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Luverne is turning 150

Community gears up to celebrate landmark birthday

Over the next couple of years, the Luverne 150 Committee will be sharing a series of articles that will offer highlights of what has happened ever since our founding in 1867. This first article includes the story of this area when it was still a territory, prior to Luverne's settlement. Stay tuned and learn about this place we call "home."

(Information for this article has been taken largely from Arthur Rose's history of Rock & Pipestone Counties that was published in 1911)

When the first white man set foot in Rock County, the topography was practically the same as we find it today. There were the same broad rolling prairies stretching as far as the eye could see. Summer burst forth presenting a perfect paradise of verdure, with variegated hues of flowers and vegetation. Winter created a stark white, snow-mantled desert. Rivers and creeks flowed through the county making their way south to the Gulf of Mexico. Vacant was any body of large water.

Wild beasts, birds and Native Americans reigned supreme. Vast herds of bison, elk and deer roamed



It wasn't until 1838 that the first record of white man visiting Rock County has been found. This was Joseph Nicolas Nicolle. Nicolle explored the area and drew the first authentic map of the county.

the open prairie and reared their young in the more sheltered places among the banks of the many streams and tributaries.

News

During this past quarter, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials and gifts totalling \$2,660. In the memorial section, **the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print**, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials.

Thank you for your support!

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the *Alumni News* and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. The chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled on September 30. Please watch for the next issue in January 2016 for additional names of *Alumni News* contributors.

Alumni News Financial Summary

Balance 6/30/15	\$ 700.98
DFS Support	\$1,000.00
Donations:	\$2,660.00
Expenses:	
Printing	\$ 982.27
Postage	\$1,950.38
Labels	\$ 205.52
Mail Prep	\$ 330.96
Balance 9/30/15	\$ 891.85

Honor Roll of Alumni News Contributors

*Compiled by
Johnna Bowron Ahrendt*

Betty (Schmidt) Lorenzen '45

*Betty Ann Lorenzen Family
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69 Papik
Janyce (Braa) Baustian '61
Mabel (Tofteland) Overgaard '45*

Franklin Wulf '50

*Elzora (Wulf) Ott '46
Naidine (Wulf) Aanenson '48*

Ann (Torrison) Whalen '51

Norman Torrison '50

Boyd Beyer '52

Joann (Beyer) Strege '57

Lorna (Henningsen) Schmidt '53

*Alice (Henningsen) Phillips '61
Melvin Hamann '53*

Dorothy (Schmidt) Feeken '55

Lorraine (Dreessen) Crouch '55

Allen Holling '59

Shirley Holling

Donna (Oye) Stoterau '60

*Burdell '71 & Barb (Obermoller) '72
Oye
Carol (Kasemodel) Sels '57
Dave '64 & Randa (Smith) '65
Gangestad
Doug '79 & Colleen (Obermoeller) '79
Deutsch
Eunice (Skyberg) Wynn '60
Garfield '60 & Ellaine Henriksen
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson
James '60 & Beatrice (Olson) '62
Maxwell
Jerry & Karol (Stoterau) '63 Mohs
Jolene (Obermoller) Halsne '79
Kristie (Obermoeller) Weinkauff '85
Larry Engel '56
Lori (Obermoller) Juliette '82
Duane '60 & Peggy (Holder) '60
Lammert
Virginia Obermoller '70
Wendel Obermoller '77*

Carol (Mulligan) VanOrden '62
Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62

Jim Godfrey '63

Keith '62 & Donna Brooks

Mary (Bendt) Kinde '67

*Carol (Underwood) Huckins '67
Kristi Fitzer '67*

Bill Bullis - friend

Eunice (Skyberg) Wynn '60

Dwayne Christensen - friend

Eunice (Skyberg) Wynn '60

Jeanette Goebel - friend

*Gary '67 & Barb Golla
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69
Papik
Larry Goebel '67
Tom '62 & Dixie (Winge) '63
Arends*

Class of 1970 deceased classmates
Class of 1970

Contributions

*Beth (Eberlein) O'Dea '70
Betty (Wulf) Justin '46
Carol (Underwood) Huckins '67
Class of 1960
Ellen Kjenslee - Teacher
Helen (Haggard) Rollag '54
Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50
Pat (Hatting) Phillips '59
Sandra Hitch '63
Stanley Thompson '57
Tom '62 & Dixie (Winge) '63
Arends*

What We've Heard
Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

Larry Engel (LHS 1956) sends greetings from his new address in Sioux Falls. He writes: "I look forward to Alumni News. I have fond memories of LHS and remember my classmates still with us, those gone on, and the teachers & coaches. Rock on Cardinals!"

Joan (Padilla) Ripley (LHS 1954) shares her thoughts from her home in Cypress, TX: "Thanks for the continued good effort in producing Alumni News. I have told my grandchildren many times about the 10 cent double matinees at the Palace on Saturday afternoons. Gloria mentioned the absence of treats which kept the theatre pristine. When you see the debris left in theatres today, you realize what a smart decision that was. It was a real lesson in having pride in keeping up your establishment though I have to admit I love having popcorn at the movies. Keep up the good work!"

