:

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

Or email Jane Lanphere at  
the Luverne Chamber:

**[luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us)**

was the farthest thing from my mind," says Bot when asked about hearing those words. "It's an eye-opening situation, there's no doubt about that."

This is the story from Jono's Caring Bridge site:

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 11/6/2016  
Jono was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in July of 2016. He has been on Chemo since that time and has now arrived at Mayo Clinic to prepare for the

What We've Heard/see page 17

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

A new update is here:

**You are able to read your  
Alumni News online.**

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

Please email Patti Pierson at

**[piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net)**

The girls felt extremely fortunate to have made it home.

On Dec. 1, 1914, the United States government enacted a "war tax." It required that all persons buying, selling or doing certain things were required to "dig it up" for the war effort. Some of the products or services required the application of a tax stamp, and when the law went into effect, there was no vendor in Luverne. Tax payments were from 1/8 of a cent to hundreds of dollars. Funds would be used by the government to protect America by supporting European allies and preparing our country for war. The four banks in Luverne were scrambling to figure out how to handle this situation.

By February 1915, the situation in Europe was more quickly deteriorating. Victor Van Hyke and Philip Vande Velde began circulating a subscription paper for the benefit of the Belgian war victims. Donors raised \$165.00 and included businesses like: First National Bank, Farmers' National Bank, Nelson Brothers, Rock County Bank, National Bank of Luverne, Home Automobile Company, Hawes & Son, and Johnston-Kolegraff Lumber Company, along with countless individuals.

Women's groups, men's groups and church societies joined together in clothing and food drives. School children pitched in by recycling clothing, shoes and other necessities. Local families would send boxes of food and clothing to their European relatives so that they could share the gifts with those in need.

One of the most successful campaigns conducted by the Rock County Chapter of the American Red Cross was the famous "Liberty Duck Drive". Through the sale of the Liberty Duck at various auctions, the treasury of the Rock county Chapter was enriched by the sum of \$16,752.64, making her the highest priced bird in the world. This famous duck began its journey for the Red Cross from Jasper but travelled throughout the county to church, farm, city and family events. In the October 11, 1916 edition of the Rock County Herald the headline was: "Career of Famous Liberty Duck Ended". The article went on to say:

"Liberty Duck, the bird that laid the golden eggs for the Rock County Chapter, American Red Cross, is no more. Her useful earthly

**THE LIBERTY DUCK**

This Duck was donated to the Rock County, (Minn.) Chapter of the American Red Cross and was sold at ten public auctions held in Rock County for the aggregate sum of \$17,513.64. The places where the sales were held and the amounts brought by the Duck are as follows:

Luverne	\$3,158.91
Beaver Creek	4,678.23
Hardwick	1,120.50
Hills	2,270.00
Kanranoni	528.30
Magnolia	1,322.10
Kenneth	1,252.55
Ashcreek	586.00
Springwater	650.00
Jasper	711.00

The total amount received at the auctions where the duck was sold was \$17,513.64, all of which was for the benefit of the Rock County Chapter.

Mr. Rodman, owner of the Liberty Duck.



career ended last Wednesday and that afternoon it was buried at the home of Harry Rodman, its keeper, in a grave strewn with flowers by the children of Mr. Rodman's family.

For a number of months, Liberty Duck has been noticeable declining, its great feats on behalf of the Red Cross presumably having undermined

its health. The tender care given it by Mr. Rodman was unavailing, and when the end came the duck's condition was such as to make it impossible to have it mounted for a memorial as was originally planned. She was famed throughout the country and her death will be regretted by all Red Cross workers."

In February 1917, President Wilson reports that the American ambassador to Germany is order home. The United States was on the verge of war with Germany. Diplomatic relations were severed by Wilson promised that there would be no further action until Germany would commit some overt act, such as the sinking of an American ship. Just hours later, an American liner named the Houstonic was attacked by a German U-boat. Hours later, America was at war with Germany.

In April 1917, Robert A. Grout, a former Luverne boy and veteran of the Spanish-American War came to Luverne from Sioux Falls for the purpose of organizing a battery of field artillery. There was a great deal of enthusiasm in Luverne from young men anxious to protect their new country from German aggression. Mayor W. A. Wright called a patriotic rally on April 19, 1917 at 8 pm. The proclamation read:

"On April 19th, 1917, we should be inspired by the same patriotism and love of liberty that inspired our Revolutionary forefathers on April 19th, 1775. If we are not, we are not worthy of our heritage.

The Governor of our state, by proclamation, has called upon the people of Minnesota to hold patriotic meetings throughout the State on April 19th for the purpose of calling attention to the necessity of securing additional military recruits, and of coming to a full realization of the fact that we, today, are involved in the greatest conflict of all time.

I call upon all people of the City of Luverne, and all others residing in Rock county, to lay aside their

# Dollars For Scholars announces 2016 perpetual scholarships

Several new Dollars For Scholars perpetual scholarships were established during 2016.  
The names of the new scholarships and their information are as follows:

## Class of 2016

The Class of 2016 challenged Norm Torrison, a 1950 LHS graduate, to match an equal dollar amount raised by the class to establish a scholarship in its name. Norm accepted the challenge.

## Steve Hup Memorial Scholarship

Steve Hup, a well-respected farmer in the community, passed away on March 30, 2015 at the age of 59. He grew up near Steen, later moving to the home place near Luverne where he lived until his death. Steve graduated from Luverne High School in 1974. After high school he worked at Terrace Park Dairy in Luverne and then first farmed with his father-in-law and then his father on the family farm. Steve, along with his wife Debbie, raised their family there. Their daughters, Andrea '99 and Lindsay '03, each graduated from Luverne High School. The family requests, whenever possible, to award this scholarship to an honor student that is interested in pursuing an agricultural degree.

