



As Luverne School District works on building project, Alumni News looks back on 1950s school construction

Recently, Luverne School District #2184 residents passed a \$30 million bond issue to remodel and renovate the Luverne Middle – High School Building and to construct a new performing arts center. This article features the decisions made in the 1950's to build the new school that is now getting a "face-lift".

In the 1950s, the real reason for the building project was to have enough space for the growing school enrollment due to the closing of rural district schools and the baby boom generation. Enjoy this article that picks up where the July 2019 edition of Alumni News left off.

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD

– March 31, 1955

'New School To Be Finest In Area' – Eitreim

"In a thoughtful "look ahead" at the future for Luverne schools, Superintendent Harvey Eitreim told Rotarians Monday that the new building will be one of the finest buildings in the entire area.

A few people he said, have questioned where the school is being built "big enough." "We will have

room to spare," he said.

In 1962, he said there still should be, even with 75 sections, at least six rooms to spare. As far as special sections there should be five rooms to spare.

With the rapidly mounting pupil load the picture is not quite as rosy as far as the elementary school is concerned for the 1962 projection. "We won't have any room there to spare," he said.

Analyzing the steady increase in pupils Supt. Eitreim said that in 1950 there were 724 pupils. Now there are over 1,100. In 1960 a total enrollment of 1,400 pupils is expected. "This year we will graduate 53 seniors," said Eitreim, "next year we will have 123 pupils starting in the first grade so you can figure it out for yourself.

Touching briefly on the teacher situation the superintendent said that in 1951 there were 21,000 teachers in Minnesota. There are today over 24,000 by the target year of 1960 a total of 30,000 will be needed.

The increase in pupil enrollment will require

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Sept. 29, 2019, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling **\$1,845**. 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. THANKYOU, 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, January 2020, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Balance 6/30/19 \$916.02

Donations: 1,845.00
DFS Support: 1,900.00

Expenses:
Printing: 919.07
Postage: 1,654.90
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Office Supplies: 15.00
Database: 94.95
Paypal Fees: 1.75

Balance 9/30/19 \$873.11

Memorials

Phyllis (Wessels)
Schouwenburg '52

Darlene (Rozeboom) Bosch '49

Martha (Sellen) Nuffer '53

Stanley Bagbey '58

JoAnn (Aanenson) Barmore '54

Gordon (Sam) '65 & Joyce
(Aanenson) '65 Hansen

James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting

Mic & Joan (Aanenson) Berry '75

Randy '70 & Donna Aanenson

Roger VanRoekel '55

Audrey (Smeins) Poppen '55

Francis Maras '56

LHS Class of 1956

Orlen Lunde '56

Larry '56 & Gloria Engel
LHS Class of 1956

Dennis Mahoney '59

Audrey (Smeins) Poppen '55
George McKay '59
Larry '56 & Gloria Engel

Richard Norelius '59

Rodger McKay '65

George McKay '59

Greg Reimer '66

LHS Class of 1966

Janice (Untiedt)

Christensen '66
LHS Class of 1966

Dave '64 & Randa (Smith) '65
Gangestad

Stanley Mann '66

LHS Class of 1966

John Holsen '70

LHS Class of 1970

James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting

Randy Aanenson '70

Rick '70 & Carol
(Schumacher) '70 Serie

Jeff Dirks '80

Edna Dirks

Brooke Thompson '15

James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting

Contributions

David Garcia '57

Douglas Shelton '68

Eunice (Skyberg) Wynn '60

George Jensen '67

James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

John Remme '56

Keith Brooks '62

Keith Loger '69

LHS Class of 1959

Linda (Gabrielson) Smith '68

Linda Vos '61

Sandra Hitch '63

Thank you for your support

There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars Did you know?

Scholarship application season is upon us once again! The Luverne High School Class of 2020 is busy working on their scholarship applications.

They will be 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.

Good luck to the Class of 2020! We look forward to awarding all of your hard work over the past four years.

If you would like to contribute to Luverne Dollars for Scholars, 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

Attention LHS classes of 2015-2018:

**Do you have a mailing
address other than your
parents' home?
Have you moved?**

Your classmates may be trying to locate you. If you email your postal address to the Alumni News, it will be current for your classmates who may be trying to invite you to a future class reunion.

Email Patti Kirby Pierson,
Luverne Alumni News Database,
Manager, at piersonprp@alliancecom.net

Thank you!