Writing from her home in Sioux Falls, **Mavis (Winge) Amundson (LHS 1950)** writes that she still loves coming to Luverne. "I have been to Sterling's Café and The Bluestem several times and really enjoy dining at both first-class restaurants. I hope Luverne will continue to support both of them."

Cleo and Ellen Kjenslee always look forward to receiving their copy of Alumni News in their home in Mankato, MN. "We enjoy the Alumni News very much. We look forward to hearing about our home town people." Ellen was an elementary teacher in Luverne and Cleo had "Kjenslee Upholstery" in Luverne for many years.

"I have really enjoyed the articles on the Palace Theatre. It brings back so many fun memories," write **Pat (Hatting) Phillips (LHS 1959)** from her home in Tempe, AZ.

Carol (Underwood) Huckins (LHS 1967) sends a message of thanks to Alumni News. "I came to my first class reunion in 2012 (thanks to the urging of Kris Fitzer) and really enjoyed myself! It was awesome to see so many of my classmates I hadn't seen in 45 years! I am retired now, just recently a widow and live in Hammond, Indiana. I am still trying to figure out what I am going to do with myself now. My children and grandchildren are keeping me busy and trying to keep me from being bored. Thank you for making the Alumni News so interesting and informative."

Lauren (LHS 1950) and Janice Strassburg send greetings to all of their Luverne Alumni friends. Janice writes: "Lauren and I will celebrate our 60th anniversary this November and all is well. He is a 3 year survivor of lung cancer and is serving on the Board of our HOA here in Sun City Tucson. We love Arizona."

Betty J. Justin (LHS 1946) sends greetings to Luverne Alumni from her home in New Brighton, MN.

"Where do the years go? After graduating from LHS I went on to graduate from St. Olaf in 1950. I received my Masters in counseling and physical education in 1968 from St. Thomas. I spent two years teaching in California and 31 years in Columbia Heights. I retired in 1991 and began my passion for travel. My friend Helen Quanback and I spent 10 years touring the world, tutoring ESL & GED's."

"My legs began to wearing I so I became a "couch potato" for some of the time. I did go to all my granddaughter's horse events, school activities and athletic contests. Now, I am semi-homebound slowly but surely getting where I have to go but that is about it. No more trips to Luverne anymore...and I really miss that. The word "old" does come to mind. Greetings to all!"

Let's Hear from YOU!

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

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

E-mail louvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us
 Online: [Let's Hear From you Google Form](#)

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City State Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-Mail _____
 Year of Graduation _____
 Comments: _____

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

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol McDonald

1940-1949-

Verona Adeline Engebretson '41 passed away December 12, 2014 at the Presbyterian Homes in Andover, MN. Following graduation she attended Saint Olaf College and the University of Minnesota. On March 17, 1943, Verona joined the United States Navy. Following indoctrination at Hunter College, Bronx, New York, she was sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital on Mare Island, California. Verona worked in surgery where soldiers who were wounded and had had lost limbs in combat were treated. In November 1945, she was honorably discharged from the Navy. Verona returned to Minneapolis and worked with physicians for many years. In 1974 she entered a partnership with her sisters, Geneva and Eileen. Together they owned and operated a motel in New Braunfels, Texas. Verona retired and moved to LaJolla, California before returning to Minnesota in 2008. She is survived by her six nieces and nephews, **Susan Reimer Mohr '63** (William), **Greg Reimer '66** (Denise), Stephanie Reimer, JoAnn Kleppen (Jon), Kristi Hatfield and Michael Hatfield; and eight grandnephews and grandnieces.

Betty Ann Schmidt Lorenzen '45 passed away at Sanford Luverne Hospital on August 29, 2015. She furthered her education at a business school in Minneapolis. She then traveled to Chicago, IL for a job opportunity at the Children's Memorial Hospital. After returning home to Hardwick, Betty Ann and a friend worked at the Ben Franklin store in Pipestone, MN for 25 cents an hour. On April 23, 1947 Betty Ann and Elvin Lorenzen were united in marriage. The couple made their home on the farm northeast of Hardwick. The majority of Betty Ann's life was spent on the farm. She enjoyed driving the tractor, working in the fields, gardening, flower work and canning. One thing she did not like was grinding feed! In 1986, Betty and Elvin moved off the farm and into a house in Hardwick. She always had a pot of coffee on and loved to visit with her family and friends. She spent many hours crocheting and playing pinochle with her amazing fun-loving friends. Her two children, **David' 67** and **Dianne '68** and her husband **Rodger '68** Ossenfort, five grandchildren and ten grandchildren survive Betty Ann.

Lila Herschberger Lee '49 died July 3, 2015 at the Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Home in Luverne. On Feb. 10, 1954 she married Walter Lee in Kenneth. After their marriage the couple lived in Kenneth before moving to the farm southwest of Kenneth. They retired and moved to Luverne in 1981. She was a member of the Luverne Ladies Legion Auxiliary. Lila is survived by four children, Mark (Joanne) Lee, Gary (Vickie) Lee, Terry (Vic) Rueb, and Patty (Bill) Creamer, three grandchildren, a sister Vivian Bryan, and a brother Eugene Herschberger.