## Albert & Barbara Bot Family Scholarship

Al & Barbara Bot moved to Luverne in 1955 where they raised their five children. They met while students at South Dakota State University and were married for 64 years. Al was owner of and pharmacist at Bot Drug Store on Main Street for 34 years until his retirement in 1989. Barbara was a homemaker until her children were raised and then became a Guardian Ad Litem for the Minnesota Court System. Al & Barb Bot were very active in the community, church & schools. Al served on the Luverne School Board for 13 years. Barbara was a founding member of the Red Arrow Campaign. All five of their children graduated from Luverne High School, KrisAnne, 1971, Robin, 1973, Jono, 1974, Connie, 1978 & Jennifer, 1986.

Al passed away in 2016 at the age of 94. Barbara currently resides at the Good Samaritan Home. College education was very important to the Bot's, who encouraged their own children to graduate from college

Dollars for Scholars 2016 perpetual scholarships/see p. 14

## Financial contributions/continued from page 2

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### Dennis Ossenfort '72

John '45 & Imogene (Lemke)  
'47 Krogmann  
Rory Burke '73  
Dawn Maxwell '73  
Esther Spease Frakes -  
Teacher  
Laurie DeWispelaere '79  
Skeeter '76 & Dawn Frakes

### Jim Thode '75

Joyce Thode '77  
Pamela Olson

### Perry Frakes '76

Skeeter '76 & Dawn Frakes

### Kathy Thorson '77

Laurie DeWispelaere '79

### Robert Bakken '78

Laurie DeWispelaere '79

### Pat (Vanderberg) Smedsrud '79

Donald & Lona (Gabrielson) '70  
Klosterbuer  
Doug '79 & Colleen  
(Obermoeller) '79 Deutsch  
John '45 & Imogene  
(Lemke) '47 Krogmann

Jolene (Obermoller) Hanson  
Laurie DeWispelaere '79  
Mark '76 & Amy (Gonnerman)  
'86 Overgaard  
Sonny & Connie (Rusche)  
Wieneke '58  
Twila (Drost) VerSteeg '64  
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62  
VanBatavia

### Gary Haper '81

Laurie DeWispelaere '79

### Ernie Dahlberg - Teacher

Ivan J. Hansen '54

### Jo Rober - Teacher

James Hamann '56

### Laura Finberg - Teacher

Ivan J. Hansen '54

### Marge Kilker - Teacher

Ivan J. Hansen '54

### Whitey Russman - Teacher

Pamela Olson

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### Bob Rolph '42 (Magnolia)

John '45 & Imogene (Lemke)

'47 Krogmann

### George Schade - Teacher

Ivan J. Hansen '54

## Contributions

Amanda (Reu) Barton '94  
Betty Lou (Jens) Amundson '58  
Bill Frakes '66  
Christine (Mohr) Tortorella '71  
Joyce (Tofteland) Dean '58  
Keith Loger '69  
Leonard '45 & Irene (Lapic) '45  
Hansen  
Melinda (Blashill) Ohlenkamp '96  
Sandra Hitch '63

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## Go green!

You can read the Alumni News online at [www.alumninews.info](http://www.alumninews.info). Let us know if you'd like to "go green" and receive the newsletter online only. Email Patti Pierson at [piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net)



*Enjoy a summer filled with celebration in your hometown...*

**32nd BUFFALO DAYS CELEBRATION IN LUVERNE**

- June 2 Cruise-in with live music by “The Starfires” on Main Street
- June 3 Arts in the Park from 9 am to 4 pm  
Buffalo Days Parade on Main Street begins at 10 am
- June 4 6th Annual Tales from the Graves & Pie Social at Maplewood Cemetery

**NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE CELEBRATION**

- June 17 The Story of Hugh Glass with Freya Manfred & Thomas Pope at the Blue Mound State Park Interpretive Center beginning at 6:30 pm
- June Other events being planned during the month

**1st ROCK RIVER WATER TRAIL CANOE/KAYAK TRIP**

- June 24 Join us for a ride down the river beginning at 11 am (bad weather—July 1)

**2nd FOURTH OF JULY AT THE LAKE**

Davis Lake Triathlon, Bean Bag Tournament, Sand Castle Contest, Parade on the Pond, Log-rolling Competition, Bingo, Live Music (7 to 10), Fireworks at 10:30 pm

**54th HOT DOG NITE ON THURSDAY, JULY 13**

15,000 hot dogs given away, Wienerman Triathlon, Wiener Dog Beauty Pageant , Wiener Dog Races, Live Music, Beer Garden

**150th LUVERNE** (complete schedule for all days with performers included in the March edition of Alumni News)

- July 14 Historic re-enactors throughout Luverne, special events throughout the day
- July 15 Luverne’s 150th PARADE (10 am)
- July 15 PARTY AT THE PARK (beginning at 5:30 pm) with local foods & beverages  
Live performances by Luverne grads & residents on 3 stages  
150th FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR at 10:30 pm

**1st USO SHOW LIVE AT THE PALACE**

Join internationally acclaimed BOB HOPE impersonator BILL JOHNSON as he brings the theatre to life with our first locally produced USO Show! Event will feature music from the FULDA BIG BAND and appearances by “The Andrews Sisters”, “Marilyn Monroe” and many more celebrity re-enactors! Performances on August 26 at 7:30 pm & August 27 at 2 pm

*\* Bill performs the month of September at the WWII Museum in New Orleans! In 2017, he will kick-off his trip with an appearance in Luverne!*

business and other avocations, and assemble at the New Palace Theatre in the city of Luverne on April 19, 1917 at eight o'clock p.m., there to take steps to cooperated with the state public safety commission, to defend our common country, protect our citizens, and to safeguard our homes and our families."