How will you be counted in 2020?

Are you a snowbird who considers Luverne to be home base? It's time to start educating yourself on the 2020 U.S. Census and what your count means to Luverne. The city has organized a Complete Count Committee to help get every person counted. See the local census information at cityofluverne.org and learn what you can do.

What is the Census?

The U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount every 10 years, of everyone residing in the United States. The goal of the U.S. Census Bureau is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. The results of the census determine congressional representation as well as more than \$675 billion in federal funding for states and communities. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

For more information, visit www.cityofluverne.org/2020census.



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What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere



What We've Heard: October 2019

Howard Van Otterloo (LHS 1982) writes from his home in St. Peter, MN. Howard is a history teacher and trip advisor for JWP High School in Janesville, MN:

"I just wanted to share something that I have put together for JWP High School in Janesville, MN. This will be my 20th year at JWP.

Back in 2006 we began taking basic DC/ Gettysburg trips and it has now morphed (starting in 2015) into a 5 year rotation that will allow students that attend all five years to see a historical site in all 48 contiguous states.

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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 in our directory of alumni).

Send your news to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Or email luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

The photo above is of the students who went on the eastern history adventure in 2019.

Two of the students have traveled to 48 states on trips sponsored through school and they are possibly the only students

in the country who had done that.

This is the link to a local news report that aired 8/7/19. <https://www.keyc.com/2019/08/07/teacher-encourages-travel-jwp/?fbclid=IwAR3cMbUNYAOInCjFYXZ7PNKt2aTQLk8d6lCgrDIHbQYeh9p3plzM3giBQ6A>



The architect's drawing of the new school performing arts center was revealed at Friday night's LIFT Gala. This spring, 518 theater seats were removed and other preparations completed to transform the former Luverne Middle-High School auditorium, more commonly known as the Little Theater, into the new band and choir suites. Work has been in full swing over the summer and during this school year on the \$30 million building project that includes an \$8 million performing arts center. The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2020.

GALA VARIETY SHOW PLANNED FOR THE 2021 ALL SCHOOL REUNION

The 2021 All School Reunion Committee believes that the best way for all of us to experience Luverne School's new "PERFORMING ARTS CENTER" is by having the opportunity to attend a performance.

With that in mind, discussions and planning have just begun to put together a variety show of Luverne student and alumni talent to be premiered on Saturday afternoon, July 17th in the new 700+ seat performing arts center at Luverne Public School. The benefit performance will be a fundraiser for the Luverne School Foundation through either ticket sales or free will offering (to be determined at a later date).

As the committee begins to put the concept of the show together, we invite alumni and students who are interested in sharing their talent for a good cause – to contact the planning committee. The goal of the committee is to put together 1 ½ to 2 hour show of wonderful entertainment by students, staff, former staff and alumni...all supporting the great mission of education that Luverne Public Schools is so well known for.

If you have any interest in sharing your talent, or if you can suggest the name of someone we should contact and/or if you would like to help – please email

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1940 – 1949

Pieterella “Nell” (Timmer) Fink ’47 died September 2, 2019, in Luverne. She worked at the Rock County Bank prior to marrying Milton (Bud) Fink on February 25, 1950.

They lived on their farm near Luverne since 1957, enjoying country living and raising their daughters.

Nell is survived by husband, Bud Fink, Luverne; two daughters, **Pat ’69** (Pete) Body, Luverne and **Marcia ’70** (Ira) Dahlman, McKinney, TX; three granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; one sister, **Leona ’54** Frevik; and two nieces.

Kathleen “Kay” (Rolph) Sehr ’47 passed away on September 29, 2019, in Luverne. After high school Kay attended business school in Minneapolis. On May 2, 1950, she married Nicholas Sehr in Luverne.

They lived on a farm southeast of Luverne, and then moved to an acreage south of Luverne. Nick died in 2008 and Kay moved into town. In 2015 she moved to the Mary Jane Brown home in Luverne.

Kay is survived by four children: **Sue ’69** (Bob) Ohnsorg, Chaska, **Steve ’72 (Becky ’73)**, Luverne, **Kathy ’77** Sehr (Grant Johnson), Stillwater, and **Mark ’82** (Reva), Luverne; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one sister, **Albertine ’54** Appel, Ivanhoe, and one brother, **Paul ’56** (Mryna) Rolph, Benson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Nick; two sisters, Virginia and Margaret; and three brothers, **Jerome ’52**, Phillip and **Stanley ’58** Rolph.