1950-1959-

Franklin D. Wulf '50 died on July 4, 2015. at Chula Vista, CA, after battling with cancer for nearly ten years. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Nov. 13, 1950. Franklin attended Naval Cadet School in Pensacola, FL and was commissioned Lieutenant upon graduation. He spent the next 20 years as a Navy Pilot, flying Patrol Bombers and Trainers, nine years as a flight instructor (Senator John McCain was one of his students). After retiring from the Navy, he attended college in San Diego and "since he got the best grades in Automotive Transportation and Technology," he bought an auto business where he repaired, showed and sold collectable and vintage autos. Other hobbies Franklin enjoyed were fishing, reading, and crossword puzzles and of course spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ruby, three children; Kimberly Blankenship, Karen Maggoira, and Franklin Scott. He is also survived by five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three brothers **Donald '52**, **Henry '54**, **Gordon '61** and four sisters **Elzora Ott '46**, **Naidine Aanenson '48**, **Audrey Munro '48** and **Ruth Hendrickson '56**.

Lois Roemeling Olson '52 died July 24, 2015 at the Sanford Hospice Cottage in Luverne. On October 24, 1954, Lois married Eldon "Woody" Olson. The couple made their home in Luverne where Lois worked at Tri-State for a short time. The couple was blessed with three children, and Lois stayed home to raise them. After the children were in high school, Lois became employed at J.C. Penney and worked there until the store closed. Lois was an avid fan of the Minnesota Twins and the Minnesota Vikings. She also enjoyed watching soap operas, game shows, television dramas and playing bingo and cards. She is survived by three children, **Rhonda '74** (John Williams) Olson, **Darcy Carlson '77** and **Scott Olson '79**, one granddaughter, a sister **Sharon '64** (Bob) Wegleitner, a sister-in-law, Ruth Roemeling, brother-in-law, **Gene Olson '51** and other relatives and friends.

(Continued on next page)

Remembering our Classmates, continued from page 4

1950-1959

Lorna Henningsen Schmidt '53 died August 8, 2015, at the Sanford Hospice Cottage in Luverne. On October 9, 1955 she married Howard D. Schmidt. The couple made their home on a farm outside Luverne. Lorna was a farm wife and stay-at-home mother to her children until they finished high school. She then began working at various sites for individuals with developmental disabilities. During this same time, Lorna decided to further her education with an associate's degree from Worthington Community College in 1985 and later with her bachelor's degree from the University of Sioux Falls in 1993. She was a supervisor for two CCSI sites for more than 20 years. She loved traveling and enjoyed time spent with the Prime Timers. Lorna is survived by three children, **Edward '74 (Ethan) '74** Schmidt, **Harold "Hal" '78 (Lori) '77** Schmidt, and **Laura Woods '85**, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; two sisters, **Margi '55** (Vance) Kohl, and **Alice Phillips '61** and other friends and relatives.

Dorothy Schmidt Feeken '55 died September 8, 2015 at her home in Comfrey. On December 12, 1964 she married Ron Feeken. They then moved to a farm in Comfrey. Over a 35-year career she provided in-home assistance to nearly 100 elderly individuals, allowing them to remain independent in their homes by doing whatever they needed to maintain a high quality of life. She enjoyed baking, crocheting, sewing, quilting and gardening, particularly strawberries. Dorothy is survived by her husband Ron Feeken, a daughter Alana, a son Neal (Jennifer) Feeken, and many other friends and relatives.

Charles Stephan Herreid '57 died July 12, 2015 at the Good Samaritan Home in Jackson, MN. After graduation he entered the United States National Guard where he spent the next seven years fulfilling his commitment. He moved to Worthington, MN where he first drove milk truck and later worked for Culligan. He then became employed by the city of Worthington. In the early 80s Charlie became employed in the wastewater treatment facility for the city of Arnolds Park. In the early 1990s, Charlie underwent a battle with cancer and was forced to retire. Charlie was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved trap shooting. He also enjoyed riding motorcycle and trail riding on his favorite horse, Brumby. He was a good father with a great sense of humor and enjoyed having a conversation with anybody.

Charlie is survived by his two children, Jill Herreid, and Todd Herreid, sister **Carolyn '60** Tofteland (Bob Pendergraft) and other relative and friends.

1960-1969

Donna Lee Oye Stoterau '60 died at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls on August 11, 2015. Donna married Dale Stoterau on July 17, 1960. The couple resided in Luverne and later moved to Beaver Creek where she raised her three children. Donna attended Stewart's School in Sioux Falls. She worked for many years for Ford Motor Company in the finance and repossessing department. In her retirement Donna worked at Sport Bowl in Sioux Falls. She was an avid bowler and taught her grandchildren and many others to bowl. She competed at many national bowling tournaments. Donna professionally raised racehorses and spent many happy hours at Canterbury Downs. One of Donna's greatest joys was spending time with her grandchildren, cooking and baking and sewing for them. She is survived by her husband **Dale Stoterau '65**; her son Kurt (Yvonne) Stoterau, daughter Gwynne (Brent) Anderson, daughter Lucynda; brother **Bruce '67** (Marilyn) Oye, sister **Virginia '65** (Woody) Peters, sister **Rita '69** and brother **Burdell '71** (Barbara) Oye, nieces, nephews, and other friends and relatives.