Keynote speaker was Civil War veteran N. R. Reynolds. Others addressing the body were Rev. J. O. Mundahl, Father D. Mangan, Rev. H. W. Baumann, Rev. A. H. Carver and E. H. Canfield. The musical program would be opened with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the audience, led by Carver's Military band and closing of the meeting by the singing of "America". Preceding the meeting, people gathered at the Central school grounds at 7:30 pm and processed to the opera house. Every person was expected to carry a flag. (Photo of Carver's Military Band)

Patriotism stirred men and boys or organize companies to secure military instructions. Seventy-five men began drilling three evenings a week for this purpose with Robert A. Grout in charge. He was assisted by Harvey Norton, a member of Co. F. of the Second Minnesota who recently returned from service at the Mexican border. The drill was also assisted by R. B. Nelson, who graduated from Shattuck Military School, Lt. Mark Bronson of the Fourth Iowa Infantry and Lt. Frank Ferguson, veteran of the Spanish-American War.

Rock County and Luverne was home to many naturalized citizens of European birth who came to this country to seek their fortunes and make a new

life for their families. These citizens were very concerned about their property. Sheriff J. E. Black was responsible for upholding the law. In April of 1917, he enlisted the following proclamation:

To Foreign-Born Residents:

"I, J. E. Black, Sheriff of Rock County, Minnesota, deem it wise in the present crisis, in this formal proclamation to assure all resident of foreign birth that even in the event of the United States becoming actively involved in the great European war, no citizen of any foreign power, resident in Rock County, need fear any invasion of his personal or property rights so long as he goes peaceable about his business and conducts himself in a law-abiding manner.

The United States has never, in any war, confiscated the property of any foreign resident unless by his own hostile acts he made it necessary.

I take this formal means of declaring to all foreign-born residents that they will be protected in the ownership of their property and money and that they will be free from personal molestation, so

long as they obey the laws of the State and Nation.

I urgently request that all people refrain from public discussion of questions, involved in the present crisis and maintain a calm and considerate attitude toward all without regard to their nationality.

Let it be understood that



Patriotism stirred men and boys or organize companies to secure military instructions. Seventy-five men began drilling three evenings a week for this purpose with Robert A. Grout in charge.

every citizen owes undivided allegiance to the American flag, that he is expected to loyally fulfill all obligations which citizenship and residence impose upon him, and that any act, however slight, ending to give aid or comfort to the enemy is treason, for which severe penalties are provided in addition to that punishment which public opinion inflicts upon the memory of all traitors in all lands."

On April 27, 1917 seven Luverne men were taken in to attend military training camp for officer's training school. They included Robert A. Grout, Elmer Jones, Barton Chapin, Clifford Rierson, George W. Fried, C. S. Rulon and O. L. Hayden.

In May, Rock County appointed officers for the conscription registration board. Luverne had A. O. Moreaux in the south ward and A. M. Solberg in the north ward. Registration day was fixed as June 5th from 7 am to 9 pm when all men between the ages of 21 and 30 must register. Failure to do so was punishable by arrest and incarceration.

On June 5, 1917 1,083 men in Rock County registered in the first conscription. Of that number 120 were aliens of nations with which the country was not at war, 42 are aliens of Germany or natives of that country who have taken out only



their "first papers".

Toward the end of May 1917, the Liberty Loan Bond sale began. The Federal government set the goal of selling \$2 billion dollars of bonds throughout the country by the middle of June. Minnesota's allotment was \$43,000,000. Rock County's share was \$200,000. Some of the sales were Bearer Bonds issued in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 by the local banks. Those bonds could be cashed in at a bank at any time. Registered bonds were issues in denominations of \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$50,000. Interest checks for those bonds were mailed out semi-annually. During the first week of bond sales in Rock County, only \$55,800 worth of bonds was sold to 200 purchasers. By the following week, 100 Luverne purchasers came forward to hit the 50 percent bond quota. Local bankers worked with their clients to hit the \$200,000 but by the end of the drive came up \$25,000 short. Rock County stepped up and purchased the remaining \$25,000 so that the county's full allotment was subscribed. Rock County was one of the few agricultural counties in the state to reach its full allotment.

Throughout the war years, Liberty Loan Drives were spearheaded in Luverne and Rock County. In October 1917, the goal of \$500,000 was set for the second drive. By November, 1917 \$600,050 was raised. Luverne contributed \$199,400 to the effort. The third campaign opened on April 15, 1918 with a goal of \$600,000. Within a few days, total subscriptions were close to \$725,000. Luverne raised \$193,000 while Worthington only raised \$115,000.

The May 3, 1918 Rock County Herald boasted:

"Loan Subscriptions to Exceed \$800,000...when the final figures on the Third Liberty Loan are compiled it will be found that Rock County was oversubscribed by its quota by more than 60%. With the returns still incomplete yesterday morning, the total for the county was \$843,850, an oversubscription of practically \$363,850. The total subscriptions in the city of Luverne were \$208,500 to the quota of \$106,800 which was oversubscription of more than 100%. Luverne will win a special Liberty Loan Banner for this accomplishment."



