



Brulé, the award-winning Native American song and dance group, performed at the Palace Theatre during the Cardinal Pride Weekend in Luverne in August.

Cardinal Pride Weekend is part of bigger picture to promote Luverne

By Brenda Winter

The all-school reunion and Cardinal Pride festivities in Luverne in August were just a small part of a bigger picture, according to Luverne Area Chamber director Jane Lanphere.

"We looked at the event as a way to do community development," Lanphere said.

"There aren't better sales people in the world than those who know the community. The best promotion you can get is to bring people back to their hometown to see the changes going on. We wanted to do that and we think we did."

She said more than 100 people took trolley rides around town to view recent improvements in the

community.

"We showed them how great everything looks and the work that is being done on different buildings and locations," Lanphere said.

She said she hopes those who visited Luverne will tell their friends,

"This is a cool town to spend a couple of days in."

While there is no accurate way to count how many people came into town for the weekend, estimates approach 1,000.

"The restaurants were full. The hotels were full. People were walking and shopping on Main Street," Lanphere said.

"More than 100 people were hiking on Touch the Sky Prairie on Sunday."

She said she and others are trying to put together different ways of encouraging the idea of prairie tourism near Luverne.

"I think the prairie is really an untapped resource. What if we could schedule regular prairie walks and promote them in our visitors' guide? Could we build on this idea of 'eco travel'?" Lanphere asked.

"Could we put together a package that included a prairie-themed meal at a restaurant, and a prairie hike? Maybe a photographer could guide photography tours based on different plants or flowers that are in season on the prairie?" Lanphere said.

"People have great ideas. I think if we do it right, we can put it all together and be very successful."

Honor Roll of Alumni News Contributors

Compiled by
Johnna Bowron Ahrendt

During this past quarter, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials and gifts totalling \$4,255. In the memorial section below, **the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print**, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials.

Thank you for your support!

Memorials

Sondra (Anderson) Membrez '54
Swede '54 & Peggy (Schmidt)
'54 Anderson

Dave Clausen '74
Sonny & Connie (Rusche) '58
Wieneke
John '45 & Imogene (Lemke) '47
Krogmann

Al Slieter - friend
Kenneth '57 & Karen Hoime

Allen Olson '82
Lorraine Olson – teacher
Pamela Olson '75

Gale K. Remme '51
Emery Braa '51

Joan (Hagedorn) Houser '51
Emery Braa '51

Jean (Juhl) Ahrendt '48
Gloria (Schlapkohl) Siekmeier '50

Karen (Boysen) Boeldt '58
Class of 1958
Nancy (Boysen) Patton '58
Delores (Madison) Walters '58
Evelyn (Beug) Steffel '58

Marv Gonnerman's 80th Birthday
Barb (Newton) Ball '51

Beverly (Bell) Haraldson '58
Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen) '50
Luethje
Nancy (Boysen) Patton '58
Class of 1958
Connie (Rusche) Wieneke '58

Class of 1959 rises to Alumni News challenge

Curtis Dooyema and his classmates in the Class of 1959 generously supported the Alumni News during their August reunion with a donation of roughly \$2,000.

Some of those donations are noted on this page, but in summary, the following individuals participated in the effort, according to Dooyema's records: Allen Holling (who contributed before he passed away this summer), Curt Dooyema, Don Blessing, Judy and Fred Smeins, George McKay, Dennis Mahoney, Pat Iverson, Doris Friestad, Paul Aukes, Fred Cook, Dennis Arp, Bill Mulligan, Jim Ahrendt, Evert VanEngelenhoven, Eleanor Rober, Jewel Olsen, Richard Norelius, Dave Paulson, Richard Cronberg, Jim Rolfs, Carol Brandenburg, Bonnie Nordmeyer, Jerome Britz, Sharon Toms, Carol Reu, Tom Getman, Dave Connell, and Vance Dykhouse.

In addition to making donations to the Alumni News on behalf the Class of 1959, many also donated to the Alumni News in memory of their 13 classmates who have passed away.

Those remembered include Allan Holling, Joyce Kasemodel, Robert Wiese, Garnett Ahrendt, Betty Roemeling, Diane Groth, Jerry Gieseke, Patricia Baatz, Marcella Dieterman, Karen Benson, Rodney Stroh, Keith Ladd and Gary McClure.

The Alumni News is a publication about Luverne High School alumni supported by Luverne High School alumni. It's operated solely by volunteers who appreciate donations to cover printing and mailing expenses.

There have been many generous donations from many other LHS classes, and Alumni News is grateful. Curtis Dooyema requested we share the information about his class efforts in August specifically.

Stan Bagbey '58
Letta (Matthiesen) Swenson '58
Delores (Madison) Walters '58
Evelyn (Beug) Steffel '58
Carolyn (Thompson) Holbert '58
Winifred Haggard '50

Ole Olson '38
Curtis '44 & Eva Lou (Beers) '43
Aanenson

Arna (Helle) Gabrielson '40
Curtis '44 & Eva Lou (Beers) '43
Aanenson
John '45 & Imogene (Lemke) '47
Krogmann

Laura (Hoiland) Welle '67
Tim '67 & Connie (Vegge) '68
Connell
Terry '67 & Diane (Molberg) '67
Gonnerman
Gloria (Schlapkohl) Siekmeier '50

Class of 1987
Stuart '87 & Kelley (Tollefson) '89
Hoime

Troy Boelman '86
Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62

Joyce (Kasemodel) Espitee '59
Duane '60 and Peg (Holder) '60
Lammert
Carol (Kasemodel) Sels '57
Gar '60 & Ellaine (Callsen) '59
(Jasper) Henriksen
Jean (Jessen) Doherty '59

Alumni News contributors/see p. 15

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the *Alumni News* and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. The chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled on Sept. 30. Please watch for the next issue in January 2015 for additional names of *Alumni News* contributors.

