

In 1921, community volunteers show up for ‘Park Improvement Bee’

Leading up to Luverne’s 150th celebration, the Committee thought it would be appropriate to share some “snippets” about our city’s storied past.

Our goal was to provide highlights through the decades. Our last historical retrospective was printed in the April 2017 edition of Alumni News.

That article covered the World War I era so we have decided to re-introduce that historical series starting again with some interesting stories from the 1920’s.

One of the most popular places in Luverne is our beautiful City Park. It has been a popular destination

for decades. Perhaps some of you may have wondered how it was developed.

An article from the Rock County Herald of April 9, 1921 tells part of the story:

APPROXIMATELY 75 PEOPLE RESPOND TO CALL FOR DONATION OF LABOR IN IMPROVING PUBLIC PARK

The “Park Improvement Bee” which was held last Friday afternoon resulted in a large amount of work accomplished in clearing off the park grounds and doing the preliminary leveling of the dirt which had been dumped in the park for filling depressions.

About 75 were on hand to take part in the “bee,” the number including one woman and much enthusiasm and keen interest were evidenced in the project of making the park one of the most beautiful in the state, and a pleasure ground of which the county will be proud.

The second improvement bee which was to have been held Wednesday afternoon of this week was postponed until more dirt is accumulated and has been dumped at the park. The amount of work accomplished Friday left little on hand to be taken care of until later.

Stories from the decades/see page 5

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Dec. 31, 2017, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$942.91. In the memorial section below, the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials. THANK YOU, READERS!

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, April 2018, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Balance 9/30/17 \$674.86

Donations: 2,365.00
DFS Support: 1,000.00

Expenses:
Printing: 919.07
Postage: 1,459.72
Labels: 715.82
Paypal fees: 2.34

Balance 12/31/17 \$942.91

Memorials

Erling Tofteland '41

Loren Overgaard '81
Mabel (Tofteland)
Overgaard '45

Odin Olson '41

E. Curtis '44 & Eva Lou
(Beers) '43 Aanenson
Timothy '67 & Connie
(Vegge) '68 Connell

Elda (Jauert) Trisko '45

John '45 & Imogene
(Lemke) '47 Krogmann

Arlene (Burmeister) Mann '51

George '50 & Phyllis
Heronimus

Gayle (Frakes) Beers '51

E. Curtis '44 & Eva Lou
(Beers) '43 Aanenson
John '45 & Imogene
(Lemke) '47 Krogmann
Melvin Hamann '53

Helen (Stroh) Biren '54

Arland '54 & Peggy
(Schmidt) '54 Anderson
Joan (Padilla) Ripley

'54

Reinhold Schmuck '54

James Thorson '54

Arland '54 & Peggy
(Schmidt) '54 Anderson
Arlen '53 & Martha Olson
Rosemarie (Dietrich) Loose
'54

Dennis Arp '59

Evert VanEngelenhoven '59

Donna (Oye) Stoterau '60

Dale Stoterau '56

Janyce (Braa) Baustian '61

Gordon '65 & Joycelyn
(Aanenson) '65 Hansen

Judy Henriksen '63

Dale Stoterau '56
Duane '60 & Peg (Holder)
'60 Lammert
Garfield '60 & Ellaine
Henriksen
Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

Laurel (Westerbur) Anderson '64

Dave '64 & Randa (Smith)
'65 Gangestad

Russ VanVoorst '64

Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter)
'62 VanBatavia

Jerilyn (Scott) Kille '69

Garfield '60 & Ellaine
Henriksen
James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting
Laura (Siebenahler)
Sutherland '69

Verlyn Hoff '73

Dawn Maxwell '73
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl)
'69 Papik
Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts

Sam Polzin - Teacher

Dave '59 & Donna (Kallsen)
'58 Connell
Gordon '65 & Joycelyn
(Aanenson) '65 Hansen
Joe Rowe '63
Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen)
'50 Luethje
Rick '77 & Kim Connell

Contributions

Alice Schmidt '61
Arthur Tangeman '38
Bill Frakes '66
David Garcia '57
Harold Tilstra '69
Keith Loger '69
Robert Anderson '52
Sandra Hitch '63

What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

Alumni News sends apologies to James Wiggins for the mistakes in the October edition. Written below is the corrected copy.

JAMES L. WIGGINS, LHS Class of 1942, sends greetings to his friends and classmates from Luverne. He writes: "As I write this, I wonder how many alumni of the year 1942 are still living? I enjoy receiving the Alumni News and keeping up with what is happening in my hometown."

"My brothers (Joseph and Fred) and sisters (Mary and Martha) have all passed on. I was not as active in school as I would have liked because I lived on a farm two miles from Hardwick. Transportation was more difficult back then."

"June 9th of this past year, I retired from a part-time job with Albertson Grocery Store in Denison, TX where I had worked for over 30 years. I took early retirement from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1983 with almost 40 years of service. I started in Minneapolis in the Milwaukee Railroad ticket office. Then I was hired by the Chicago & Eastern Railroad where I was in freight sales. I moved to Houston, TX in 1951, Kansas City, MO in 1955, Dallas, TX in 1956 and again to Houston in 1968. Of course, I went through many merges; Missouri Pacific Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad."

"I was married to Lorraine Thinen in 1946. Lorraine passed away in 2003, after 66 ½ years of marriage. Lorraine was schooled in Minneapolis. Our four children all live in Texas and it is great to live close by. I have 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren."

"Warmest regards to all Luverne alumni!"

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:

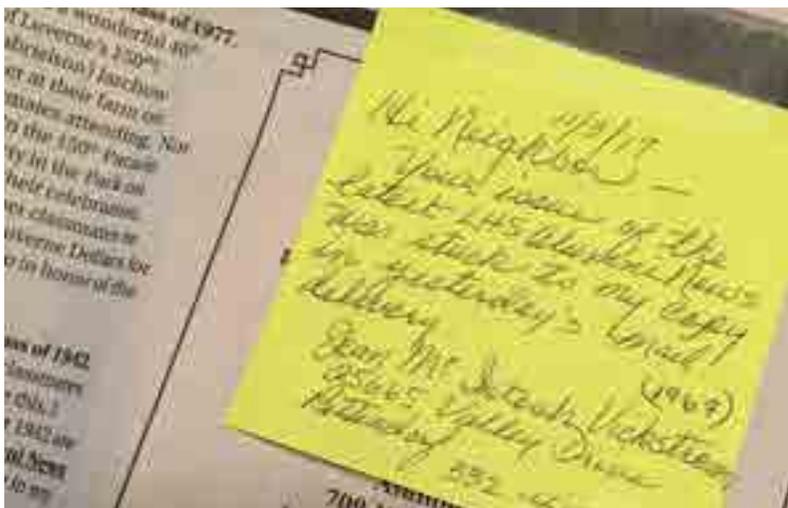
luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

ANDY SCHMIDT, LHS Class of 1972, send greetings to friends and family from the road. Andy writes: "My wife Jean and I live fulltime in a Motorhome. We spend time with family and friends in Minnesota (3 children, 8 grandchildren) and Maryland (2 children, 4 grandchildren). The rest of the time we spend exploring this great country, trying our best to avoid cold winters. Jean is retired. I continue to work in IT which I can do from the road."