Steven Lester Schneekloth '66 died following a strong and courageous battle with cancer on September 21, 2015. After high school he worked for Juhl Farms. On June 19, 1970 he married Marian Van Santen. Shortly after the family moved to a family farm of their own. In 1984, Steve left farming and moved the family to Luverne. He was a jack-of-all-trades. He worked for S&R Supply in rock Rapids, Iowa, Country Kitchen in Luverne, and HiFat Specialties out of Jasper, MN. In 1997, Agri-Energy built the ethanol plant in Luverne and Steve became the maintenance manager. Steve also worked part-time for Sears, Papik Motors, and PAT's pilot car and escort service. Some of his hobbies included: woodworking, making beanbag boards, fishing, gardening, baking and photography. His children will remember him most for being a hard worker. His independence taught them how to be self-sufficient. He showed everyone how to truly appreciate life. Steve is survived by his wife Marian, six children, **Cory Schneekloth '91**, **Brian '92** (Sheryl) Schneekloth, **Wes '95** (Crystal) Schneekloth,

Happy 150th to our hometown!

Mark your calendars and plan a trip in July 2017 when Luverne celebrates its 150th birthday. The Luverne 150 Committee met in late September to select a date and adopt the official logo.

The Luverne 150 Committee is being coordinated through the Luverne Area Chamber. Any interested Luverne Alumni are invited to contact us and be included on the development of the celebration which will include special activities throughout the year with an **“official birthday party” slated for July 14, 15 and 16, 2017.**

Why did Luverne 150 Committee select that weekend? They decided that would be the perfect time to have the party because the night before (Thursday – July 13) will be the celebration of Luverne’s 55th Annual Hot Dog Nite.

Nothing can beat that! You can come a day early and get a free dinner courtesy of Luverne Area Chamber members – enjoy the wiener dog events, watch or participate in the Wienerman Triathlon, and enjoy live music on Main Street!

The Committee will begin to develop specific events and plans for the weekend that will include

a hometown parade, fireworks and maybe a “party at the park.”

Watch for updates in the coming editions of Alumni News. If your class is planning a reunion, you might want to take note and plan your special event during the celebration.

Warn your relatives that this might be a great time for a family reunion.

The Luverne 150 Committee is excited to invite everyone – friends, neighbors, relatives, alumni and visitors – to take part in the celebration.

Luverne has a lot to be proud of – PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE – and 150 years makes it the perfect reason to celebrate!

For information and/or to volunteer:

Luverne Area Chamber
Jane Wildung Lanphere & Lorna Bryan
213 East Luverne Street
Luverne, MN 56156
507 283-4061

luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Luverne to celebrate 150 years/continued from page 1

Stories were told to early explorers of the region that Native Americans rounded up bison and drove them over the precipices of the mounds, sending them to their deaths. Native American women and children stood below to quickly make use of every part of the dead bison.

Little information exists about the history of the Native Americans of the area. According to the accounts in Rose’s history, there were “two great tribes” that occupied Minnesota. The Ojibways held the north wooded half of the state and the Sioux held the prairie.

There were three great tribal division of the Sioux; names the Isantis who resided about the headwaters of the Mississippi; the Yanktons who occupied the region north of the Minnesota River and the Titowans who lived west of the Yanktons. These tribes were further divided into other, smaller bands.

When many of the

Native Americans were driven from Minnesota in the early 1800s, the Yankton branch of the Sioux nation claimed the extreme southwestern portion of Minnesota. They trapped and hunted over it extensively prior to the Sioux War of 1862 when they were driven into Dakota.

There is scant information about the Native Americans of the area. One account provides information about a battle between two tribes of Indians fought on the west bank of the Rock River in the southwest quarter of Section 16 in Battle Plain Township (a few miles northwest of Kenneth).

The battle was said to have occurred in 1840 between the Ponca and Yankton Indians. It lasted four days when the Yankton Tribe was the victor.

Early settlers found marks of earthworks and other markings.

There was an enclosure 200 by 175 feet (described as egg-shaped) surrounded by a series of irregular

pits from 2 to 3 ½ feet deep and 10 to 12 feet in length. Weapons, human bones and other Native American artifacts were found at the spot.

Although the first explorers to Minnesota came in the late 1600s, it wasn’t until 1838 that the first record of white man visiting Rock County has been found. This was Joseph Nicolas Nicollet.

Nicollet explored the area and drew the first authentic map of the county. With his party Nicollet visited the Pipestone quarries in July 1838 and carved his name and the initials of his party, with the date, in the rock at that place.

Proof that he or some of his men visited Rock County during the years of his explorations is evidenced by the fact that several natural features of the county were given names and quite accurately located for the first time.