What We've Heard . . . Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

Bob Drost (LHS 1947) sends an update from their home in Kansas City:

I just received the latest Alumni News and enjoyed receiving the information. I noted the form used to update ones information but did not see a convenient way to complete it and send via email - probably due to lack of skill using email.

For your information - I was in the class of 1947. I served in the Air Force from 1951 through 1955. Following my service tour I briefly worked on a ship making runs between Tampa, Florida and Ecuador. On the return trips I observed the U.S. Customs officers and thought the job would be interesting. Eventually I was able to become a customs officer and made customs my main career in life. After serving at sea ports, a Canadian border port as the port director, in Kansas City, Missouri as the port director, I retired from customs as the Asst. District Director in St. Louis for a brief period until becoming eligible for retirement which I did so I could return to Kansas City.

Following my U.S. Customs career I became president of the Kansas City Foreign-Trade Zone Corp. I served in that position for several years and then formed a consulting firm, International Consulting Service. We provided service related to foreign-trade zones, international marketing, etc. As part of the service we contracted with private parties, communities, and customs modernization programs in Bangladesh and Egypt. During this period my son and I began farming, we have several farms in west-central Missouri on which we produce corn and soybeans.

My wife, since 1957, is Jo Jansen, she was originally from

Let's Hear from YOU!

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni. Complete and then place this form in an envelope and mail to:



Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue,
Luverne, MN 56156 or email: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail _____

Check here if you wish to have your e-mail address included in the directory.

Year of Graduation _____

Comments: _____

Alton, Iowa. During the years we were living in the Kansas City area she owned and operated Executive Auto. The company specialized in the sales and service of pre-owned Mercedes Benz automobiles. The company is now operated by our son, Randy Drost who is also my farming partner.

We enjoy cruising and have taken a number of trans-Atlantic trips in addition to visiting many ports and countries. We usually spend part of the winter at our condo in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Paul VanWhye (LHS 1989) sends greetings to Luverne alumni:

My name is Paul VanWyhe

and I graduated in 1989. I am currently living in Arizona. I am currently the Assistant Principal and Academic Counselor at Mohave Accelerated Learning Center (MALC). MALC is a small public charter school, consisting of about 900 students in grades k-12.

Thank you for all that you do for the Alumni News!

Joyce and Norm Wessels share information about their visit with their **1982 foreign exchange student - Kazumi Ishizaki:**

Kazumi Ishizaki visited Luverne this summer. Kazumi graduated in 1982 from Luverne

Remembering our Classmates ... compiled by Carol McDonald

1930-1939

Gladys Bakken Eitreim '33 died July 23, 2014, at The Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne. She graduated from Normal training in Luverne in 1934. She taught school in Rock County District 22 country school. On June 26, 1937 she married Severin R. Eitreim in Luverne. Following their marriage they farmed southeast of Garretson. In 1941 they moved to the farm they purchased north of Beaver Creek. Severin died in 1967. In 1969 she began working at Laudon Drug, where she remained until her retirement in 1985.

In June 2010 she moved to the Mary Jane Brown Home. She was an active member of Palisade Lutheran Church, WELCA, and church circle. She was a member of Pink Ladies and volunteered at Senior Dining meal site and Meals on Wheels. She belonged to several card clubs and liked to knit and crochet.

She loved having coffee with her friends. Gladys is survived by her daughter, Marlene Wassenaar, her son Gene Eitreim (special friend Jan Bresson), five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter, two sisters-in-law, Arla Bakken and Martha Bakken, and many other friends and relatives.

Neal Blinkman '39 passed away December 25, 2013 in Bloomer, WI. He served in the Navy during World War II. He married Ingrid Anderson in 1944. From 1955-1972 he worked as a teacher, first as a High School Industrial Arts teacher and later as a Vocational Director. Neal was an advocate for vocational education and preparing students for the job market. One of his greatest accomplishments was developing the Vocational Education Program at Benton Harbor, MI where he also served as principal. Upon his retirement in 1983 the newspapers wrote articles about Neal referring to him as "Mr. Vocational Educator".

He is survived by his wife Ingrid, one son Allan (Dianne) Blinkman and one daughter Karin (Mike) Ruhe, six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren

1940-1949

Margaret Mannigel Osvog Lange '41 died April 25, 2014 in San Marcos, TX at the age of 90. After graduation she attended and graduated from Sioux Falls Business College. She is survived by daughter Karen (William) Osvog Bryson, son Steven Wayne (Robin) Osvog, brother Raymond (Katherine) Mannigel '40, and three grandchildren.

Alice Emma Hamann Schmuck '43 died September 12, 2014 in Brandon, SD. Following her education she worked as a clerical assistant to Al McIntosh at the Rock County Star Herald. She married Kenneth Schmuck in 1946. The couple moved to the farm of Ken's parents west of Luverne in Springwater Township and began farming. In 1955 they purchased a farm on the north edge of Luverne and moved there in March 1956. While the children were young, Alice was a homemaker. When the children were older, Alice worked as secretary at St. John Lutheran Church for a couple of years. She then worked part time during tax season for the Estenson Company. Her husband died in 2009. She and her husband enjoyed traveling, and ballroom dancing.