LHS grad MATT GROPEL of Bettendorf, IA sent his father **Gregg Gropel** (Alumni News founder) an email with this photo of a note that was on the Alumni News he received last fall.

Matt's comment was: "It looks like I live real close to a 1967 LHS Alumna." That alumna is non-other than **JEAN MCINTOSH VICKSTROM**.

It certainly is a small world for LHS Alumni.





Luverne to host Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener in 2018

The 2018 event, scheduled for Oct. 12-13, will be the eighth annual Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener, which was initiated by Gov. Mark Dayton in 2011.

The event features the many hunting, recreational and travel opportunities that host communities have to offer visitors.

The Luverne Area Chamber & CVB will coordinate, promote and conduct the 2018 Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener Event with support from Explore Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources assisting in planning the

event.

Locally, there is a great group of people who have volunteered to serve on the Pheasant Opener Committee.

Committee members include: Rick Peterson (chairman), Arlyn Gehrke, Craig Oftedahl, Darin Kindt (LHS 1989), Dave Deragisch, Gary Papik (LHS 1969), Kyle Oldre (LHS 1983), Mike Davis, Phil Paquette (LHS 2009), Randy Walgrave (LHS 1966), Scott Rall, Skyler Hoiland (LHS 2009), Mike Jarchow (LHS 1983), Tyler Hulstein, Tim Plimpton, Vance Walgrave (LHS

1968), Kirk Bloemendaal (LHS 1983) and Todd Luke.

If you are interested in helping with the event, contact the Chamber at 507-283-4061 or luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us. Jane Wildung Lanphere (LHS 1971) is serving as staff for the event.

And don't forget to check out Luverne's new billboard face – promoting the 2018 Governor's Opener east of Luverne on the westbound lane! It will be up just in time for the National Pheasant Fest which will be held in Sioux Falls the middle of February.

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

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

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

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

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

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

The "bee" Friday was held under the auspices of the Luverne Commercial Club, but city and commercial club and other organizations are co-operating in the movement, and extensive improvements to be followed by the work of beautifying are being planned.

The work Friday consisted almost entirely in leveling the several hundred loads of dirt that had been dumped at the park, which filled up many of the holes and depressions and left the grounds in nice shape. The ditch on the north side of the park, along the public highway, was filled and leveled, this part of the work being in conjunction with the improvement which has been started by the city of a roadway around the park. The driveway will start on the west side of the park near the old power plan, and will follow the south margin, around to the east.

This roadway, with the fact that the park is bordered on three sides by the river and many fine trees will give a scenic drive that will add much to the general attractiveness of the park, and serve to bring out its natural beauty. The driveway will be a dirt road, with gravel and cinder covering. While this work will be carried on by the city, the commercial club will co-operate in the additional improvements in every way possible.

In an article from the May 6, 1921 Rock County Herald, Luverne women organized a society to support the work:

The meeting held Friday evening at the Commercial Club rooms by the women of Luverne and vicinity for the purpose of organizing a women's park improvement association was well attended, over fifty being present, and much enthusiasm was manifest in the plan of co-operation for carrying on the work which is now under way for the beautifying of the city's public park.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. E. A. Brown, and a formal organization was effected with the election of the following officers: Mrs. F. A. Leicher, president; Mrs. J. E. Treat, vice president; Mrs. W. L. Kartrude, secretary; Mrs. C. J. Martin, treasurer.

While no other definite action was taken at this meeting aside from the general discussion of the purpose of the organization, the general tenor of opinion brought out in a survey of the work was favorable to enlarging the scope of the work, to include not only co-operation in the present project of park improvement, but in all civic improvements, and it was tentatively decided to call the organization the "Civic Improvement Association."

A second park improvement bee was held in May according to this article in the May 13, 1921 Rock County Herald:

The second "Park Improvement Bee" has been called for this afternoon by Mayor George Michaelson. The work this afternoon will include the cleaning out all little in the park, trimming the trees, and some leveling and seeding. The principal work, however,

will be in a general clean-up of the park, and also cleaning out the brush and rubbish on the west side of the drive on the east of the park.

The Women's Park Improvement Association will serve a luncheon at this "bee" as their special part of the work.

This was the follow-up story to the bee from the May 20, 1921 Rock County Herald:

The second Park improvement bee, which was held Friday afternoon, was marked by the splendid amount of work accomplished, in spite of the fact that the weather was quite unfavorable, (with) about thirty coming out to help with the work planned for the afternoon.

A notable improvement was made in the road east of the river from the railroad track to the east bridge. While this stretch along the road is not a part of the park proper and is owned by S. S. Toms, who has practically donated it for public use, it is most important as a view point to the park for those approaching the city, and gives the first impression to be gained of the park.

All undergrowth was chopped out along this road, the tree trimmed so that a splendid view of the park can be obtained from the roadway. All rubbish was cleaned out of the strip between the road and the park, and near the Omaha track and further up the road were partially filled, and the use of these places for dumping will hereafter be strictly forbidden. As soon as more dirt is obtained from the paving, they will be completely filled up and leveled over.

A considerable amount of riprapping was done along the river bank with the concrete from the street crossings, as reinforcement to the park bank, and to hold the water course, furnishing a bank along the edge of the park. The work in the park proper consisted mostly in trimming trees, and chopping out dead ones, resulting in greatly improving the appearance of the landscape.

Another future objective for the park is the installation of a swimming pool on the east side of the park if means can be devised for raising funds for the project and carrying on the work.

By August 1921, citizens saw significant improvements in the park.

This article was featured in the August 5, 1921 edition of the Rock County Herald. The headline read:

From 400 to 600 Bathers Were Daily at the Amusement Place During the Warmest Days of July

During the warmest days of the past month from four to six hundred adults and children daily made use of the bathing pool at the Luverne public park, according to the estimate of E. L. Liecher, who was instrumental in opening the pool.