The Rock River was labeled

(Continued on next page)



Luverne to celebrate 150 years/continued from page 6

"Inyan Reakah" or "River of the Rock" and is shown flowing into the "Tcankasndata" or "Big Sioux." The principal tributary of the river was labeled "Karanzi R." or "River where the Kansas were killed" - which we now call Kanaranzi Creek.

Farther north and also coming in from the east are two other tributaries of the Rock labeled "Tchan-Pepedan R." or "Thorny Wood River" - which we now call Chanpepedan and "Tchan-Narambe C." or "Hidden Wood Creek" - which we now call Chanarambie.

For several years after the visit of Nicollet the area was visited by white men only occasionally. In 1849, the United States Congress created the Minnesota Territory. The fact that the land west of the Mississippi was still in undisputed ownership of the Sioux delayed the settlement.

In 1851 President Millard Fillmore, at the solicitation of residents of the Minnesota territory who were clamoring for admission to the rich soil of the west, directed that a treaty with the Sioux be made.

The treaties (which were signed in 1852) gave the Sioux title to the land on the north side of the Minnesota River and the rich, fertile soil of southwestern Minnesota opened for settlement. The Minnesota Territory purchased land in Rock County from the Sioux for the lowest price per acre it ever sold for - twelve and one-half cents per acre. (The highest price per acre land was ever sold for in Rock County was recorded in December 2012 - \$16,200/acre...a "slight" increase one might say.)

Later that same year, Warner Lewis (Surveyor General of Iowa) ran the line between the Iowa and Minnesota territory. They started at the southwest corner of the county about the first of August, planted an iron post marking the boundary line, and proceeded on their way eastward, completing the line across the southern boundary of Rock County on August 5, 1852. Rock County did not receive permanent settlers until the late 1860s.

The settlement of Luverne - the early years - in the Winter Edition of the Alumni News in January.



Class of 1945 celebrates 70 years

The Luverne High School Class of 1945 celebrated its 70th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 19, with a noon luncheon at Sterling's Café & Grille on Main Street in Luverne. Pictured are (front row, from left) Mary Ann (Berning) Slagel, Dorothy (Kemerling) Petersen, Mabel (Tofteland) Overgaard, Arlyn Hemme, (back) Neva (Baustian) Clausen, Shirley (Skoland) Ford, Eunice (Groth) Witry and John Krogmann. Following the luncheon, classmates took a trolley tour of Luverne to see all of the changes in the community. On Sunday they attended the 100th Birthday Celebration of the Palace Theatre, which included a silent movie, tours of the theatre and birthday cake.

Reunions in the Making

50th Class Reunion

Class of 1966

September 23 & 24, 2016

Jennifer Holsen

jenholsen@gmail.com





Class of 1965 celebrates 50 years

The Luverne High School Class of 1965 gathered for a 50th class reunion Saturday, Sept. 26, in the Blue Mound Banquet Center, Luverne. Pictured are (front, from left) Bob Bertrand, Larry Stoterau, Alon Hemme, Bryce Davis, Tom Thomas, Kathy (Molitor) Deuschle, Jerry Deuschle, Bob Nelson, Joe Katka, Susan (Jacobson) Jones, Charlene (Vanlperen) Hovland, Becky (Hamann) Husen, Rod Walgrave, Tom Kozney, Diana (Chapin) Ouverson, (second row) Lon Remme, Loree (Untiedt) Davis, Janet (Boone) Jessen, Jeanne (Boone) Bowron, Linda (Janssen) Koranda, Sharon (Leslie) Gilman, Louise (Janssen) Parent, Carlene (Jessen) Boll, Jayona (Collins) Bowman, Jeanne (Viland) Ellsworth, Ginny (Fikse) Tilstra, Shirley (Johnson) Olney, Ethel (Wilcox) Nelson, Judy (Anderson) Thome, Nancy Hengeveld, (third row) Curt Laudon, Karen (Christensen) Kullinat, Randy Eide, Linda (Mann) Berghorst, Gail (Mann) Goembel, Randa (Smith) Gangestad, Ginny (Oye) Peters, Larry Boll, Becky (Birkeland) Herreid, Jackie (Mulder) Gertz, Maxine (Kriebach) Johnson, Marlene (Johansen) Nelson, Mary (Peterson) Ritchie and Chuck Lippi.

Oldest known Rock County resident, 1929 Luverne High School grad, dies at 104

By Glenda McGaffee

Reprinted from the
June 4 Hills Crescent

Martha Ingebord Lunde Bakken, the oldest known resident in Rock County, died Thursday, May 28, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls at the age of 104 years and 16 days.

Martha was born to Nels and Emma (Rossum) Lunde in Luverne Township May 12, 1911, and was a lifelong resident of Rock County. Martha grew up on a farm several miles southwest of Luverne, attended a one-room school which was in District 13 in Rock County, and attended high school in Luverne. She would stay "in town" during the week and go home on weekends. After graduating from high school she attended Normal School, which was a one-year program in Luverne.