She is survived by a son, **Allen '68** (Jan) Schmuck, a daughter **Karen '70** (Pat) Widboom, two grandchildren, a brother Dale Hamann and other friends and relatives.

Arthur Bosch '46 passed away November 6, 2013.

Martha Helen Wiggins '47 died July 4, 2014, in Rochester, MN. She attended Mankato State Teaches College and acquired her master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota. She taught in Sioux Falls, SD and Minnetonka School District from September 1955-August 1986 in elementary education

at the Groveland and Deephaven Elementary Schools. Martha was an active member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church in Hopkins, MN. She put many hours into volunteer work with the Minnetonka Life-Care Center and helped the elderly/shut-ins with meals and library book distribution. She greatly enjoyed playing bridge, traveling, long walks, golfing and exercising and socializing at the YMCA. Martha is survived by her brothers **James Wiggins '42**, and **Fred '44** (Gloria) Wiggins, brother-in-law Dean Thul, and sister-in-law Veronica Wiggins, caregiver and niece Peggy (Doug) Noga, and many other nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews and great-grand nieces and nephews.

1950-1959

Frank Kadinger '50 died July 30, 2014 just one week after his 83 birthday.

Elmer Dale Moeller '52 died September 3, 2014, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne. Elmer enlisted in the Navy September 10, 1953. After his honorable discharge from the Navy on Sept. 30, 1957 he attended and graduated from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, the class of 1960. He married Marcia Nelson on June 10th, 1961. The couple settled near Hardwick and worked the land while raising their two children. After farming for 38 years they retired and moved to Luverne in 1999. He was a 4-H leader, softball coach, and enjoyed being part of the Woodcarvers Club in Luverne. He also enjoyed fishing, raising pigs, going for long walks, watching sports and traveling with his wife.

He is survived by his wife, Marcia Moeller, two children, **Greg '84** (Karen) Moeller, and **Kristi '87** (Mark) Hultberg, three grandchildren, great-granddaughter and a brother, **Roy '58** (Linda) Moeller.

Beverly Bell Haraldson '58 died at the Sanford Hospice Cottage in Luverne July 29, 2014. On May 3, 1958 she married Gordon Haraldson. The couple lived in Luverne. Bev worked at the Luverne Hospital, Schutz Hardware and Luverne Paint and Glass. She later became a homemaker to take care of her children. She enjoyed playing in bridge clubs, baking cooking, gardening, sewing, playing pinochle with relatives and refinishing woodwork. She also enjoyed wintering in Texas.

Bev is survived by five children, **Diane' 77** Krogman, **Greg '78** (Sharon) Haraldson, **Bruce '80** Haraldson and **Brad '83** Haraldson, and **Darla '84** (William) Clontz; six grandchildren a great-grandchild; a brother Roger (Dianne) Bell and a sister, Barb (Glen) Page.

Karen Kay Boysen Boeldt '58 died June 14, 2014 in Manitowoc, WI. After graduation Karen worked as a telegrapher and worked at various Western Union Offices in Wisconsin and Manitowoc where she met Alan Boeldt. They were married in Luverne October 22, 1960. Karen enjoyed golfing with her husband and friends and playing sheep head. She loved her family and seeing the grandchildren when they would come to visit, especially during those special times of the year. Kay loved

to decorate both the interior and exterior of her home for those special times of the year, Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving and the seasons of the year. Kay was truly a person who loved life. Cancer got her body but not her spirit.

She is survived by her husband Deacon Alan L Boeldt, one daughter Lisa (Phil) Kreie, one son Brent Boeldt, four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, one-step great grandson, one brother-in-law and one sister-in-law.

Allen Holling '59 died in Concord, CA August 26, 2014 after a short bout with cancer. After graduation he worked at the Cargill Elevator. On Nov. 2, 1962, he joined the United States Air Force where he pitched for their softball team. He was discharged on June 12, 1963 and served in the Air National Guard until 1968. He and Shirley were married in 1963. He managed the Cargill elevator before pursuing another career. He attended Thermo King Schooling Manufacturer. Upon completion, he and his wife moved to California. He worked for Thermo King for 20 years. In 1985 he started his own business and operated that for ten years. He retired at age 56 and enjoyed working on his hobbies of restoring old cars and other collectibles, and working in his yard, and attending car shows.

Allen is survived by his wife, Shirley, a son David (Brigitte) Holling and a granddaughter Emily.

Joyce Kasemodel Espitee '59 passed away July 9, 2014.

1960-1969

Randy Ripley '67 died Sept 5, 2014 in Brainerd, MN. After graduation Randy attended Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. He operated one of his father's Ripco gas stations until the gas shortage of the 1970s put him out of business. Randy married Judy Hemiller in 1970. He then worked at 3M in Fairmont. After moving back to Luverne, he and his wife were co-operators of an in-home day care for more than 20 years. Randy enjoyed fishing and spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by his three children, **Shannon '90** (Jessie) Ripley, **Tracy '92** (Dean) Baker, and **Kerri '98** Ripley, six grandchildren; three step grandchildren; his mother Eunice Ripley, eight siblings, **Cathy '64** (Greg) Gervias, Robyn (Dennis) Nowka, **Paulette '68** Ripley, **Vicky '71** Atwood, **Sally '73** Ripley, **Russell Scott '77** Ripley, **Kim Ripley '79** (Mike Wittrock) **Lisa,82** Ripley (Tom Lahr) and many other friends and relatives.

Remembering our classmates/see page 6

PayPal is here!!!!