The swimming place, which is located at the southeast edge of the park, was first opened June 27th,

and has since steadily grown in popularity.

As the pool is especially well adapted for the use of children, the great majority of those who frequent the place are children.

That there has been no serious accident at the pool is largely to painstaking attention given to the place by Ed. Giedemann, as special park policeman. Since the opening of the swimming hole Mr. Leicher and others interested in the amusement place have been experimenting in regard to raising the water to a higher level in order to give bathers a great depth for diving.

By reinforcing and raising the dam near the Omaha railway bridge, they have succeeded in raising the water at the swimming hold about a foot.

Although no definite plans for developing the swimming pool have been arrived at, it is quite certain the proposition will be materially enlarged before another bathing season rolls around.

By 1923, the Luverne Public Park was becoming known far and wide as a beautiful place to go. This speaks of the updates in the park from an article in the Rock County Herald in July 1923.

With numerous improvements which have been added to the Luverne public park this season under the supervision of Supt. Ed Leicher, this city is fast building up a park and tourist camping ground which any town can be proud of.

The area of the park was increased this spring by the leasing of a plat of approximately three acres from Abe Moi, on the south side of the grounds, extending from the driveway to the river. This portion, and also the west end of the grounds, which previously had been but little used, have been cleared of the brush and weeds, and the surface levelled wherever necessary.

A new road has been built through this new section, and this, as well as all the other roads in the park, has been surfaced with crushed rock. Work has begun a few days ago on a suspension foot bridge which will be built across the river near the swimming pool to the road on the south.

For the convenience of tourists and picnickers, a well was put in the park this summer, and six new tables and several stoves have been added, the tables being donated by the ladies of the Park Improvement society. A range and a cot have been installed in the building at the park for use in rainy weather.

In the line of playground equipment, the park now contains a goodly number of swings, teeters, sand piles and gymnasium rings for enjoyment of the younger children, and for the older ones, three horseshoe courts have been set out at the northwest end of the grounds. The gymnasium rings are the contribution of E. W. Lynch.

By 1924, there was a great deal of public support to enhance the swimming pool at the Luverne public park. Within six months, over \$2,189.25 had been raised. The City contacted Mr. Godward of the Minneapolis Park Board to help them with the plans for a "Good Swimming Pool in the City Park". This article from the

... His idea was that a very satisfactory pool could be obtained by windering the river at the bend near the cement bridge at the extreme northeast corner of the park, and if funds will allow, to possibly cut off a small point of the peninsula. The river is fine sand and gravel bottom, although this is now covered to some depth by silt and mud. But some excavation will be necessary in order to attain a graduated depth, and thus an entirely gravel bottom can be reached.

Rock County Herald of June 26, 1924 edition:

Luverne's swimming pool proposition, which had been "in the air" during the past several weeks, has finally moulded into a definite plan.

The plans now adopted are in accordance with the suggestions made by Alfred C. Godward, civil engineer for the board of park commissioners of Minneapolis, who was here Sunday to confer with the committee in regard to the various proposed sites.

The board outlined to him these plans, and after looking over the river situation here, the engineer pointed out in what respects the different proposals would prove unsatisfactory if a permanent and sanitary swimming pool is desired. He favored the plan of having the pool directly in the river and discouraged the idea of excavating for a pool outside of the river course, from the standpoint of sanitation and also because of the cost of such an undertaking.

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Godard proposed that a wing dam be placed above the pool, which would force the water into a narrower channel with greater force, thus aiding in washing away the sediment. The river dam, he

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1930 -1939

Warren Herreid '38 passed away on October 26, 2017, in Luverne. After high school, Warren apprenticed with his brother Ralph in his jewelry store. A year later he joined the National Guard, was stationed in Kodiak, AK, and later in France during WWII. He married Joyce Kahler on April 20, 1944. Warren was activated during the Korean War. In 1953 he bought a jewelry store in Sauk Centre. He was hired by Rosemount Engineering in 1961, moving the family to Bloomington, MN, where they lived until Warren retired in 1986. Warren rejoined the National Guard, completing 20 years and retiring in 1981 as a sergeant major. Warren and Joyce moved to Luverne in 1992. He was VFW Commander from 1993 to 1996, appointed by the governor to the National Citizen's Committee of Luverne, and volunteered at the Luverne Veterans Home and the Luverne Sanford Hospital. Warren was a member of the Lions Club, the Blue Mound Woodcarvers Club, the Last Man's Club and the Honor Guard. In 1999, Warren was selected as Rock County Senior Citizen of the Year.

Warren was preceded in death by his wife of Joyce in 2007. He is survived by his children, extended family and many friends.

Esther V. (Drost) Petersen '39 died December 2, 2017, in Luverne. After school, Esther worked at the Sioux Falls telephone office and at the Western Cartridge Company in Alton, IL. She married Roger Petersen on April 25, 1944. They lived for 40 years at the Petersen farm near Hardwick. In 1984 Esther and Roger moved to Luverne where they lived for six months during the year. They lived the other six months in Fort Myers, FL. After Roger died, Esther moved to the Oaks, then to Poplar Creek and finally, to Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.

Esther is survived by two children, **Elwayne '63** Petersen, Luverne, and **Glenyce '64** (John) Lecher, Anderson, SC; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a great-great granddaughter; and a brother, **Robert '47** (JoAnna) Drost, Blue Springs, MO. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger; a brother and his wife, Elmer (Francis) Drost; and a sister and her husband, **Louise '42** (Norman) Vegge.

1940 – 1949

Erling Tofteland '41 died November 7, 2017, in Luverne. After high school, Erling continued to work on the family farm. On December 18, 1947, he married **Ann Johnson '45** in Luverne. They farmed southeast of Luverne. In 1956 the couple moved to Erling's parent's farm where they lived until 1989 when

they moved to town. Ann passed away in 2001. On June 1, 2005, Erling married Doris (Regg) Anderson in Luverne. During his life, he served on many boards and was a member of the Sons of Norway, Luverne Rotary Club, and Luverne Lions Club.

Erling is survived by his wife, Doris; four children, **Steven '67** (Julie), Luverne, **Stanley '69**, West Des Moines, IA, **Debra '73** (Kevin Corey), Andover, and **Andrew '81** (Sally), Ramsey; eleven grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; three siblings, **Mabel '45** Overgaard, **Naomi '53** Wilson, Luverne, and **Walter '47** (Ardith), Naples, FL; a brother-in-law, **Lloyd '52** Johnson, Albert Lea; and many other relatives. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Ann**; two grandchildren, Brian and Bradley Tofteland; a brother, **Conrad '43**; and two brothers-in-law, Gordon Overgaard and Charles Wilson.