Here are some memories Martha recalled in 1994 of her teaching experiences in the 1930's:

"I graduated from Luverne High School in June 1929 and then enrolled in the Teacher's Training Department in Luverne. There were 12 to 13 girls," Bakken recalled. "The first two weeks were spent visiting observing rural schools in the county. The school day was from 8 am to 5 pm with no study period. We studied all the subjects taught in rural schools, including music and physical education. We even went out on cold winter nights to find the constellations."

She said they had classes in education subjects, then called pedagogy, and followed Minnesota Course of Studies. "Another thing we had to do was to write drills from Palmer Method Writing Book," she said. "We did practice our penmanship." In the spring the teachers in training began to apply for a school. "In those days there were more applicants than schools," Bakken recalled. "I was fortunate to know the members of the school board in District 4. This is how I got the school in 4E."



Martha Ingebord Lunde Bakken grew up on a farm several miles southwest of Luverne and attended a one-room school in District 13 in Rock County. She attended high school in Luverne, staying "in town" during the week and going home on weekends. She is pictured here for her Luverne High School graduation photograph in 1929.

She stayed with a family that lived a half-mile north of the school. "I walked morning and night. The house was so cold that water in the kitchen froze overnight," Bakken said. "I slept upstairs under a feather bed. That was warm. The first year I got \$90 a month. During the Depression years the salaries went down."

After being there six years Bakken said she thought she needed a change.

"I got District 13, which was the school I went to as child. This was a small enrollment with only eight or nine students," she said. "I had to be the janitor as well as the teacher."

Bakken went to Mankato Teachers' College two different summers for six weeks. Two sessions of six weeks each in five years was required to renew certificates.

In 1941 she was united in marriage to Obed Bakken and the couple lived on a farm 10 miles west of Luverne, near the Palisade Lutheran Church. They had two sons, Howard and Richard. Martha's hobbies were gardening and

needlework.

Martha enjoyed traveling to visit her sister, Nora, and family in Whitewater, Wisconsin. She also enjoyed trips to Yellowstone, Colorado, Florida, the Smokey Mountains, Mackinac Island in Michigan, Chicago and Connecticut, where she attended her son Howard's graduation and wedding.

Before her marriage she traveled to the World's Fair in New York and Chicago with close friends Tilda and Margaret Vegge. The ladies' trip to New York was for a month and they rented any apartment. A childhood friend, Sylvia Salvesen, formerly from Luverne, who had married a New Yorker and lived in Brooklyn, served as their tour guide.

In 1997 Martha and her husband Obed, moved to The Oaks in Luverne. When Obed's health declined they moved to the Tuff Village and Obed passed away in 2003.

Martha continued to reside at Tuff Village until 2011 when she transferred to the Tuff Memorial Home.

Perry '98 (KaraJo '97) Schneekloth, Nicole Schneekloth '01, and Gretchen Schneekloth 2011 (fiancé, Christopher Luze), eleven grandchildren, his mother **Norma Schneekloth '46**, seven siblings, **Deanna '68 (Jeff '68) Jensen, Howard '71 (Cindy '72) Schneekloth, Gloria '73** (Ron) Evans, **Tom '74** (Donna) Schneekloth, **Paula Petersen-Giles '76** (Dan Giles), **Terry '79** (Denise) Schneekloth, and **Randy '82 (Susan 91) Schneekloth** and numerous relatives and friends.

Ruth Ann Rohlck Nielsen '67 died May 15, 2015 at the Tieszen Memorial Home, Marion, SD. After graduation she married Curtis Nielsen on June 8, 1968. They lived a short time in an apartment in Luverne before moving to the Rohlck family farm north of Hardwick. In 1972 they moved to Luverne where they both worked at A.R. Wood Manufacturing. Ruth also did home care and was custodian at the high school. They enjoyed the outdoors, going camping and fishing as a family. Ruth loved to cook and her daughters, nieces and nephews remember the delicious fudge she would make for them. Ruth loved to roller skate. She met her husband, Curt, at the Hiawatha Roller Rink in Pipestone, MN. She is survived by her two daughters, Lisa Hoyme and Beth Husman, six grandchildren; a brother, **Roger '54** (Verna) Rohlck, and a sister **Carol '55** (Bill) Braa; and many other nieces and nephews.

Interested in creating a Dollars for Scholars Endowment?

A gift of \$2,000 or more creates a perpetual scholarship with Luverne Dollars for Scholars. With a perpetual scholarship, only the interest earned during a one-year period of time is awarded each and every year thereafter to a most recent LHS qualifying graduate. The donor of such a gift is given the opportunity to name the scholarship. The scholarship is also included in the annual Luverne Dollars for Scholars Community Scholarship booklet. Not only does this booklet list the LHS graduates with their awarded scholarships, but it also includes a short write-up of each and every perpetual scholarship. The uniqueness of establishing a perpetual scholarship is that it allows a scholarship to be given each and every year, forever, to a fresh qualifying LHS graduate. Luverne DFS is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3), therefore all gifts are tax deductible. You can contact Johnna Ahrendt at 507-227-4030 if you are interested in establishing a perpetual scholarship with Luverne Dollars for Scholars or email her at luvernedfs@gmail.com.