Gladys (Gramstad) Petersen ’48 passed away on January 20, 2018, in Wichita, KS. On June 10, 1950, Gladys married Roy Petersen in Sioux Falls, SD. The couple lived in Tyndall, SD, Hardwick, MN and later, Augusta, KS. Gladys was a beautician out of her home for over 50 years.

Gladys is survived by son Tom Petersen (Zhanna), Edina, MN; daughters Linda Kelley, Augusta, KS, and Glennis (Jim) Svanda, Augusta, KS; brothers Alvin (Lois) Gramstad,

Sanborn, MN, **Harold ’56** (Jane) Gramstad, Elk River, MN, **Ernest ’57** (Charlotte), Russellville, AR, **Joseph ’58** (Diane) Gramstad, Pompano Beach, FL; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Gladys was preceded in death by husband Roy, daughter, Peggy Weisser; brothers Selmer, Bert, Raymond, and **Norman ’50** Gramstad; and sister Mae Van Scharrel.

1950 – 1959

Lillian (Deitermann) Willers ’51 passed away on August 14, 2019, in Luverne. On January 23, 1952, Lillian married **Allen ’48** Willers and they lived most of their lives on a farm near Beaver Creek.

They moved to Luverne in 1996. Lillian owned and operated a malt shop in San Diego, CA, while Al was stationed there. She also worked in a soda shop in Sioux Falls, as a grocery clerk in Luverne and remained an active farm wife and homemaker.

Lillian is survived by husband **Allen**, Luverne; four children Mark (Karen) Willers, Beaver Creek, Sharon (Tom) Wieneke, Jackson, Michael (Kristy) Willers, Beaver Creek, and Barbara (Regg) Glawe, Peoria, IL; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; an exchange student, David Tamez; a foster daughter, Tammy Eugenius; and friends Sharon DeVries and Harveen and Bruce Gluf.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Cheryl Ann; and seven siblings.

Helen (Kadinger) Dukelow ’51 passed away at home on August 21, 2019. After high school, Helen and friends hitchhiked to California where she met and married her husband. The family moved to Virginia Beach, VA, in 1965.

She was a parish secretary and then earned her associate degree in hotel/motel management. Helen was manager of Retreat by the Sea, then worked at Electronic Systems. She was very active in her community and with family and friends.

Helen is survived by three children: Teri (Rob) Rushford, Andy (Stephanie) Dukelow, and Bret (Norma) Dukelow.

Phyllis (Wessels) Schouwenburg '52 passed away August 27, 2019, in Sioux Falls, SD. She worked at Tri-State Mutual as secretary to the president and then married Donald Schouwenburg on September 16, 1954.

The couple lived in Luverne, Steen and Hills. Phyllis worked in the Hills-Beaver Creek High School in the cafeteria and then as the secretary to the principal. In 2015 Phyllis and Don moved to the Prince of Peace Retirement Community in Sioux Falls.

Phyllis is survived by her husband, Don; children Constance (Russell) Cambern, Brookings, SD, Lori Inafuku, Minnetonka, Joni (**Curt '77**) Gacke, Sioux Falls, and Julie (Fred III) Rule, Sioux Falls; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; seven siblings, Norman (**Joyce '47**) Wessels, **Enore '48** Boelman, **Iva '56** (Edwin) Elbers, and **Harold '63** Wessels, all of Luverne, **David '65** (Beverly) Wessels and Lowell Wessels of Steen, and **Doug '65** (**Ginny '68**) Wessels of Hardwick; and sisters-in-law Theresa Wessels and Gert Wessels of Luverne.

She was preceded in death by brothers Dale, **Darrell '60** and Stanley Wessels; sister Vernice Wessels; sisters-in-law Jolene and Sharon Wessels; brother-in-law **Edwin '42** Boelman; Niece **Tina '96** Wessels Martinez; and several nieces and nephews.

Martha (Sellen) Nuffer '53 was laid to rest on October 1, 2019, in Elkhorn, NE. In 1958 Martha married Fritz Nuffer and they enjoyed 26 years of military life living in ten states and twice in Germany. They retired to Omaha, NE. Martha was a champion baton twirler, taught baton and was an accomplished artist, working with oils and clay.

Martha is survived by her husband, Fritz, two sons, Fritz (Diana) and Steve (Melanie) and her grandchildren Megan, Jordan, Fritz, and Taylor.