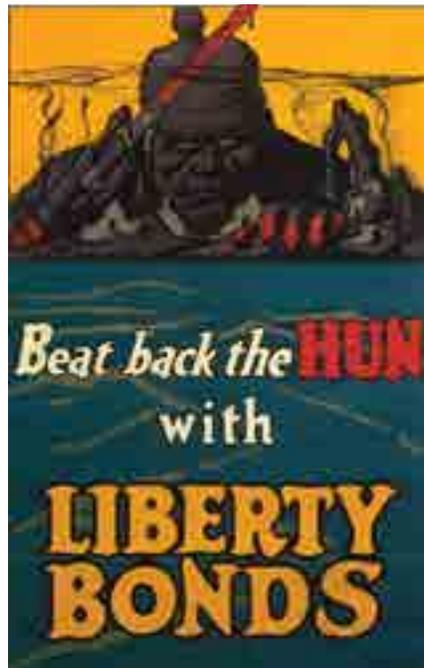
When the draft officially began in 1917, a county exemption board was appointed being comprised of Sheriff Black, County Auditor Skyberg and County Physician Sherman. They would hear the arguments from men whose numbers were drawn as to their reasons for exemption. Of the 1,088 registered men between the ages of 21 and 30, each would be given a random number through a drawing. Rock County's quota was to furnish 120 men. The local board began to review the men and reported in early August that only 10% of the 160 they examined were willing to serve. Many were filing claims based on dependent and agricultural exemptions. Of the 160, the board found only 25% physically unable to serve. Men had great anxiety through the process. One citizen, a native of Denmark, attempted suicide to escape service. The exemption board received notice by the middle of August that the county's quota was reduced to 44 because 76 young men enlisted. The 44 young men were sent to Camp Dodge, IA for their training and deployment.

During the same period, the Federal government demanded that all male natives of subjects of Germany from the age of 14 years and older were to register between the dates of February 4-9 at the post offices throughout the county. This would include all native Germans who had not yet completed the oath of citizenship.

In February 1918, nineteen men were required to fill the county's quota for the draft. The second increment left the end of February with an appropriate send-off. A reception was held at the Manitou and then the men were marched to the station to depart. The final quota of eighteen men from the first draft was sent to their training camp in March of 1918. Businesses and

schools closed in their honor and thousands gathered at the depot as they departed over the Rock Island to their call for service.

The sentiment in the article in the Rock County Herald mirrored the feelings we have today when our young men and women enter military service. The article in the March 8, 1918 paper read: "The blood of every patriotic person in the crowd was





The final quota of 18 men from the first draft went to training camp in March 1918. Businesses and schools closed and thousands gathered at the Luverne depot as they departed over the Rock Island to their call for service.

## Luverne is turning 150 years old/continued from page 11

quicken by the spirits of "do or die for their flag" that animated the departing men and by their cheerful submission to duty's call that they offer their lives in defense of their country. Every heart in the big crowd was stirred by the fine spirit and the splendid manhood of the men who had been called, yet underneath this many were the hearts that ached at thoughts of the sacrifices these men probably will be called upon to make, for while every true-hearted American highly admires and honors the men who offer their very lives in defense of their country, their sorrow over the sacrifices these men must make is second only to their admiration of the men willing to make sure sacrifices."

Throughout the next six months, 213 men would be called up for service. As the war went on, agricultural exemptions for service were refused by the District Board.

In September 1918, President Woodrow Wilson called that all men between the ages of 18 and 45 who were not in the service must register for the draft. An additional 1,362 men enrolled under the new registration.

A total of 2,445 Rock County citizens were registered and there were already over 300 who had responded to the call for service. Rock County had over 12 percent of men eligible already enlisted in the service. WWI ended on Nov. 11, 1918, but our boys continued to serve; burying bodies, guarding prisoners and assisting in reclamation of property.

"Bedlam Reigns from Early Morn Till Late at Night as Veritable Mob Surges Through Streets."

The first flash that the armistice had been signed was given to the Herald Monday morning at 2:10 by the United Press. The glad

tidings were passed to Mayor C. O. Wright as soon as he returned from a professional call in the country, and he arranged to have the fire whistles blown, the fire bell rung and the streets fully lighted. Ministers were called from their beds to arrange for having their church bells rung.

At the appointed hour, upon signal from the big whistle at the power house, every bell rang out the glad tidings, while the big motor fire truck raced through the streets of the city sounding its siren unremittingly.

Instantly the whole city was galvanized into action. The streets were filled with men, women and children rushing down town, shouting and cheering as they ran, the beating of tin pans, ringing of hand bells, and everything that would make noise.



Carver's Military Band contributed to the celebration in the streets of Luverne when WWI ended on Nov. 11, 1918.

**Luverne is turning 150 years old/continued from page 12**

Carver's Military Band soon appeared on the street and a parade was formed and the cheering thousands marched up and down the street. In a few minutes a huge bonfire was burning in the square at the "bank corners" (Main and Cedar) and this fire was not allowed to die down until midnight.

Early in the afternoon a big songfest was staged at the bank corners in which thousands joined in singing national and patriotic songs, and pleasing addresses were given by Dr. A. H. Carver and E. H. Canfield."

Although a truce had been signed, our local soldiers were still in harm's way. Soldiers died from influenza and pneumonia they contracted at training camp or in the service. They succumbed to injuries they received during the war, often from infections that



couldn't be treated. Skirmishes in the French countryside continued and soldiers were ambushed or caught in the crossfire. As bodies

were recovered, the death toll continued to rise. At the end of WWI, 24 Rock County citizens were KIA. That list included the only female KIA in Rock County history, Fyvie Rae Horne who died as a result of influenza. She served as a nurse in the influenza ward at Leavenworth, KS where she tended to soldiers returning from Europe.