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Mavis Fodness photo/0226 Lon Remme

Lon Remme was the “bus boss” at Luverne Public Schools for 36 years. He retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year, effective June 30.

School transportation director retires

*Reprinted from
Rock County Star Herald*

By Mavis Fodness

Perhaps Lon Remme’s phone greeting comes from his military experience but the gruff sounding “Bauhhs Gar-rahhhge” became a thing of the past on June 30.

That’s when the Luverne Public School District transportation director called it quits, retiring after 36 years on the job.

“It’s time to do other things,” the 67-year-old said.

Those things include spending more time with his wife, Donna, two children and six grandchildren. He also plans to spend more time making items out of leather and restoring the

1967 Camaro sitting in his garage.

As for the car project that has been waiting two years to complete, Remme has plenty of experience.

The Hardwick native grew up under the hood with his late father, Milford, who operated the town’s D-X Sun Royal Service Station.

It was his father, a bus driver for Luverne Public Schools in the late ’70s, who encouraged Remme to apply for the open district position.

While in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, Remme headed up the motor transport for his unit. After his discharge he came back to Luverne accepting jobs at A.R. Wood Manufacturing, Hanson Silo and the Luverne Announcer before being hired by the district.

As transportation director,

not only does Remme oversee the district’s bus drivers and routes, he is also responsible for the regular maintenance and minor repairs on the fleet of vehicles, which has grown to include 22 buses, five Suburbans and two passenger cars.

“If it gets too technical, then I farm it out,” he said.

When Remme started in November 1979, his responsibilities were considerably less.

“Back then they had eight drivers,” Remme said. “Now there’s 22 with subs.”

Finding enough drivers has been the hardest part of Remme’s job.

Regular routes have expanded from eight to 12 under Remme’s

Remme reires/continued on page 13



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

Work continues on History Center; roof requires additional funds

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

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

The fundraising campaign has met with “overwhelming support,” Betty Mann puts it.

Mann, Rock County Historical Society president, said a disappointing discovery along the way has been a deteriorated roof on the old Herman building that will require additional monies to fix.

“I’m hoping people continue to support the History Center effort,”

Mann said. “There is still a great deal of work that needs to be done, and donations are still needed.”

Tax-deductible contributions to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to 123 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne, MN 56156.

The History Center 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.

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 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.”

Learn more at [Facebook.com/RockCountyHistoryCenter](https://www.facebook.com/RockCountyHistoryCenter) or call (507) 283-2122 RCHS or (507) 283-4061 Luverne Area Chamber.

Remme retires from Luverne Schools bus garage/from p. 12

tenure, bringing about 600 students to and from school each day. Also added are regular routes taking students to and from classes in Sioux Falls plus the growth in traveling to sporting events.

Annually, the district vehicles travel an average 700,000 to 750,000 miles, he said.

During his tenure, however, none of those vehicles have been involved in any serious injury accidents, although he did have a scare within the first couple of years

on the job.

A snowstorm in the early 1980s caught Remme and district officials by surprise and classes were not dismissed early enough to allow all the buses to complete routes before the snow accumulated. Remme said 11 out of the 12 buses were stuck out on the road that day.

“It wasn’t until 7 p.m. that I got the last one unstuck,” he said.

Now on possible snow days, Remme is checking conditions early — sometimes at 3 a.m. — driving roads to assess conditions. A 12-hour day is

not an uncommon work schedule for Remme.

“I like the job. It’s a good job,” he said.

The early retirement notice allows the new director time to job shadow before taking over the reins from Remme. The district will accept applications until the position is filled.

Remme’s retirement on June 30 will signal a milestone for the Luverne High School Class of 1965 graduate.