Have you ever wished it were more convenient to give a donation to the Alumni News? We are pleased to announce a PayPal account has now been set up to accept online donations.

Visit **www.alumninews.info**
and click on the **DONATE** button. It's easy.

Thank you for your support.

Thanks for the Memories

Luverne Alumni asked to share memories of Luverne's Historic Palace Theatre, which celebrates 100 years in 2015

Alumni News will be featuring a series of articles in 2015 about the Historic Palace Theatre. The Palace will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. Alumni are invited to share photos, stories, articles, and other memories about the Palace Theatre. Please send your contributions by email to luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us, call Jane at 507 283-4061 or mail at Luverne Area Chamber, 213 East Luverne Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Pictured at right is a photo that appeared in a 1939 Star Herald: "Current was turned on Thursday night for the Palace theatre's beautiful new neon sign, the erecting of which was completed Friday evening. The sign is one of the largest and most modern in this section of the country, and its purchase is in line with Manager Herman Jochim's policy of providing his theatre with the most modern and best equipment.



Remembering our classmates/continued from page 5

1970-1979

David Clausen '74 died July 19, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer. On August 16, 1975, he married Beverly Rolfes. Shortly after, Dave attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis.

The couple decided to build a house in Brandon, SD in 1982, and a year after starting his career at EROS Data Center. He was a member of the Risen Savior Catholic Church. He coached basketball, and baseball and of course shared his love of music.

He continued to stay very active by being in a bowling league, starting the Risen Savior Church softball team, singing in the church choir, as well as singing with the music group Luminaries. Other activities he enjoyed were playing pinochle, golfing, fishing, gardening, exercising and karaoke.

He is survived by his wife, Bev Clausen, four children, 11 grandchildren, his mother Neva Clausen, his father Elvin Clausen and his wife Karen, six siblings, **Patricia '67** Clausen (Chuck Haugan), **Shirley '69** (Lyle Margeson) and **Kathy '76** (David) Sneen, **Steve '70** Clausen, **Rod '72** Clausen, and **Gary '85** Clausen and many other friends and relatives.

1980-1989

Troy Boelman '86 of Albert Lea, MN died July 28, 2014 at his home. After graduation he moved to Austin to auto body school at Austin Vocational College. He married Tammy Klennert on May 6, 1989. He worked a variety of jobs to support his growing family including working as a welder at Heat & Glo. Troy went back to school and joined the sheet metal union as a tinner and worked at Himec. He did that until he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2014. Troy was also employed by Hanson's Harbor in Lake City. Troy is survived by his wife, Tammy Boelman, two sons, Jacob Boelman (girlfriend Cora) and Matthew

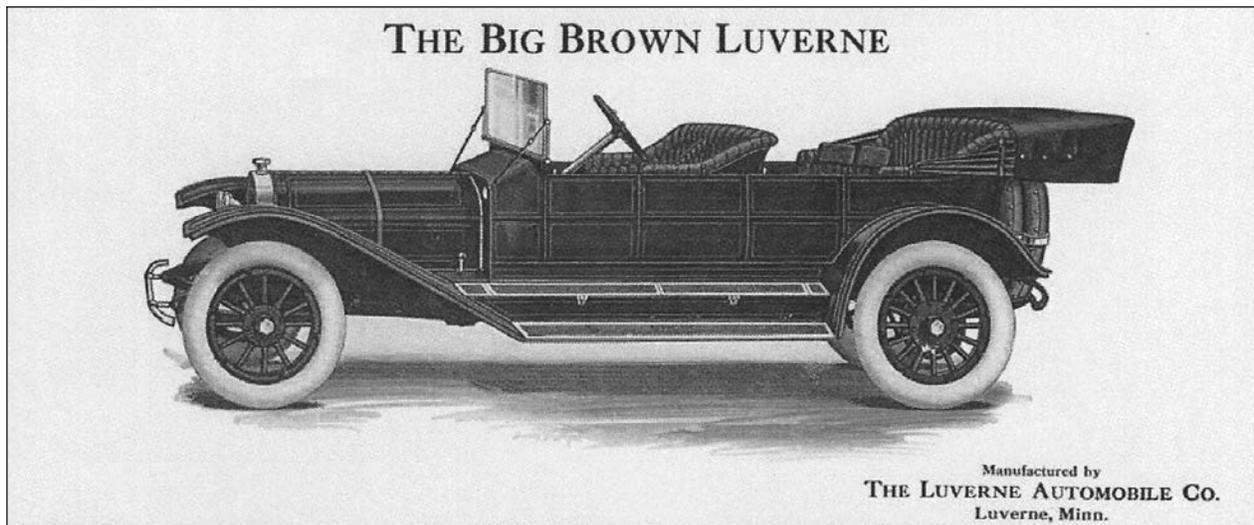
Boelman (girlfriend Kendra); two daughters, Allison and Abigail Boelman, parents, **Larry '60** and Gloria Boelman and his siblings, **Dallas '89** (Tiffany) Boelman and **Shelly '92** (Wade) Popkes.

Mindy Hart '87 died July 21 in Rochester. After graduation Mindy attended Worthington Community College and Granite Falls Technical School and then moved to Marshall to begin working as a nurse's aide. She enjoyed collecting angel figurines, spending time with friends and most of all, helping people and comforting them. Mindy is survived by two daughters, Stephanie and Jennifer Haney; two sisters Carolyn (Rev. Daniel) Larson, and Pamela Hart and two nephews, Joey and Andy Larson; two nieces Rachel and Jessie Larson; two great nieces, Ava and Ella Henson; and other friends and relatives.