Liberty Loan Drives continued as the Federal Government needs to find a way to pay for the cost of the war. Our community had new goals to reach and the Federal government found innovative ways to entice citizens to contribute to the war effort. For the campaign that began in April 1919, the county was awarded fourteen German helmets that were to be distributed as prizes for the subscribers. The

## DFS perpetual scholarships/**from p 8**

as well as many other young people. The family requests, whenever possible, to award this scholarship to a student with exemplary academics who plans to attend SDSU in Brookings, SD.

### **Evan VerSteeg Memorial Scholarship**

The Evan VerSteeg Memorial Scholarship was established in his honor by his wife, Twila '64, and children Tim, Tom and Tami each graduating from LHS in '88, '91 and '97 respectively. Evan, a 1963 LHS graduate, was a life-long resident of the Luverne area. He farmed, was employed at Terrace Park Dairy, IBP and Farm Pro. Evan embraced the opportunity to know the Laotian community extending respect, kindness and love. In return, lifelong and cherished friendships were developed. The family requests this scholarship be awarded, whenever possible, to a minority student in pursuit of a college/technical degree.

### **Robert Jensen Memorial Scholarship**

Robert Jensen, a 1960 LHS graduate, passed away on April 23, 2016. He served in the MN National Guard from 1964-1970. He worked at Thermo King Refrigeration before working with Elliot & Anderson Floor Covering for over twenty eight years. Prior to his death, Robert generously set aside a certain sum of money for the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program.

### **Shelby Sisters Scholarship**

Gail, Shirley and Inez Shelby, daughters of Alfred and Mabel Shelby, grew up on a dairy farm in Luverne. They graduated from LHS in '47, '49 and '50 respectively and have fond memories of an idyllic childhood. Luverne in the '30s and '40s was a comfortable, friendly place where everyone knew each other and long-lasting friendships were made. The small town values they learned have served them well and they have led happy and successful lives. They are proud LHS graduates and have enjoyed reading the high school newsletter over the decades as a way to keep in touch with their hometown. Inez passed away in March of 2016, but Gail and Shirley are in good health and spirits and excited about the opportunity to support LHS graduates with this scholarship. Their hope is that this scholarship will be awarded to an individual with a genuine desire to learn and create a brighter future.

## Remembering our Classmates/**continued from page 5**

Veterans Home in Luverne. She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, the Blandin Foundation, and Luverne Dollars for Scholars. Pat's final act of kindness was to give the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

Pat is survived by her husband, **Steve '87**, Luverne; three children, **Tony '03** (Lindsey Kozel) Smedsrud, Hill City, SD; **Kynzie '15** Smedsrud, Luverne; and **Chaz '16** Smedsrud, Luverne; parents, Jim & Marte Vanderberg, Luverne; two brothers, **Joe '76** (Melinda) Vanderberg, Arlington, TX; and Al (Carla) Vanderberg, Spencer, IA; a niece & three nephews, Caroline, Zach, Brady & Casey; father-in-law, Keith Smedsrud, Luverne; mother-in-law, **Mary '68** Sites, Lismore; sister-in-law, Cindy (Troy) Veld, Lismore; two nieces, Marissa & Caitlyn Veld; and a nephew, Mitchell Veld.

## **2000-2009**

**Jason Krueger '00** passed away December 28, 2016, at the Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center, in Fort Worth, TX. He was living in Arlington, TX.

Jason is survived by his mother, Jonal Krueger, Mankato, MN; his father, Matt Krueger, Arlington, TX; sister, **Kelly '04**, Arlington, TX; brother, **Casey '07**, Luverne, MN; and many other relatives and friends.

## **Former School Staff**

**Josephine M. Rober**, age 102, died November 5, 2016, at the Lyngblomsten Care Center in St. Paul, MN. Josephine grew up on a farm near Steen and graduated from Ellsworth High School.

She received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from the University of Sioux Falls. Josephine married Charles W. Rober on December 26, 1935, and they made their home in Luverne.

She taught school from 1933 to 1976 at Steen, Beaver Creek, Hardwick and Luverne schools. She also taught piano and organ to students from the Luverne area. Josephine was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Luverne where she was organist for thirteen years.

Josephine is survived by two daughters, **Eleanor '59** (Ron) Van Guilder, White Bear Lake, MN and **Kathie '64** (Bryce) Erickson, Minnetonka; three grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by husband Charles in 1987; three brothers and two sisters.

**Mavis D. Herman** passed away on December 29, 2016, in Sioux Falls, SD. She grew up on the family farm near Rock Rapids, IA, and graduated from there in 1950. Mavis was married to Robert Herman on November 9, 1954.

They farmed near Luverne and when Bob died in May, 1976, Mavis moved with her daughter, Robin, to Luverne and began working as a cook with the Luverne High School. She continued there for twenty years until her retirement in 1996.

Mavis is survived by two daughters, Charmaine Baker, Edina, MN, and Robin Heeren (Doug), Lead, SD; and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband, Robert; and four siblings.

# Reunions in the Making

## Class of 1957 60th Class Reunion

July 14-15, 2017

Friday—5:30 pm Dinner at The Bluestem  
Saturday—5:30 pm Class Spot Reserved

## CLASS OF 1959 SAVE THE DATE

Saturday—July 15, 2017—1 to 5 pm  
*Party Room - Pizza Ranch*

Eleanor Rober Van Guilder [ervang@comcast.net](mailto:ervang@comcast.net)  
or Curt Dooyema [dooye@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dooye@sbcglobal.net)

## Class of 1962 55th Class Reunion July 14, 2017

Dinner—Luverne Country Club  
More info will be sent later

Contact: Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey [dargw@aol.com](mailto:dargw@aol.com)

## Class of 1967 50th Class Reunion July 14-15, 2017

Contact: [ronaldippi@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldippi@gmail.com)  
Facebook “LHS Class of 67” group for updates!