Phyllis E. (Horigan) Murphy '41 died December 22, 2017, in Woodland, MN. Phyllis worked as a telephone operator for Northwestern Bell for 30 years, retiring in 1979. She was a member of St. Jude Guild, the V.F.W. and American Legion, and was a Gold Star Mother.

Survivors include her sisters, Kay Nelson and Therese (Dave) Potter; and her nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by sons Danny and Jim; brothers Lyle Jr. and Bud; sisters **Janet '44** Dawson and Mary Schneekloth; an infant brother, Joseph; and her nephew, Andrew.

Alice (Hoven) Vant Hof '42 passed away April 28, 2016. After school she moved to Seattle, WA, to be near her older brother. She met and married Corky Vant Hof. Alice worked 10 years as executive secretary in real estate banking. The couple returned to Minnesota. In 1972 they relocated to Scottsdale, AZ, and in 1985 realized their dream by starting Creative Food Brokers. Alice was a member and President of Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority.

Alice is survived by son Gary Vant Hof and his wife Lorraine of San Ramon CA. She was preceded in death by her husband Corky in 1988 and a daughter Sue in 2013.

Phyllis K. (Wendt) Helgeson '42 passed away on January 1, 2018, in Shoreview, MN. After graduating from high school and Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, Phyllis worked as a Pan Am flight attendant for 4 years. She returned home to shoot photography for the Luverne newspaper. In 1959, Phyllis married

Conley and moved to the Helgeson family farm in Hills, MN. After farming for many years, Phyllis and Conley retired as snowbirds to Scottsdale, AZ. After Conley passed in 2000, Phyllis moved to Mesa, AZ.

Phyllis was preceded in death by husband, Conley, and siblings, **William '37** Wendt and **Carol '38** Binford. Phyllis is survived by children, Barry (Carla) and Andrea; three grandchildren; and brothers **Robert '47** (Jean) and **Kenneth '45** (Betty) Wendt.

Joan H. (Sterns) Mulder '42 passed away on December 16, 2017, in Worthington, MN. After high school she worked as an assistant to the Rock County Auditor and married Emery Mulder on November 23, 1945, in Luverne. The couple moved to a farm east of Rushmore where they farmed and raised their family. They were married for sixty-eight years. They retired and moved to the Meadows on January 28, 2013.

Joan is survived by eleven children, Tom (Linda), Osakis, MN; Mark (Sharon), Union Grove, WI; Eunice (Randy) White, Crooks, SD; Lois Bridges, Scotts Bluff, NE; Jim (Wendy), Diamond, MO; Avis (John) Hilger, Lincoln, NE; Robert (Tammy), Bailey, CO; Deborah (Randy) Rohwer, Stacey, MN; Kurt (Jody), Rushmore; Warren, Rushmore; Wade (Angie), Sioux Falls, SD; daughter-in-law, LeAnn Mulder, Wilmont; son-in-law, Gene Holtorf, Palmer, KS; forty grandchildren, seventy two great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; seven brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law She was preceded in death by her husband, Emery; a daughter, Marcellyn Holtorf; daughter-in-law, Nancy; brother, Joel; and an infant brother, Guy.

Elda E. (Jauert) Trisko '45 passed away December 2, 2017, in Hills, MN. After high school, Elda attended Airline Reservation School in Minneapolis. She returned to Luverne where she worked as a bookkeeper at Creeger's for 50 years. Elda married Joseph Trisko on January 4, 1960, in Inglewood, CA. She led a very active life, singing in her church choir for 70 years. She also loved to golf, bowl and travel to visit family and favorite destinations.

Elda is survived by her sisters, **Ardoth '48 (Vern) Kraetsch**, Windom, MN, and **Marilyn '53** (James) Wright, Tulsa, OK; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Joe in 2007; her siblings Russell, **Roger '60, DeLores '41** (Jack) Schafer, and **Marlys '52** (George) Babcock; and nephews **Ronald '67, Arlyn '64** and **Rick '72** Jauert, and Jim Schafer.

Gerald J. Leech '48 died October 30, 2017, in Luverne. He served in the Air Force in Japan after school and during the Korean Conflict. Jerry married **Margorie Hoh '51** on November 3, 1958, in Luverne. He worked as an insurance agent for Minnesota Protective Life, retiring in 1992. Jerry

then went to work for Schwan's for ten years. He was a member of the Luverne American Legion and VFW.

Jerry is survived by his son, Todd G. Leech, Jordan, MN; special friend **Margaret Hoh '43**, Ellsworth; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie in 2007; an infant son, Brad; an infant daughter; and two brothers, **Rex '43** and **Glenn '36** Leech.

Clara J. (Kooiker) Rozeboom '49 died December 31, 2017. She was secretary at the A.A. Anderson Real Estate and Insurance office for two years after graduation and married Harvard "Bud" Rozeboom on June 20, 1951, in Edgerton. They farmed near Leota, MN. Clara helped on the farm, gave piano lessons, worked at Mouw's Hatchery, and for nearly nine years was a CNA at Edgebrook Care Center. She played organ at Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church for nearly fifty years.

She is survived by four daughters, Joyce (Steven) Pomp, Tenstrike, MN; Connie (Witzel) Ron DeBoer, Hawarden, IA; Sharon (David) Kuik, Leota; and Beth Van Essen, Sioux Falls, SD; twelve grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; a brother, John (Sherry) Kooiker, Hull, IA; two sisters, **Cynthia '50** Lundberg, Sioux Falls, SD; and Louisa De Boer, Leota; three sisters-in-law, Gertrude Kooiker, Luverne; Beverly Kooiker, Caledonia, MI; and Harriet (John) Vander Haar, Edgerton; a brother-in-law, Marvin Rozeboom, Leota; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by husband, Bud; son-in-law, Greg Witzel; three brothers, Jake, Herman and Willis Kooiker; and a brother-in-law, Don De Boer.

1950 – 1959

Charles Brown '50 died November 24, 2017, in Afton, MN. Charles graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School, completed residency at the Mayo Clinic, and practiced obstetrics/gynecology in St. Paul for over 40 years. Charlie loved the outdoors, whether enjoying his yard, traveling, bicycling, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting scuba diving, or racing his car.