1990-1999

2000-2010

Samantha Baker '2011 died September 13, 2014, as the result of a motorcycle accident. Samantha began working at Pamida in Luverne and most recently was the manager for both Papa John's and Chilly Billy's on the University of Minnesota campus. She was majoring in linguistics with a minor in Spanish, with plans to be a Spanish interpreter. She was an avid reader, particularly of the Harry Potter books, and she was hardworking. She was a fan of Audrey Hepburn and was excited to get to visit the Tiffany's store in New York with her aunt and uncle Vicki and Brian Peterson during the summer. She is survived by her mother, Pam Crowe (David Daggitt), dad, Alan Crowe, dad, Andy Chhou; three brothers, Jacob, Carter and Braxton; three aunts, Kim Bakker, Amanda (Joaquin) De La Garza, and Vicki (Brian) Peterson, grand parents, Jerry and Alice Bakker, Ed and Kathy Paugh, and Jim and Linda Crowe and many other friends and relatives.



Committee organizes to ‘Bring the Car Home’

Showroom in new History Center — Ford Motor Company on Main Street — is proper place for a restored Luverne Automobile

THE CAR THAT HAS OUR NAME – THE LUVERNE AUTOMOBILE COMPANY

This is how it all began:

HEADLIGHT magazine was published in the late 1890’s. It served as a community advertisement to encourage people to settle in Luverne. This is what it had this to say about the Leicher Brothers:

**Proprietors of the Luverne Wagon Works.
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Hardwood Lumber.
Carriage Painting and Trimming.
Water Tanks a Specialty.**

“This carriage and wagon manufactory is one of the most enterprising houses in this branch of industry. With every facility for the work, with an extensive experience and a thorough acquaintance with every detail of carriage and wagon building, with a large and well-equipped shop, it is able to turn out all kinds of carriages, buggies, wagons and light vehicles on short notice. Wherever the work is known it is acknowledged to be superior in every way. Good work is a specialty with this house.”

“This is one of the most complete shops of the kind in this part of the country. The works are perfectly equipped with tools, lathes and all the necessary appliances for repairing machinery of all kinds, no matter how difficult or intricate, and guarantee all work to give entire satisfaction.”

“These young men came here from Wisconsin and succeeded to this business four years ago, and have proven a valuable acquisition to the town and country around. Personally these enterprising gentlemen are of high character, strict integrity, honorable and reliable in all their transactions, and in every way trustworthy and responsible.”



From that auspicious start, Leicher Brothers developed into some of Luverne’s most prestigious and impressive manufacturing businesses. In 1903, Al and Ed formed the Luverne Automobile Company. Around October 1903, Henry Bierkamp, a good wagon customer of the Leichers, surprised them by informing them that he was not going to purchase another buggy. He told them that he had been reading about the new-fangled gas buggies and had decided to buy one.

(Continued on page 8)



Luverne Automobile/continued from page 7

This started Al Leicher thinking that maybe they should get in on the ground floor in the building of automobiles. The auto arrived in November and since it was the first car in Rock County. Nobody really knew anything about it. Henry Bierkamp asked the Leichers if they would take charge of unloading the machine and learning how to operate it. When it arrived on the train, the entire crew from the buggy factory was there to greet it. They attached ropes in every direction, with some men pulling and some holding it back in case it decided to run off on them, because none of them really knew what it was supposed to do. Al Leicher's 7 year old son, Bob, was set inside to steer it as they towed it to the carriage factory.

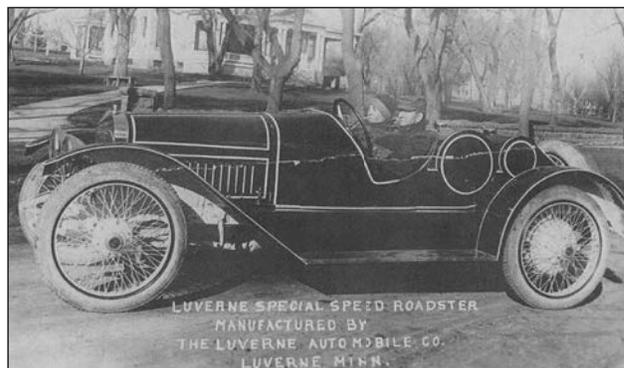
The Leichers studied it until the end of December 1903 and together with Henry Bierkamp, they decided to build automobiles in Luverne. By the end of March, the company completed their first touring car with a 10 horse-power, double cylinder, gas engine. A second car with a single cylinder engine was completed in May. By August, Bierkamp sold his interests to A. D. LaDue, president of the local bank, and J. A. Kennicott, an attorney.

One of their first sales was to a local doctor by the name of Wright. Dr. Wright's new car was a surrey type with a 10 horse-power engine which would reach a maximum speed of twenty-five miles an hour. Within a few years, the Luverne Automobiles were receiving acclaim from auto experts in the area.

In November 1906, the company was incorporated and reorganized with an authorized capital of \$50,000. All of the stock was purchased by about 12 Luverne businessmen. The new stockholders quickly got to work on the job of developing and improving the company. In late February 1907, the site for a large factory was purchased. Plans for a two-story brick structure with a full basement were announced. One year later the factory was completed and the company had started to operate from the Maple Street location. The basement was used for constructing the machines. The second floor was used for finishing purposes and the first floor was for displaying and storing the machines.