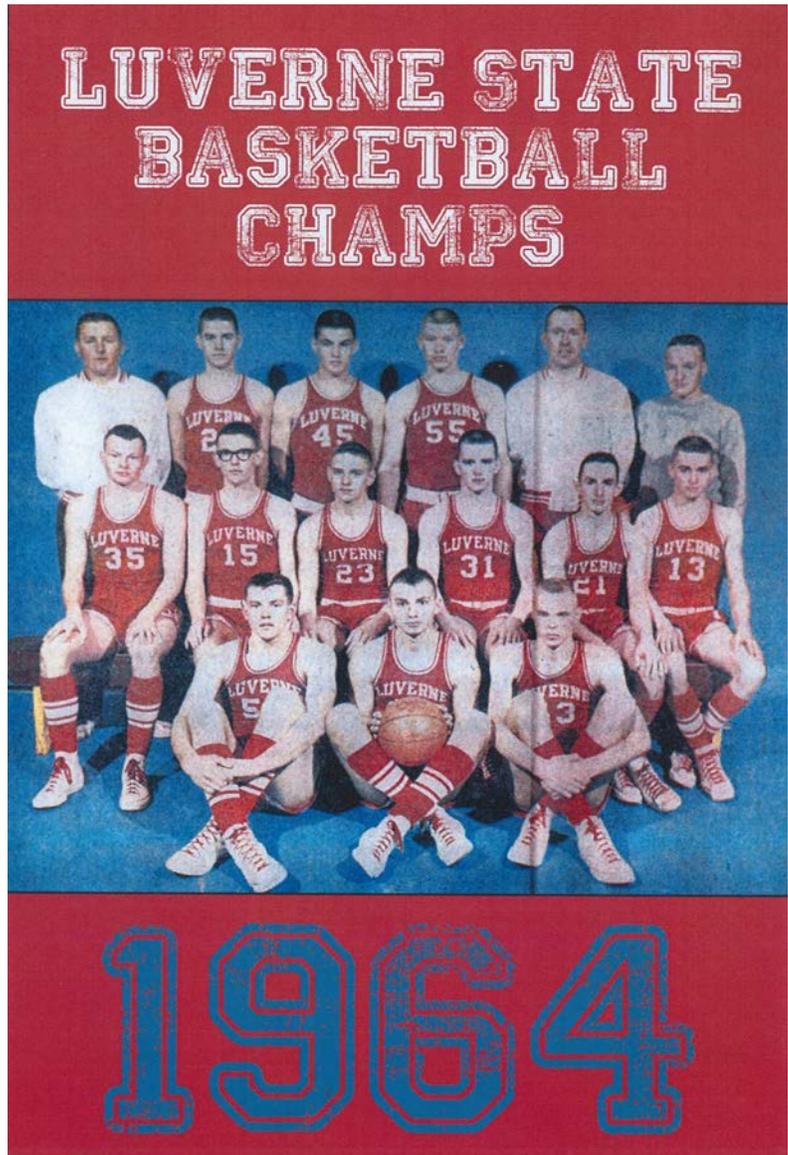
“After 50 years I am finally going to get out of Luverne School District,” he said.

**STILL HAVE FOND MEMORIES
OF LUVERNE'S 1964 STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP?**

Thanks to people who save things, technology and a big effort on the part of Greg Thone the story of Luverne's 1964 State Basketball Championship is available on a two DVD collection. Over the past year, Greg has put together a set of DVD's that include the radio broadcasts of 1964 tournament games with Rochester and Hutchinson; Road to State; State Tourney; State Championship Celebration and 2014 All School Reunion Excerpts.

Greg asked the Chamber that we send copies of the collection to members of the 1964 State Basketball Team & Coaches and make additional copies available to Luverne Alumni.

Copies of this two part DVD set are available for \$25 which includes postage and handling. \$20 of each sale will be given to the Luverne School Foundation and designated to the Luverne Cardinal Basketball program. Order now to treasure those memories of the past and support Cardinal Basketball!



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Name: _____
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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Include check for \$25 to Luverne Area Chamber (multiply the amount for additional copies)

Mail to: Luverne Area Chamber
213 East Luverne Street
Luverne, MN 56156



Mavis Fodness photo/0813 Brad Goembel

Brad Goembel took the reins as Luverne Public School's transportation director in May. Aug. 24 was his first day of organizing and scheduling the bus routes for more than 700 students who rely on district transportation to get to and from school.

LHS graduate takes over getting students to school on time, safely

By Mavis Fodness, Star Herald

Brad Goembel is no stranger to city and rural residents in the Luverne School District.

For 20 years Goembel was a driver at Ketterling Services Inc., Luverne, and through the years he grew familiar with local streets and addresses.

On May 1 he put this route experience to use in his new position as Luverne School District's transportation director.

Now he is connecting faces to the residents he only knew by name and address.

"This is only my second job since high school," said Goembel, a 1996 LHS grad.

Monday will mark the first day of school for Luverne students and the first test of Goembel's organization of the district's 12 bus routes.

Goembel said he was intrigued each time he picked up refuse from the bus garage on West Dodge

Street. He often talked with now-retired transportation director Lon Remme about bus maintenance and Remme's stepping down from the position he filled for 36 years.

"I was at the point of either choosing a different job or continue to work at (Ketterlings)," until retirement, Goembel said.

His wife, Tricia, three sons, Brody, 7, Rylin, 5, and Liam, 16 months, plus another child arriving in October prompted him to apply for Remme's position, where he could more easily attend school activities.

As transportation director, Goembel said he could now choose to drive the bus for his boys' teams to future away games.

Since beginning in the position this school year, Goembel said he was overwhelmed by the transportation needs of the district.

The last month of the school year ended with more than a dozen buses needed for field trips conducted the same day.

"It was very hectic," he recalled.

The summer months allowed Goembel to familiarize himself with each of the bus routes he rode before school ended, and now he can easily add new families into the routes.

He has also serviced each of the district's vehicles in preparation for next week.

Assisting Goembel has been the district's newest bus driver, Remme, who continues to assist Goembel as he settles into the position. Remme has not been the only one easing Goembel into the job.

"I have a great set of drivers," he said.

The drivers have been contacting families on their routes, affirming pickup and drop-off times plus locations for the new school year.

Goembel said a future challenge will be helping to determine if road conditions warrant postponement or cancellation of classes.

"I hope we have a good winter," he said.

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

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