JoAnn (Aanenson) Barmore '54 died September 2, 2019. JoAnn married her husband of 60 years, **Gary '54** Barmore, on December 27, 1958. They lived in Luverne where JoAnn worked at Tri-

State Insurance. In 1974, they moved to Cedar Rapids, IA. JoAnn worked at Von Maur for over 20 years until retirement.

JoAnn is survived by her husband, Gary; children David (Sue) Barmore, Daniel (Teresa) Barmore, and Douglas Barmore; six grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers: Orville, Norman, Gordon, and Howard, and eight sisters: Thelma, Alfie, Olga, Alma, Norma, Opal, Ramona and Orla, and a great-grandson, Hendrick Darling.

Betty (Lass) Gortmaker '54 died November 18, 2007, at Rapid City, SD. Betty graduated from St. Mary's school of Nursing in Pierre, SD in 1959. On March 4, 1961, she married Jerry G. Gortmaker in Rapid City. She was a nurse at Meadowbrook Manor in Rapid City for 34 years.

Betty is survived by two daughters, Brenda Holmberg and Rita (Joel) Finney; two sons, Troy and Leo (friend, Rebecca Voss) Gortmaker, all of Rapid City; ten grandchildren; six step grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jerry, brother **Roger '55** Lass, one stepson, Jerry Gortmaker, son-in-law, Patrick Holmberg, and two step grandchildren.

Francis Maras '56 passed away July 17, 2019, in Sioux Falls, SD.

Francis is survived by his wife, Alberta, Humboldt, SD; children Douglas (Trina) Maras, Idaho Falls, ID, Kevin (Trish) Maras, Greg (Kathy) Maras, Jon (Angie) Maras, Matt (Marcy) Maras, all of Hartford, SD, Cheryl Maras, Humboldt, SD, Andy (Glenna) Maras, Kailua, HI; sisters **Teresa '56** (Bud) Radke, Lakefield, MN, **Agnes '61** Thomson, Des Moines, IA, Diane (Curly) Klaahsen, St. Ansgar, IA, **Mary '66** Moorshead, Urbana, OH; brothers **Dominic '69** (**Linda '69**) Maras, Luverne, **Bernie '70** (Sharon) Maras, Flandreau, SD, **Philip '73** Maras, Des Moines, IA; sister-in-law **Joann '66** "Puddy" Maras, Luverne; 23 grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

1960 – 1969

Janice (Untiedt) Christensen '66 died August 7, 2019, in Crystal, MN. She is survived by her husband, Mike; daughters, Jill Christensen, Carrie (Brady) Brower; five grandchildren; and one sister, **Loree '65 (John '66) Davis**.

1970 – 1979

John Holsen '70 passed away August 7, 2019, in Mankato, MN. John was united in marriage to Mary Ann Ihrke on October 26, 1985. He loved sports, especially the Minnesota Twins, Vikings and Gophers, and listening to his extensive music collection.

John is survived by his twin sisters, **Pam '66 Holsen**, Sioux Falls, **Jennifer '66 Holsen**, Sioux Falls; brother, Reid (Jeanne) Holsen, Sioux Falls, and nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his wife in 2006.

1980 – 1989

Carrie (Laabs) Bakken '86 passed away on July 15, 2019, in Luverne. After high school, she completed her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Mankato State University. On August 4, 1990, Carrie married Peter Bakken in Luverne.

Carrie taught in the Brandon-Valley School District for 15 years and then became the Title 1/RTI teacher in Luverne, where she taught for ten years. In 1994 Carrie was diagnosed with scleroderma, an autoimmune disease.

Carrie is survived by her husband, Peter; two children, **Makayla '15 Bakken** of Thousand Oaks, CA, and **Elijah '18 Bakken** of Luverne; her parents, Darold and Helen Laabs, Luverne; two siblings, **Julie '89 (Paul) Vis**, Sioux Falls, and **Bruce '93 Laabs**, Coon Rapids; nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

1990 – 1999

Jennifer Cattnach '96 died on September 4, 2019, near Hardwick, MN. After high school, she attended Mankato State University, earning a degree in Fine Arts.

She lived in Shakopee, MN, and then Luverne where she worked as a youth counselor and caregiver. Jennifer and Charles "Chip" Spurgin were married on July 4, 2015, in Sioux Falls, SD.