8

In 1907 the company sold every car it was able to build. The company continued to improve with each new automobile design. In December 1908,



they had received their first four cylinder Rutenber motor, recognized as the best four cylinder motor in the United States. This was used for model 1909, the "Luverne Forty."

By 1909 the company made the decision to focus on the demand from the public for larger touring cars. From this time on the Luverne cars progressed quickly into one of the finest automobiles of the day. The Leichers introduced such things as self-starters, electric headlights and solid German silver radiators which became standard in the Luverne cars.

The company also took on special projects. In 1912, the City of Luverne decided they wanted a fire engine with a motorized pumper. At that time the only place that could manufacturer this type of fire engine was in New York. The city elders approached Al Leicher and asked him if it was possible for them to build a fire engine. The Leichers were glad to try anything and so they went ahead. They built what turned out to be a very successful fire engine. This was, of course, a sideline to automobiles. The chassis they used for the fire engine was a big touring car chassis.

During WWI, Luverne Automobile Company responded to the needs of America by producing farm trucks. With major manufacturing focusing on the war effort, the agriculture community needed trucks for their work. The Leichers form the Luverne Motor Truck Company, using many of the methods they had learned when they manufactured the fire truck for the City of Luverne. The company also manufactured the first motorized hearse in the Midwest.

Luverne Automobile/continued on page 9)



Dick and Clarice Herman, Luverne, own one of three Luverne Automobiles that have been identified around the country.

Luverne Automobile/continued from page 8

Following WWI and the introduction by Henry Ford of mass production, the Leichers could see that it was going to be impossible to compete with Detroit auto manufacturing. By 1928, the Fire Apparatus Company was formed to begin another new venture in manufacturing. Eventually, the Luverne Automobile Company died out as did all the other early small town manufacturers.

Intelligence, hard work, ability to adapt and foresight kept the company moving ahead for decades. Sons Bob and Jim continued operation of the Fire Apparatus Company until the 1970's. The company was sold out of the family to Dominic Lippi and A. R. Woods Manufacturing. Within a few years it was sold again and eventually moved to Brandon, SD when city officials decided not to respond to the request of the owners for "business incentives." Luverne Fire Apparatus was purchased by Crimson Fire and remains a large manufacturer of fire equipment.

Committee forms to 'Bring the Car Home' to Luverne's History Center on Main Street

The story of the history of the Luverne Automobile Company came to an end but that doesn't mean the interest in Luverne cars has died along with it. Luverne resident, LHS 1970 alumni and Leicher great-granddaughter – Tanya Light has kept the story of the Luverne Automobile Company alive. Over the past years, Tanya has carefully collected and archived the history, stories and information about the company and its machines. She is a great source of information for history and car enthusiasts.

This is where the story takes on a new twist. Many of you have heard about the exciting news from the Rock County Historical Society about the purchase of the Herman Motor Company Building on Main Street. Owners Joel and Kellie (Remme) Herman began work on their new dealership on Highway 75 in late September. Within the next couple of years, the Rock County Historical Society will have a building on Main Street with a showroom built for a car.

This showroom creates the opportunity to get

one of those great Luverne autos back to its home!

Just imagine, driving through Main Street to see a car from the early 20th century standing only a block from where it was originally constructed. Imagine the looks on people's faces when they stop in to see "our community's own – LUVERNE AUTO."

Over the past several months, people in Luverne have begun to dream about "bringing one of those cars home." Something we could have on display and be proud of. Thanks to information from Tanya Light, three Luverne Autos have been identified around the country. One is right here in Luverne and owned by Dick and Clarice Herman. The other two are located in Minnesota and Missouri. Two of the vehicles are for sale.

Right now a committee is being put together to look into whether or not this could or should happen. There are a lot of things that need to be discussed.

What is the value of the vehicles?

What is the condition of the vehicles?

What restoration would have to be completed?

Who would have title to the vehicle?

How would it be maintained?

How could it be displayed?

What would be the purchase price?

Should the community try to purchase a vehicle?

How would it be paid?

Etc.

Today technology offers people around the country the opportunity to work together on projects. Email, conference phone calls, and video-conferencing are just some of the ways to make long-distance committees possible. So, the call is out! Join our "Bring the Car Home Committee." Contact the Chamber at luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us or call 507 283-4061 for additional information.



Micky Sehr photo

Class of 1994 celebrates 20 years

Members of the Luverne High School Class of 1994 gathered for a 20-year reunion on Aug. 16 at the Luverne Country Club. Pictured are (front row, from left) Nate VerSteege, Derek Bush, Andrew Moerke, Matt Skattum, Dan Miller, Scott Ketterling, Chris Medill, (second row) Heidi (Papik) Sehr, Dani (Laudon) Carmichael, Carrie (Hansen) Radloff, Anitra (Rath) Overgaard, Kristi (Remme) Boll, Colette (Boll) Thom, Amanda (Reu) Barton, Marti (Schei) Thompson, Rachel (Wulf) Ask, Amanda (Dover) Anderson, (back) Erin (Connell) Sexton, Shari (Remme) Moerke, LeRoy Ask, Scott Loosbrock, Scott Overgaard, Matt Kalass, Dan VanMeeteren, Brian Fick, Ryan Anderson and Jodi (Lodes) Eck.

Share your class reunion photos

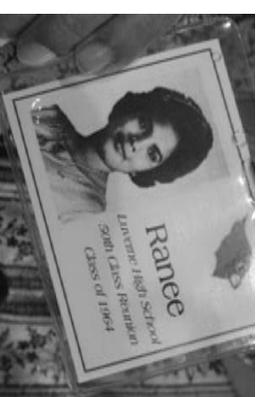
Hey LHS alumni: Did you recently gather for a class reunion? Did you pose for a group photo? If so, the Alumni News would like to share that image with LHS Alumni News readers. Send your images and photo captions (properly spelling names and including maiden names) to Alumni News volunteer Lori (Ehde) Sorenson at editor@star-herald.com.