He is survived by his friend Joan Roe; his children Charles III, Paula Pearl (Paul), Alisa, Megan (Paul), Matthew, and Andrew (Sarah); four grandchildren; and brothers **Richard '53** and **Stephen '58**.

Gayle M. (Frakes) Beers '51 died December 5, 2017, in Luverne. Following graduation, she worked as a punch key operator at Tri-State Insurance. Gayle married **Roger W. Beers '50** on August 31, 1952, in Luverne. After Roger returned from the service, the couple farmed southwest of Luverne. Gayle worked at the Rock County Star-Herald newspaper for 20 years as typesetter. In January, 2012, she and Roger

moved to Luverne.

Gayle is survived by her son, **Brad '75** (Jane) Beers, Luverne; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Gina Beers, Sioux Falls, SD; two sisters-in-law, **Eva Lou Aanenson '43**, Minnetonka; and Esther Frakes, Luverne; and many nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger in 2016; a son, **Scott '73**; and two brothers, **Dallis '53** and **Jess Jr. "Skippy" '64** Frakes.

Arlene A. (Burmeister) Mann '51 died November 1, 2017, in Brandon, SD. Arlene worked at Renfro Variety before and after graduation from high school. She married **Eugene Mann '50** in Luverne. The couple lived in Fort Monmouth, NJ, and Fort Sheridan, IL while Eugene was stationed with the US Army. After Eugene's discharge, they returned to the Luverne area to farm.

Arlene worked at Sears and Shaw Drugstore in Luverne. In 1982, Arlene and Eugene retired and moved into Luverne. In 2013, they became residents of Bethany Meadows in Brandon, SD.

Arlene is survived by her husband, Eugene, of Brandon; their children: **Belinda '73** (Daniel) Kroska, St. Joseph, MN, **Brian '74** (Patty), Cheyenne, WY, **Brenda '77** (**Mark '78**) Mann Harrison, Snohomish, WA, **Bryce '79** (Stacey), Lewes, DL, and **Benita '80** (Scott) Dingman, Bemidji, MN; 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; a twin sister and brother-in-law: **Darlene '51** (Walt) Johnson, Brooklyn Park, MN; and a sister-in-law: Betty Burmeister, Luverne.

She was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, **Elaine '45** (Peter) Jensen; and two brothers and one sister-in-law, **Richard '45** Burmeister and **Wayne '49** (Doloris) Burmeister.

James A. Thorson '54 died November 29, 2017, in the Rapid City area. After high school Jim attended Pharmacy School at South Dakota State University. He worked in Austin, MN, for five years. Then, he purchased the Rexall Drug Store in Jasper, MN, where the family lived for seven years. The family moved to Rapid City where he continued and finished his pharmacy career.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sharon Thorson; two sons, Jeff (Hugie), Dave (Holly); one daughter, Jill (Jim) Kullbom; two sisters, **Carol '47** (Roy) Cooper, Mickey (Arnie) Gabrielson; one brother, Steve (MaryJane); seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

1960 – 1969

Gary Koontz '61 died December 2, 2017, in Greeley, CO. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1961 and upon discharge worked as a Power and Water Resource Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation until retiring in 1998. In 1997, he married Lucy

Jean Velarde in Loveland, CO, where Gary was the director of nursing home ministries for almost 15 years. Gary earned a Bachelor of Theology degree at Christian Life School of Theology, and became a commissioned minister at Resurrection Fellowship on January 20, 2009. Most recently he had been involved with Sozo Ministries.

Gary is survived by wife Lucy Jean Koontz; sisters Linda Rae Scott and Amelie Rosal Carlson, both of Washoe Valley, NV; sons Deron Koontz, Gregory Velarde and Christopher Velarde; daughters Alicia Seefeldt and Rebecca Alvarez; fourteen grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Judy A. Henriksen '63 passed away November 7, 2017, at Tomah, WI. She married David Graphenteen on October 25, 1969. They later divorced. She spent her working years cleaning houses in the area. An avid Vikings fan, Judy's life was her children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Judy is survived by her children, Suzann (Scott) Poff, Ontario, WI, and Scott (Julie) Graphenteen, Rockland, WI; four grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; a brother and sister-in-law, **Gar '60** and Elaine Henriksen, Brandon, SD; a former son-in-law, Mark Carlson; and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Merle and Clair; a sister-in-law, Kay and a niece, Jill Voyles.

Russell VanVoorst '61 died November 27, 2017, in Luverne. He served in the Army Reserve National Guard from 1964 to 1971. On April 6, 1968, Russ married Myrna Crosby in Luverne, where they spent their lives together. Throughout his life, he had many jobs, but the one he loved the most was plowing snow for MnDOT. He retired in 2009 after 22 year of service.

Russ is survived by his children, **Tracy '91** Van Voorst (Jeremy Kilkus), Rochester, and **Vicky '94** (Nathan) Weissenberger, Onalaska, WI; two granddaughters, Lauren and Lucy; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Myrna, in 2013.

1970 – 1979

Verlyn Hoff '73 died on October 25, 2017, while working near his rural Luverne home. Upon graduating, Verlyn worked on a local farm and at Midwest Ambulances in Luverne. He married Tamie Garrels on November 22, 1975.

He worked for the Luverne Farm Store Gas Company and became manager of the Ferrelgas Company when the company divided. Verlyn farmed full time. He was also a board member of the Take 16 Brewery in Luverne and took pride in its collaborative

success. He liked to get away in the winter to Apache Junction, AZ, on his Harley.

Verlyn is survived by his wife, Tamie; two children, **Shelly '94** (Mark) Ahlschlager of Hardwick, and **Chad '99** (Darcy) of Luverne; three grandchildren; his mother, Reva Hoff, Luverne; and two siblings, **Sharon '82** (**Tim '79**) Knoll, Brandon, SD, and **Roger '79** (Lisa), Steen. He was preceded in death by a sister, **Joyce '70**.

FORMER SCHOOL STAFF

LaMoynes 'Sam' Polzin passed away November 30, 2017, in Luverne. Sam graduated from Jeffers High School in 1949 and then attended Waldorf Junior College. On February 12, 1953, he married June Buckley in Forest City, IA. He enlisted in the US Army. Upon his discharge, they moved to Mankato, MN, where Sam completed his education, graduating in 1957. The couple then moved to Luverne where Sam taught at Luverne High School until his retirement in 1987.

He was inducted into the Waldorf College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2002, and had a passion for woodworking and photography. Many of his woodworking projects can be found in and around

Luverne, including the Grace Lutheran Church altar.