## Class of 1969 Get—Together July 14th, 2017

Friday—5 pm at The Lake  
(the old Creamery Pond)  
to make plans for our 50th Class Reunion in 2019. (BYOB)



## LUVERNE'S 150th July 13-14-15-16, 2017

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

## Class of 1972

Happy Hour—Bird Dog Reunion

*Class of '72 Luverne Cardinals  
Class of '72 & '73 Magnolia Bulldogs*

Saturday, July 15, 2017

Randy & Vicky (Birkeland) Smook's, 1707 181st St., Luverne

Food, chairs & good music provided. BYOB, memories & fun!  
*Don't forget to wear your school colors!*

For more info: '72—Vicky Smook 507-920-9141 (Cardinals);  
'72—Roger Tollefsen 507-920-7582 (Cardinal)

## Class of 1977 40th Class Reunion July 14 & 15, 2017

Friday—Reunion Dinner  
Saturday— At Party at the Park  
Facebook: *Luverne High School Class of 1977*  
Contact: [sue@brakke.us](mailto:sue@brakke.us)

## Class of 1992 25th Class Reunion July 13-14-15, 2017

Thursday—Hot Dog Night (band playing at old Herman  
Motors Building)

Friday—Grand Prairie Events

Saturday—Float in parade; Redbird Field (program & 'the old  
band' is making a return); City Park activities

Facebook: *Luverne High School Class of 1992*

Contact: [allisonthreeboys@gmail.com](mailto:allisonthreeboys@gmail.com)

More specific info coming later in a letter



## Hardwick's 125th Celebration June 23-24-25, 2017

Hardwick All School Reunion In conjunction with  
Hardwick Jubilee Days For info:

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

# Hardwick is celebrating 125 years June 24-25

It's time we gather to renew friendships, laugh (and sometimes cry) as we share memories of the good old days at Hardwick Grade School. We have fun things planned, of course reminiscing with classmates will be the highlight.

**We will celebrate Hardwick's 125th during Jubilee Days and All School Reunion June 24.** The All School Reunion Committee encourages individual classes and families to organize and make floats for the parade.

We will be mailing out registration forms, t-shirt forms and full schedule to all Hardwick Alumni on January 20th.

If you didn't receive one contact one of the Committee members below.

Hardwick 125th t-shirts are available: \$15, long sleeve t-shirts \$17, sweatshirts \$20, hoodies \$30 in sizes S to 3XL in white, gold or gray. (2X & 3XL is \$2.00 more and \$5.00 shipping). Also caps in white or gray for \$15.

Contact Lorna Siebenahler Bryan to order and it will be mailed out to you. We have all sizes and colors in at the Luverne Chamber Office. Make plans to attend to reminisce with old classmates.

**Please send your stories or memories of what you and your families did in your days in Hardwick or if you have old pictures you'd like to share** to connect with other Hardwick Alumni and email to Joni Petersen or send to 715 W. Main, Pipestone, MN 56164.

Hardwick All School Reunion Planning Committee: Lorna Siebenahler Bryan – lorna@frontiernet.net Patti Kirby Pierson – piersonprp@frontiernet.net Dianne Lorenzen Ossenfort – rdossen@mchsi.com Joni Petersen – jonipete@iw.net Colleen Obermoller Deutsch – colleendeutsch79@gmail.com Jolene Obermoller Hanson – johalsne@gmail.com Kristie Obermoller Weinkauf – kweinkauf@iw.net Terri DeBates Siebenahler – hockey2742@hotmail.com Bill DeBates – wmdebates@vastbb.net.

## Hardwick Celebration Schedule of Events

### Friday, June 23

“Wildcat Headquarters” Open from 3 to 8 pm – City Hall  
Pick up your All School Reunion packet  
Selling Hardwick 125th t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and caps  
Display of “Hardwick Grade School” pictures  
Hardwick Fast Pitch Softball Game – 8:00 pm  
Car Show and (DJ) on Main Street – 5 to 8 pm  
Live Music on Main Street – 8 pm to Midnight - No cover charge.

### Saturday, June 24

Co-ed Softball Tourney – 8:00 am – at the ball diamonds  
“Wildcat Headquarters” Open at 9:00 am– City Hall  
Wildcat Burger Special – at the Green Lantern Café from 11am to 1pm  
Inflatables for Kids – 4:00 to 9:00 pm  
Bean Bag Tourney – 2 to 5 pm - Main Street - Cost \$5.00 per team  
Tractor Ride to Edgerton – 8:00 am registration and roll-out at 8:30 am  
Bingo - 2 to 4 pm - under the tent  
Hardwick All School Reunion group photo picture – 4 pm – Main Street  
All School Reunion Meal – serving 5:00 to 6:15 pm -  
Under the tent across from the Fire Hall Catered by the Green Lantern Cafe  
Community Meal – serving 5 to 6:45 pm – Hardwick Fire Hall  
All School Reunion Program - 6:15 pm - Under the tent  
Jubilee Days/Hardwick's 125th Celebration Parade – 7:00 pm  
Pedal Pull – following the parade - Main Street for ages 4-11  
Street Dance – 9:00 pm – Main Street - “IV Play”  
Sponsored by Green Lantern Bar. No cover charge.