Lori Sorenson photo/1002 LHS class of 1964

Class of 1964 gathers for 50th reunion

Members of Luverne High School Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th reunion Saturday night, Sept. 27, at the Blue Mound Banquet Center in Luverne. Pictured are (front row, from left) Allen Henderson, Dennis Hemme, Steve Ellsworth, Dave Stoltenberg, Guenther Luitgens, Dave Skyberg, Greg Thone, Steve McClure, Cloyce (Cooney) Smith, Sarathathevy Thambia “Ranee,” Lynn (Blessing) Anderson, Barb (Bell) Page, Lorna (Ahrendt) Baugh, Mike Liebe, (second row) Chris Eyberg, Wally Kienast, Barb (Sanny) Long, Pat (Eberlein) Heck, Barb (Nagel) Kuper, Bev (Hawes) Skyberg, Nancy (Kiebach) Overgaard, Judy (Frederiksen) Brandenburg, Cammy (Martin) Iverson, Carol (Hagen) Newell, Arlene (Veldkamp) Haak, Cindy (Getman) Benjamin, Kay (Ladd) Ommen, Marlene (Kindt) Mann, Don Groth, (back row) Larry Oehlerts, Gary Holmgren, Bill Toms, Jan (Mann) Good, Rob Stegenga, Sheila (Smith) Stegenga, Dave Gangestad, Carol (Schmidt) Dohlmann, Rich Iverson, Sharon (Roemeiling) Wegleither, Howard Thompson, Verlyn (Blue) Oisen, Tony Mohr, Ray Hanson, Twila (Drost) VerSteeg and Rich Opsata. Also attending the reunion but not pictured is Joan (Hawkinson) Spencer. The gathering marked the first class reunion their Malaysian foreign exchange student, “Ranee” had attended since graduation.





Submitted photo

Class of 1969 gathers for 45th reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1969 gathered for their 45th reunion during the Cardinal Pride Weekend Aug. 16. Pictured are (front, from left) Janine Jordahl Papik, Jeri Scott Kille, Sue Deuschle Vedder, Nancy Walgrave Friedrich, Marilyn Swanson Olson, Linda Maxwell Maras, Tom Padilla, Dale Kiebach; (second row) Gary Papik, Allan Dale, Tom Skattum, Nancy Serie Skattum, Laura Bowen Olson, Ric Olson, Keven Jansen, Mike Foerster, Lorna Siebenahler Bryan, Glenn Brower, Glenda Top Schomacker and Nancy Hussong



Submitted photo

Class of 1948 gathers for reunion

Members of the Luverne High School Class of 1948 gathered for a reunion Friday, Aug. 15, in the Pizza Ranch during the weekend of Luverne's all-school reunion. Pictured are, from left, Allen Willers, Naidine (Wulf) Aanenson, Yvonne (Remme) Erstad, Ramona (Watts) McDowell, James Welch, Velma (Lensch) Thedens, Florence (Hoiland) Helle and Betty (Soutar) Mann. The class members agreed to postpone their 65th reunion last year in order to time their celebration with Luverne High School's all-school reunion in 2014.



History Center soon to be established in Luverne

The Rock County Historical Society will move from its Freeman Avenue location to the Herman Motors building in downtown Luverne once the Ford dealership moves to its new facility on South Highway 75.

The Herman facility was built in the early 1900s and will require renovation and remodeling before the move can take place.

The History Center, as it's being called, will provide larger learning spaces for groups, meet handicap accessibility standards and improve access to historical records, memorabilia and computerized records and research materials.

It will also allow for the expansion of permanent and rotating exhibits, temperature-controlled storage, preparation areas for exhibit development and additional public parking. Plans include an outside atrium and public green space.

"One of the biggest benefits is greater public exposure," said Greg Burger, Rock County Historical

Society Fundraising Committee Chair.

"The Main Street location and building design will give the public a window into the past."

Mann said it will be a great day for Rock County when the new building is ready.

"I'm looking forward to the exposure downtown; more space and handicap accessibility really is so important," she said.

"We have struggled over the years to find a place that's better situated than where we are."

A fundraising drive is underway to encourage residents and others with an interest in preserving the county's past to support the initiative by making a contribution to the \$900,000 project. According to Mann, the group has raised \$350,000 so far, not counting help from the city and county.

The project cost includes purchase of the building, interior renovations and remodeling, exterior and green space, parking improvements and

display and exhibit development.

Established to preserve and protect the documents and artifacts, the society has collected historical books, writings, photographs, tools and county records, making them available to residents and visitors.

The History Center, as it's called, will be the new home of individual displays of the 10 communities of Rock County, including stories of their schools and businesses.

According to Mann, that history matters. "We cannot live in the past," Mann has often said. "But by studying the past, we can learn from it."

To support the project, donors can contact Emily (Bowron) Crabtree, director of the Luverne Area Community Foundation, which is serving as the fiscal host. She can be reached at at emily@luvacf.org or 507-220-2424.

Learn more at Facebook.com/RockCountyHistoryCenter or call (507) 283-2122 RCHS or (507) 283-4061 Luverne Area Chamber.