Sam is survived by his wife, June; three children, **Patti '73** (Jerry) Jondahl, Fargo, ND, **Tim '77** (Jackie), San Tan Valley, AZ, and **Jenny '83**, Sioux Falls, SD; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; two sisters, Darlene Reintitz, Minnetonka, and Dorla Dagner, Richfield; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister, Elva Mae; and five brothers-in-law.

Marvin Doering passed away December 11, 2017, in Luverne. Marvin grew up in Parkston, SD, and then joined the U.S. Army in 1955, serving for 16 months in Korea. On August 27, 1961, he married Darlene Juhnke in Parkston. The couple moved to Luverne in 1967. In 1976, Marvin began working in maintenance at Luverne Public Schools and was the chief boiler engineer for 35 years. He retired in May, 2011, and moved to The Oaks in 2014.

Marv is survived by his brother, Norman (Imogene), Janesville, WI; a sister, LaVerna (Vernon) Neugebauer, Mitchell, SD; sisters-in-law Marjean (Jim) Aplan and Nadine Juhnke; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene; two brothers and two nephews.

Stories from the decades/continued from page 5

estimated, could be raised enough to heighten the general level of the water about one foot. He further advised that a spillway be built off to one side, near the Omaha railroad bridge, south of the pool location with a gate which could be raised or lowered in case a change of water or lowering of the level is desired. The committee of B. E. Pelstring, Herman Fitzer, Jas. H. Horne, Dr. J. W. Haskinson and Russell Wiggins was authorized to confer with the city council in regard to the matter, and if the sanction of that body is secured, to take further steps at once to carry on the work.

By the end of August 1924, most of the work was complete and Luverne had its first official swimming pool. For the summer of 1925, Luverne had its first swimming instructor - for ladies only. This was from the June 1925 Rock County Herald:

The ladies of Luverne who are interested in swimming are to have an opportunity to take a course of swimming lessons, beginning next Monday. Arrangements have been made by a number of ladies of Luverne to have Miss Lois Bauch, of Sioux Falls, an expert instructor in swimming to come to Luverne and organize a number of classes.

Those interested are invited to meet her next Monday, June 8th, at 10:30 am at the swimming pool in the public park, when the first classes will be organized.

A special class for business women is planned, and those who are unable to attend the 10:30 am session may meet Miss Bauch at the pool between

12 and 1 o'clock.

Those desiring further advance information may telephone Mrs. R. B. Nelson or Mrs. A. O. Moreaux.

If you want to talk about a successful Christmas celebration in Luverne, there is no doubt you will harken back to 1921. In that year, on December 17th, Luverne put up a Community Christmas Tree. It was a huge success. This was printed in the December 23, 1921 Rock County Herald:

More Than 2,000 Kiddies Greet Santa Claus and Uncle Sam, Get Candy Bags, Attend Free Movies

A crowd of kiddies numbering more than two thousand, coming from all parts of Rock county gathered at the Rock Island station Saturday afternoon to greet Santa Claus and Uncle Sam upon their arrival at 1:26 pm to inaugurate the Christmas celebration for Rock county children arranged for by the business and professional people of Luverne.

Taking warning from the fact that Santa Clause was on board the train and word that had been passed along that a great crowd of children would be on hand to greet him, the engineer brought the train into the station at a snail's pace to forestall accidents.

The welcome accorded Santa Clause and Uncle Sam was a warm and enthusiastic as these popular personages had ever received, and beyond a doubt

impressed them with the importance of their mission.

Trucks had been provided in anticipation that Santa Clause and Uncle Sam would bring with them great quantities of candy for the children. The trucks were needed, for there were close to three thousand bags filled with candy, nuts and popcorn balls, each bag weighing three-fourths of a pound that had to be transported to the Christmas tree for distribution to the kiddies.

A procession was formed, headed by the Luverne band, and the two thousand children and several hundred grown-ups, who could be distinguished from the kiddies only by their size, escorted Santa Clause and Uncle Sam on their truck loads of candy to the bank corners, where the community Christmas tree had been erected and the distribution of the candy bags was to be made.

Owing to the crush Santa Claus and Uncle Sam had to call for help from the crowd in making the distribution of the bags, and several citizens joined in the happy work. When about 2,200 bags had been distributed it was found that every child had been supplied. Santa Claus didn't want to carry any of the bags away, so when assured that all of the little kids had been given a bag he distributed the remaining bags among the grown-up "kids" in the crowd, all of whom appeared as glad to get them as had the little ones.

The next thing on the program for the entertainment of the kiddies were free moving picture shows, which had been arranged for at each of the movie theatres. This treat was appreciated as much as Santa Claus' visit and candy, and the proprietors of the movie houses found it necessary to put on two performances in order to enable all of the children to see the shows.

The Christmas tree decorations erected on Main street for the occasion will be retained until after Christmas. They consist of a large tree in the center of the intersection of Main and Cedar streets, and a row of smaller evergreens down the center of Main street for a block in each direction. Since Saturday night the large tree and the big star that hangs above it have been illuminated each evening with colored electric lights, presenting very attractive appearance.

In 1922, Luverne created a unique skating rink according to the January 20, 1922 Rock County Herald:

Efforts to secure at least a small ice rink in order that those who skate may enjoy at least a few weeks of this delightful sport were set afoot this week, and the indications yesterday were that a rink would be established within a few days.

Those interested in the movement propose to flood the paving on Luverne street between Freeman avenue and Cedar street to provide the desired rink. In order to guard against damage to the curbing in the flooding of the pavement it is proposed to live the curbing with 6 foot planks and put in expansion blocks between the curbing and the planks.

The proposed location of the rink is

at the foot of the street set apart a few weeks ago for coasting, but will be separated from the coasting course by Freeman avenue, as it would be impossible to close that avenue to traffic. The warming house used the old municipal rink in the south part of town was moved some time ago to the Central grounds, which makes it an easy matter to provide a warming house at the rink.

ROCK COUNTY'S FIRST BIG CELEBRATION WAS HELD FROM JUNE 28TH TO JULY 3, 1926

(From the Rock County Herald - June 25, 1926)

"Program of Entertainment Gives Assurance That Week Will be Happy One for All Visitors"

Rock County's Home-Coming celebration which opens next Monday and closes with a celebration of the 4th of July in this city, on Saturday, July 3rd, gives promise of being pronounced as a success in several ways.

As has been stated from time to time, the Home-Coming is primarily for present and former residents of Rock county, who were boys and girls together here in the early days. Everyone, thought, is expected to join in making the event notable.