### Sunday, June 25

Community Worship Service – 10:30 am –  
Under the tent across from the Fire Hall - Pastor Mumme of Zion Lutheran Church -  
Guitar music by Jane Hemme Cote (HGS Class of 1968) - Lunch following Worship

## What We've Heard/Jono's Caring Bridge entries/from page 7 \_\_\_\_\_

stem cell transplant. You can read more about his story written by Stu Whitney in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader in the October 23rd Edition. The first day entailed long hours of testing which will continue through the upcoming week. Jono is hoping for many successes, first one being a win for the Vikings today. And then on to too many wins for Jono's journey.

Just an FYI, Friends, Jono isn't a big fan of the computer so postings are not actually coming from him. But I will keep you updated best I can, unfortunately with less humor that he would have provided.

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 11/9/2016

Jono has successfully completed all of the tests these past few days with flying colors. We met with the BMT Doctor yesterday and she was very pleased with his results. His plasma cells have dropped from 70% down to 5% so he is a perfect candidate for the stem cell transplant. One additional Dr. we will meet with tomorrow is the Neurologist. Jono has developed a tremor in his right hand and they need to figure out the cause. We have had numerous educational videos and training classes that were very overwhelming but also very helpful. Today we had a Nutrition class to discuss what he can and can't eat after the transplant. I better sharpen up my cooking skills! Tomorrow Jono will be starting the mobilization process which are injections given to stimulate the stem cell production. This will be every day through Sunday at which time they will determine if he needs additional infusion therapy to generate more stem cells. They will harvest enough cells for three transplants. The stem cell collection phase is scheduled for Monday, the 14th, which typically lasts for two to five days. This will be followed by the conditioning phase which is a day or two of very high doses of chemo. THEN he will be ready for the transplant. We are staying at the Charter House which is right across the street from Mayo Clinic and has an underground walkway to all the different areas of the Clinic that we need to go. So we feel very fortunate to be staying so near by. It is a very big place and we are getting our exercise. We miss you all and are looking forward to coming home as soon as possible!

Journal entry by JON BOT — 11/12/2016

Jono started the mobilization process on Thursday which is a daily injection into the stomach that will help produce more stem cells for the collection phase. He has tolerated that well without many side effects. Yesterday he had surgery to place the central line into his chest. This is a catheter that will be used for all future treatments including the chemo, stem cell collection, stem cell transplant and also the daily blood tests needed after the transplant. He is getting very tired of being poked so this will certainly help. He was pretty sore last night but that is to be expected. Jono had a bit of a setback on Thursday when we met with the Neurologists for his hand tremor. We were expecting them to tell us that it was related to one of the chemo drugs he has been on, but after extensive testing by two Neurologists, they have diagnosed him with the early stages of Parkinson's disease. Not what we were expecting. So they have started him on medication for that as well. Jono said we have to get out of here soon before they find something else wrong. It is a pretty quiet weekend with only one appointment each day for the injections. Then Monday at 7:00 a.m. is when the stem cell collection phase will start which will require five hours in bed hooked up to machine. Good he has his iPad and yes he does know how to use it!

A big THANK YOU to everyone back home that is keeping everything going for us. We appreciate you so very much!

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 11/16/2016

This week has been a success!! Jono was able to collect 12 million stem cells in just two days. They said it could take up to five days to collect the 9 million needed so he was very fortunate to be done that soon. The process wasn't painful but just very exhausting for him. The nurses up on the floor said that he is an over achiever :)! Jono's next Dr. appointment is on Friday and we will find out the chemo regimen they have planned. That will begin on Monday with the stem cell transplant scheduled for Wednesday, the 23rd. I have already decided that we will do a delayed Thanksgiving Dinner. We are having the opportunity to visit with other patients and their spouses that are on the same course as Jono so that has been very helpful. We see them up on the floor for treatments every day and will continue to see them as treatment progresses. It is good to hear what side effects they are having and what has helped

them feel better. Amazing to know how many people just like Jono that are affected by this disease. Thanks to you all for your prayers and support!!

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 11/24/2016

Yesterday was Jono's transplant which is referred to as "day zero". It was a very long day and he was really tired but had no negative side-effects from the preservatives in which they store the stem cells. That is the most common complication when getting your own cells. The side-effects of the chemo did kick in sooner than expected so he is now on three anti-nausea drugs and a daily injection. Jono didn't eat much today, but he did still enjoy his Thanksgiving dinner. Needless to say, we have a lot of leftovers. I only had to Ask Siri and e-mail my sister a few times throughout the day for instructions! Jono had his first of the daily follow-up appointments today where they check his vital signs, take blood, get questioned by the nurse and then examined by the Doctor. They will keep very close tabs on him to make sure he is stable and everything is going according to plan. We know that here in a day or two his white blood count will start to drop down to zero and there will be some bad days ahead, but we keep our eye on the end result and that is coming home. We cannot wait! Hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 11/28/2016

We knew this day was coming but the worst of the worst has arrived. Jono has totally lost his appetite and has trouble keeping anything down. In addition to the three anti-nausea drugs that he takes several times a day along with the daily injection, they have added an anti-nausea patch. None of which seem to be giving him much relief. This presents another problem which is taking the large number of pills that he needs to have every day. This has been a real challenge. He refers to me as the "Pill Pusher" so he hasn't lost his sense of humor. The last couple of days they have kept him at Station 94 for several hours to give him fluids as he is dehydrated and his blood pressure has dropped. We hope and pray he doesn't have many days like this but every day brings us one step closer to coming home.