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If so, please call Patti Pierson at 507-669-2371 or email her at piersonprp@frontiernet.net with the correct postal and email address of your children. Thank you

Online Alumni News goes green, saves green

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

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

High School while serving as the foreign exchange student with the Norman and Joyce Wessels family.

Kazumi returned to Japan following graduation and graduated from Matsuyama Kita High School in 1984. He attended Waseda University from 1984 graduating in 1987. He became a high school English teacher in Ehime Prefecture in 1988. Since his first teaching job he has taught at four different high schools until 2008. Since 2008 he has worked for the Board of Education in Ehime Prefecture being in charge of human rights education.

Kazumi was married in 1993 to Kaoru. They have two boys, Yutaka (1994) and Shu (1996).

He returned to Luverne this summer to see the Wessels family for the first time in 32 years and to visit people & places in Luverne which he remembers fondly. Although his visit to Luverne was very brief (from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning), Kazumi was able to pack a lot of things in. Mark Wessels and Kazumi were able to revisit the school on Friday night, tour around Luverne on Saturday and visit one of Kazumi's favorite teachers, Dan Smith. Smith is now retired and lives in Sioux Falls.

His summer adventure also including taking photographs helpful for English educators. His summer excursion also took him to visit a close college friend who is now living in Peru. Other adventures included a visit to Lima, Nazca and Macchu Pichu.

Teachers, friends and classmates are invited to contact him at: ishizaki-kazum@esnet.ed.jp.

Mark Wallem (LHS 1976)

sends greetings from his home in Navarre, FL:



LHS 1982 foreign exchange student – Kazumi Ishizaki, visited his host family, Norm and Joyce Wessels this summer. The trip included a brief visit with one of his favorite teachers, Dan Smith. Smith is now retired and lives in Sioux Falls.

Mark shares the news of his new position as Program Director for the American Bar Association. Beginning in September of this year, Mark will be stationed in Bangkok, Thailand for two years. He will be directing a program on internet freedom. The program will be regionally based and it covers Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Myanmar. Best wishes to Mark on his new adventure!

Melanie (LHS 1982) and Keith (LHS 1973) Petersen share information they received from three foreign exchanged students over the summer:

Robert Horne phoned to share the news of the death of his mother. Robert was originally from New Zealand and is currently living in Melbourne, Australia.

Betsabe Insfran returned to Luverne in July to visit the Petersens for two weeks. She was currently on her spring break from medical school.

Betsabe had the opportunity to visit with classmates – Mason

Capistran, Katie Shearer, Britton Stratton, Courtney Hemme and Morgan Sommner.

Melanie, Keith and their daughter Ashley Petersen Hunt along with grandson Kingston attended **Mitchell Brinkman and Stephanie Baloun's** wedding in Whitefish, MT.

They traveled from the wedding to Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) to see **Mariana Ca'ceres**. They were able to spend a few days with Mari before returning to Luverne. Mari was originally from Brazil and currently lives in Edmonton with her husband Tiago.

Alumni News received this letter from **Isabelle Goodale DeBoer (LHS 1934)**:

"Thank you for the News we receive so regularly. This recent issue is particularly sweet for me in that I read two items of classmates.

It's nearly forty years since I left Minnesota and the Alumni News has been my only source of news about Luverne. Thank you for keeping me connected to my hometown!"

Reunions in the Making



Class of '65—50th Class Reunion

September 25-26-27, 2015

Save the weekend of Tri-State Band Festival to celebrate our 50th Class Reunion.

More information will follow!

Contacts: Jeannie (Boone) Bowron 507-283-8136
or jrbowron@gmail.com or Randa (Smith) Gangestad
507-283-8288 or randagangestad@hotmail.com

Alumni News contributors/ continued from page 2

Dale Haggard '52

Gloria (Schlapkohl) Siekmeier '50

David Hoiland '50

Gloria (Schlapkohl) Siekmeier '50

1958 Deceased Classmates

Yvonne (Atkinson) Janning '58

1959 Deceased Classmates

Class of 1959

James Rolfs '59

Richard Cronberg '59

Allen Holling '59

Eleanor (Rober) Van Guilder '59

Evert Van Engelenhoven '59

Don Blessing '59

Fred '59 & Judy

(VanOtterloo)'59 Smeins

Garnett (Ahrendt) Williamson '59

Jewel Olsen '59

Eleanor (Rober) Van Guilder '59

Dr. Albert C. Martin – friend

Joyce Thode '77

Shirley Mollberg – friend

Terry '67 & Diane (Mollberg)

'67 Gonnerman

Gladys (Bakken) Eitreim '33

Mabel (Tofteland) Overgaard '45

Family of Gladys Eitreim

Martha Wiggins '47

Shirley (Lohuis) Larson '47

Allen Holling '59

Wes '58 & Patti (Kirby)'63

Pierson

Alice (Ossenfort) Hansen '65

David Connell '59

Randy Ripley '67

Dawn Maxwell '73

Elmer Moeller '52

Sonny & Connie (Rusche)'58

Wieneke

Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen) '50

Luethje

John '45 & Imogene (Lemke)

'47 Krogmann

Marcia Moeller – friend

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

Contributions

Darrell '66 and Audre (Padilla)

'66 Heckt

Duane '60 and Peg (Holder) '60

Lammert

Deanna (Vatland) O'Toole '43

Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50

Kenneth Bjerk '58

Glenda (Top) Schomacker '69

James Herman '51

Thenetta (Lancaster) Nield '52

Isabelle (Goodale) Deboer '33

**Memorials and
contributions
may be sent to:**

**Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Ave.
Luverne, MN
56156**

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