In other words, it has been arranged for much in the nature of a mammoth re-union and for this reason Monday and Tuesday will be given over wholly for "visiting around." Wednesday will be given over to renewing old acquaintances and in the evening an especially attractive program will be presented at the Palace theatre, for which the usual price of admission will be charged.

Only one program will be presented and this will open with a new seven-reel feature entitled "Rolling Home" which is Reginald Denny's latest production and an especially appropriate picture. The remainder of the program will consist of tableaux depicting early scenes and incidents in Rock county; singing chorus dressed in old-time costumes, speeches by former residents of Rock county and modern vaudeville numbers.

Thursday, July 1st, will be given over to an automobile tour of the northern half of Rock county. The tour is to start at Luverne at 10 am and go through Springwater and Rose Dell to Jasper, thence Hardwick and Kenneth. A short program of speeches will be given at Jasper and Hardwick and at Kenneth a big community picnic will be held between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock. The return trip will be made to Luverne through Magnolia late in the afternoon. Everyone is urged to bring baskets filled with eatables and also containing extra lunch for visitors, for the picnic in Kenneth.

A tour of the southern half of Rock county will be made Friday, leaving Luverne at 10 o'clock, and going first to Kanaranzi, then to Ashcreek, Steen and on to Hills, where another community picnic will be held at 1 o'clock. A short program will be given at each of these towns.



Miss Helen Fitzer designed the official advertising for ROCK COUNTY'S FIRST BIG ELEBRATION in 1921.

Stories from the decades/continued from page 11

Commencing at 3:30 a general program will be put on at Hills, and this will be followed by addresses, a baseball game and a band concert. The return trip will be made at 5:30 by way of Beaver Creek.

Saturday's program is designed as a regular 4th of July celebration and will start at 10 o'clock with a band concert at bank corners. This will be followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence and different patriotic addresses, followed by a huge industrial parade. During the hours from 12 to 2 o'clock, a picnic dinner will be spread at the park.

During the afternoon there will be music by the Luvorne Concert Band and a speaking program. One of the big entertainment features will be a ball game at the fair grounds between the Tri-State league teams of Luvorne and Hills, and advance information is that this game is going to be a hummer from start to finish. Beginning at 4 o'clock a program of street sports will be

put on and these will include races and a tug-of-war.

At 7:45 in the evening, the crowd will shift to the fair grounds where the festivities will open up with a band concert and numerous free attractions, with the finale most comprehensive and spectacular display of fireworks ever attempted at a Luvorne celebration.

Among the special fireworks sets will be "George Washington" and "The Spirit of '76," "Poppies Bloom in Flanders Fields," "The Spring of '26," "Flowers of the Orient," and a climax that will be of interest to all spectators. Throughout the evening, there will be dancing at the Armory and at the Twilight pavilion, east of Luvorne.

Following the celebration, in the next week's Rock County Herald, event planners announced that over 500 former residents participated in the celebration from throughout the United States. The newspaper listed all those who returned.

Last Man's Club has final toast

Warren Herreid Sr. dies Oct. 26; Pawlenty opens bourbon with last men

By Lori Sorenson

One of Luverne's most celebrated World War II veterans died Thursday, Oct. 26, leaving behind a legacy of military service in a community that meant the world to him.

Warren Herreid Sr. was 96 years old when he passed away peacefully in the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

The coffee mug with his name on it has been turned upside down in the Luverne grocery deli where Herreid and his comrades founded the Last Man's Club in 2010.

"He was a good guy — a real good guy," said 98-year-old Helmer Haakenson.

"I was in the Army with him, and he wasn't afraid to do anything."

He is now the only remaining Last Men of the 24 original World War II veterans in the coffee club. They will be honorary pallbearers in Herreid's funeral Thursday morning (today).

"It's coming to an end," Haakenson said. "There's nothing we can do about it."

Only a few years back, the Glen's Food Center deli table was filled with World War II veterans sipping coffee, swapping war stories.

Haakenson said he and Herreid had known each other since they were kids. They and their other club members grew up in a 1930s-era Luverne where the military was a way of life when boys lied about their age to join the National Guard.

Haakenson said he clearly remembers Jan. 16, 1941,



Lori Sorenson Star Herald file photos

At the Veterans Day banquet in 2010, Warren Herreid introduces the Last Man's Club and the club bourbon. At right is LeRoy Luitjens who died last month. Helmer Haakenson is the only remaining Last Man Club member.

when he and Herreid boarded a train with 124 other local recruits at the Luverne depot where thousands gathered to bid them farewell.

He and Herreid chugged along on that train to California and to a whole new world of military service. Six months later they were in Kodiak, Alaska, and then to battlegrounds in Europe.

Years later they returned home as grown men, forever changed by the influences of war.

In a Star Herald Millennium special edition, Herreid talked about a particularly dangerous Battle of the Bulge in 1944 when communication lines were cut.

Herreid and another soldier braved heavy artillery

fire to reconnect wires between the command post and headquarters. In the process, he was injured by shrapnel to his leg. The Army awarded him the Bronze Star, which would be the first of many commendations.

Herreid, like most other combat veterans, didn't forget those days on the battlefield.

"I think you'll find that most any combat veteran will be reluctant to talk about their experience," Herreid said in that summer of 2000 interview.

"I saw lots of dead bodies — thousands of German bodies. We had to walk over them on some battlefields. I've tried to forget about lots of things that I saw and had happen to me during that war."

Despite his war experiences, he never considered himself a hero. In fact, he turned down a Purple Heart medal, because that was for his "many friends and comrades who suffered serious wounds, lost limbs and even their lives in battle," he told the Star Herald in 2003.

"With my minor Band-Aid wound, I couldn't in good conscience accept this prestigious medal," Herreid said.

"Those, like my good friend, (the late) Johnny Johnson, who honestly earned this award with their sacrifices, are the true heroes of the war."

This humility was characteristic of most Last Man's Club members and of the Greatest Generation as a whole.

"We got out," Haakenson said last fall. "The heroes are the ones who lost their lives."

Honoring and remembering

At their first Veterans Day toast in 2010, Herreid introduced the club's purpose. "To some, it may sound morbid, waiting for everyone to die except one," Herreid said. But he explained the group's purpose was to honor the members and to remember the ones who had died.



Warren Herreid jokes with his comrades during a Last Man's Club toast at the Veterans Day banquet in the Blue Mound Banquet Center in 2011. He's pictured with (from left) Robert Anderson, Jake Boomgaarden and Earl Glaser, all of whom have since passed away.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars Did you know?