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 12/1/2016

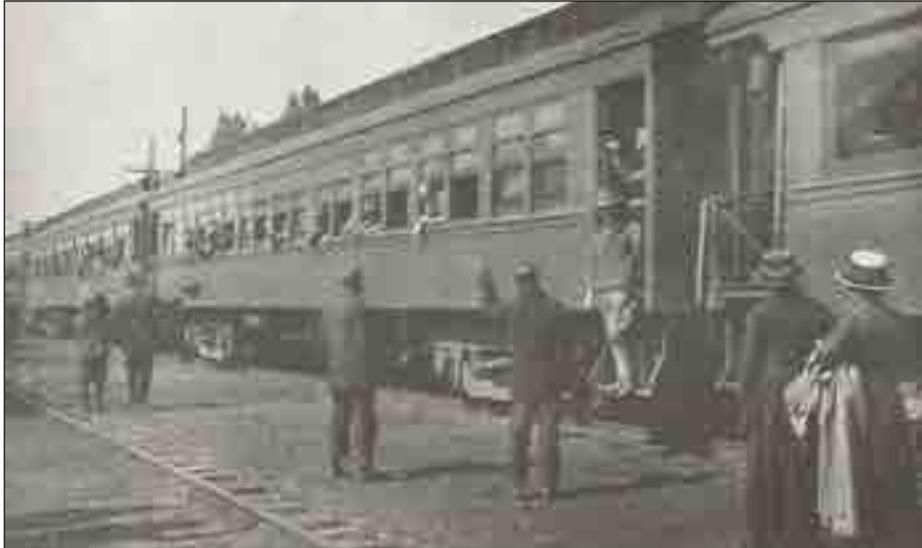
Jono spent the last three days in the hospital and is doing much better! His nausea is now under control and he can eat and drink on his own. Huge progress! We will continue to go to Station 94 (or Club 94 as Jono likes to call it) every morning for his appointment and again in the evening for an additional anti-nausea injection. So hopefully that will do the trick. He is still weak and light headed but feels much better after getting the nausea under control. The next hurdle the Dr. has prepared us for is the fever which should hit within the next few days. That often sends patients back to the hospital as it could signify an infection. I asked if anyone does NOT get a fever and although it is rare, it could happen. I am thinking that Jono may be the lucky one.

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 12/4/2016

It looks like Jono will get through this transplant without the fever most patients experience. The Dr. said he may still get a fever as the white count comes up but at this point in the process it would be just a fever and not an infection. Today was the first day that the blood counts are starting to improve so we are really excited about that! He looks better and is starting to feel better. The Dr. sounded confident that this should be the week that his counts return to the required levels and once they are stable for three days, we will find out when Jono can come home. I will be going back to Sioux Falls tomorrow so I can return to work and Jono's sisters will take over as caregivers. I will be coming back to Rochester to bring him home in a very short time. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support these past few weeks. We couldn't have gotten through this without you!

Journal entry by Susan Bot — 12/13/2016

After nearly six weeks, Jono is ready to come home! He had appointments today with his Primary Care Doctor and will go again tomorrow morning for labs, but his white counts and neutrophil counts have come up to the required levels which means that his immune system is starting to function again. He will need to be very careful for a while as he is still susceptible to disease and will be on numerous medications to help protect him. Jono is starting to get his strength and energy back and is anxious to return to Botski's. He sure does miss that happy hour crowd. We appreciate all the help we received from his family this past week. Nice to see that after all these years he can still get along with his sisters! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, HEALTHY 2017!!



As the war went on, agricultural exemptions for service were refused by the District Board. In September 1918, President Woodrow Wilson called that all men between the ages of 18 and 45 who were not in the service must register for the draft. An additional 1,362 men enrolled under the new registration.

### **Luverne is turning 150 years old/continued from page 13**

banks in Luverne partnered with the county war savings chairman William Jacobsen on promotion for children. Children were to receive a “genuine hand grenade” savings bank to children under 17 who purchase a \$5 war savings stamp. Adults would have to purchase 2 - \$5 war savings stamps to receive a hand grenade savings bank. The headline of the Rock County Herald of January 6, 1922, announced that “Many War Time Taxes Are Now Eliminated.” The Federal taxes that remained were for “moving picture admissions, jewelry sales, telephone and telegraph tolls.”

Over the next few years, many community tributes and special events were held to honor all who had served in the “War to End All Wars.” In May 1919, Luverne High School had a tablet engraved containing the names of 98 alumni who served their country, including three who had died. Today that tablet is on display at the Herreid Military Museum. A big crowd paid tribute to the 20 dead from Rock County at a memorial service held at the New Palace Theatre on Memorial Day in 1919. In August 1919, Leader Publishing Company of Pipestone began to distribute a history of Rock County in World War I. (Used copies of the book are still available through the Rock County Historical Society – 507 283-2122)

In August 1922, plans began for the formal organization of the Rock County Post 123 of the American Legion. Paul K. Myers and George W. Fried were tasked with the organization of the post. The name “Dell-Hogan” was selected for the post in memory of the first Rock County service men to lose their lives in combat during World War I. Private Elmer Dell who was reported as missing on October 15, 1918, in the Argonne Forest was declared dead in July 1919. Private Harold Hogan was killed in action on October 15, 1918, in the Argonne Forest.

**Luverne was and is a patriotic community.** From our roots of being founded by Civil War veterans through the period of the Spanish-American War when local citizens demanded that Luverne had the “opportunity to serve” by creating a National Guard unit to World War I and beyond – many men & women volunteered for active duty and those who remained at home found ways to serve through bond drives, charitable donations, supporting military families, resource management and much more. The flag of the United States of America flies proudly in Luverne – yesterday, today and tomorrow.



Jim Brandenburg photographed the historic cannon not long after it was placed on its carriage the front lawn of the Rock County Courthouse near the Rock County Veterans Memorial.

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**Alumni News**

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