Applicants for a Luverne Dollars for Scholars award are evaluated on the following criteria: academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement.

Students are also required to write an essay describing their future aspirations as well as seek a recommendation from someone, whether a teacher or an adult who has worked with the student.

These applications are due each year around February 15th. All applications are submitted through an online student profile application located on the Luverne Dollars for Scholars website.

Once all of the information is compiled, the selection process begins. Each application is assigned a number. The Luverne High School counselor verifies each students' class rank, GPA and ACT scores.

Only the application number, not the applicant name, is seen throughout the rest of the scoring.

Each essay is read and scored by a group of DFS board members. References, work experience, school activity and community involvement are cross checked against the computerized score assigned each applicant.

Not all applicants receive a scholarship. Applications who do not reach the minimum score do not qualify for a scholarship award. None of the scholarships are based on financial need.

The total amount of scholarships paid out each year varies. The DFS Board uses 4.5 percent of the five-year fair market value of its fund assets as a guide when determining the total to be awarded each year.

Students who receive a scholarship award of \$4,000 or less can use it all in one year, while scholarships greater than \$4,000 are divided out over multiple years, with \$4,000 being the max that can be paid out each year.

Scholarship funds are not paid

out until after the first semester of college has been completed. In order to receive their scholarship funds, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Scholarship checks are paid directly to the school.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars wrapped up its 2017 awards season this past May.

Seventy-nine qualifying Luverne High School students from the Class of 2017 were awarded \$387,750. These scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$9,500.

If you would like to contribute to, or receive more information, please write:

Luverne Dollars for Scholars
PO Box 822
Luverne, MN 56156

Email: luvernedfs@gmail.com

Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)

Or visit: www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org

Herreid and Last Man's Club/continued from page 11

Seated with Herreid at the Last Man head table were Tim Tangeman, Ray Anderson, Helmer Haakenson, Jake Boomgaarden, Earl Glaser, LeRoy Luitjens, Casey Van Engelenhoven, Russ Swenson and Bob Anderson.

Seats and nametags at the table noted members unable to attend that night. Johnny Johnson, Big Carrigan and Bob Juhl were absent for health reasons, and Conrad Tofteland had already moved to Florida for the winter.

Chairs shrouded in black were placed at the table with name cards for the members who recently died.

"They may be gone, but they are here with us in spirit," Herreid said at that 2010 banquet, his voice cracking as he toasted the missing members. "We miss them. ... We will never forget the hours spent together at Glen's coffee."

Those names included Ted Anderson, Lawrence Akkerman, Floyd Goembel, George Gabrielson, Harvey Ball, Darwin Rogness, Charles Mann, Lawrence Overgaard, Bill Veenhof and Ray Slieter.

And then there were two

At one point this spring, Herreid pondered the notion of the last three last men — he and Haakenson and Luitjens — sharing a toast together from the Last Man's Club bourbon. "Maybe we'll invite Mrs. Pawlenty," he told the Star Herald in May during a visit to his room in the Veterans Home.

Mary Pawlenty said the Luverne World War II veterans "captured her heart," and she paid visits to their coffee group and invited them to tea in the Governor's Mansion in 2005.

Article Ten of the Last Man's Club bylaws dictates what will happen when one remains:

Last Man will unseal and open the bottle and present it to the maitre d' who will fill the glass of the Last Man. The Last Man will then propose a toast to the Members who preceded him in death, with a salute to them before taking the first drink from his glass.

At that time, the maitre d' will fill the glasses of the guests who will propose a toast to the Last Man Club, raising their glasses to those who have gone before, and finally, to the Last Man before drinking.

The remaining Last Men did go ahead and break into their bottle of bourbon, and they did invite Pawlenty — who joined them at the 2017 Veterans Day banquet in Luverne Nov. 11. "I can't describe how honored I am to be here tonight," she said from the stage where Haakenson and Luitjens were seated at a table with their empty glasses.

Pawlenty attended Herreid's funeral Nov. 2 with Haakenson and Luitjens, and at Saturday's event she made special mention of Article 11, which states, "These by-laws may be amended at the annual meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present."

Pawlenty raised an eyebrow and smiled knowingly at the audience.

"On the day of Warren's funeral, LeRoy and Helmer voted unanimously that the bottle be opened by the last men standing," she said before helping them open the bottle and pouring bourbon in their glasses.

Luitjens died two weeks later.

Reunions in the Making

Class of 1958 60th Class Reunion September 29, 2018

Tri-State Band Festival Day
6 pm Happy Hour\7 pm Dinner
Blue Stem (Former Magnolia Steakhouse)
Contact Connie (Rusche) Wieneke for more info

Class of 1968 50th Class Reunion July 20-21, 2018

Friday—at Take 16 Brewery
Saturday—at Luverne Country Club
More details will be coming!

Any questions call Sandy (Haakenson) Parpart 612-240-7202 parparts@frontiernet.net

Class of 1963 55th Class Reunion

September 28-29, 2018

Tri-State Band Festival Weekend

FRIDAY—SEPTEMBER 28TH

Gathering & social—location to be determined

SATURDAY—SEPTEMBER 29TH

Tri State Band Festival Parade
& Afternoon Activities

Ladies & Men's Luncheon
not included in the registration fee

Sat Evening Dinner – Luverne Country Club

Registration form and more details coming

Class of 1963 Scholarship established

Any questions email Patti Kirby Pierson:

piersonprp@alliancecom.net

SAVE THE DATE & SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Class of 1973 45th Class Reunion June 2, 2018 Luverne's Buffalo Days Weekend!

Evening Dinner—Luverne Country Club

More information coming!

For more info: Betty (Hitch) Schnettler

320 224-4727 bettyvschnettler55@gmail.com

Class of 1971 **GET-TOGETHER** Saturday—April 7, 2018 *Morning Coffee & Lunch*

Join your classmates at WildFlowers Coffee Boutique at 129 E. Main St., for coffee and conversation from 11:00-1:00. This new coffee shop is located on the northwest corner at the downtown stop light.

Then, walk down the block to Sterling's Cafe & Grille at 107 E. Main St., for lunch off the menu.

We have an area of the restaurant reserved from 1:00-4:00

PLEASE—RSVP if you are attending!

Email that number to Dorothy (Hoh) DeGroot
dorothydegroot@gmail.com.



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rcmuseum@gmail.com
507.283.2122

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2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,
2016, 2017

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

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