Jennifer is survived by husband, Charles of Luverne and son, Garret; parents, Steve and Penny Cattnach, Luverne; siblings, **Bruce '87 (Jeri) Cattnach**, Sioux Falls, SD, and **Barb '89 (Tim '84) Anderson**, Luverne; and her nieces and nephews.

2010 – 2019

Brooke E. Thompson '15 died July 23, 2019, as the result of an auto accident near Brandon, SD. Brooke graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, in 2018 and began work in Duluth at Lutheran Social Services.

She moved back to Luverne and joined the Blue Mound Figure Skating coaching staff for the 2018-2019 season. In January 2019 she began working as a childcare assistant at Kids Club in Rock Rapids, IA. She was accepted into the master's program at the University of South Dakota to pursue a degree in social work.

Brooke is survived by her parents, **Wayne '83 and Mary '84 Thompson**, Luverne; a sister, **Courtney '08 (Andrew '07) DeBoer**, Luverne; a brother, **Nathan '12** (special friend, Kara Weller), Luverne; two nieces, Nevaeh and Taya DeBoer; grandparents Allen and Barb Spartz, Luverne; eight uncles and aunts; 16 cousins; and many friends and her Blue Mound Figure Skating family.

She was preceded in death by her Thompson grandparents and Baby DeBoer.

Go green; read your Alumni News online

Have you checked out the Luverne Alumni News at www.alumninews.info lately? You are able to read your Alumni News online. It is available to all those that have internet, let us know you would like to discontinue the hard copy to go green (save postal expenses and a tree). Email Patti Pierson piersonprp@alliancecom.net.

over 1,000 new teachers a year but the state is losing 500 teachers a year to other professions and over 1,000 a year to "home making." In 1952 there were 2,500 teachers turned out of colleges and last year and this year the total was, and will be, only 2,400, which he said, makes for an acute situation.

"The pity of it," he said, "is that too many think in terms of lowering the standards of certification. That isn't the answer to the problem."

Pupils, said Supt. Eitreim, can be grouped in three categories: the scholars, the non learners and those engaged in sabotage. There is a new trend in thinking. Rather than follow the pattern of letting the scholars "take care of themselves" the emphasis will be to make better citizen leaders out of the scholars.

Instead of trying to force specialization too early in the school years on the scholar group the new trend will be to aim for a well rounded individual for the first two years of high school and then concentrate on specialization the last year or two.

"We need well rounded individuals," said Eitreim."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD –

September 1, 1955

School Starts Next Week

For About 2,400 Rock Countians

"Enrollment in Rock county's public schools is expected to reach the 2,400 mark when the 1955-1956 term begins. Most schools will begin classes on Tuesday.

To take care of the extra students in Luverne, a rural grade school building has been moved in to accommodate one class.

A rural school building has also been moved in Beaver Creek.

The rural school, as such, is gradually vanishing from the educational scene in Rock county. This year, there will be only 12 strictly rural schools in operation.

Three schools, which fall in the ungraded elementary school category, the same are the rural districts, are located at Hardwick, Kenneth and Steen, respectively. The Ash Creek school this year is a part of Consolidated District No. 80, Luverne."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD

– September 8, 1955

"When Superintendent of Schools Eitreim got through adding his figures and mopping the perspiration of worry off his brow about transportation and seating problems, Tuesday, he found that the enrollment had set a new all

*But one again he was like the
"old woman in the shoe who had so
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to do" when it came to kindergarten.*

*Eitreim had predicted 104
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but when all heads, noses and hands
were counted the total number of
small fry starting out was 132.*

time record.

The total enrollment for School District 80 was 1,202. This figure did not include the 41 students who will attend school this year at Ash Creek.

The 1,202 total is 110 greater than the total for 1954's enrollment on opening day of 1,092.

Eitreim's preliminary estimates worked out with a slide rule and a crystal ball, held up very well when it came to his estimate of the first grade enrollment. He was only off one pupil when he predicted 12. (128 showed up)

But one again he was like the "old woman in the shoe who had so many children she didn't know what to do" when it came to kindergarten. Eitreim had predicted 104 kindergarteners for this year, but when all heads, noses and hands were counted the total number of small fry starting out was 132.

The school enrollment was as follows, Tuesday: Kindergarten, 132; Grade 1, 128; Grade 2, 117; Grade 3, 116; Grade 4, 86; Grade 5, 83; Grade 6, 59; Junior High, Grade 7, 81; Grade 8, 85; Grade 9, 77; Senior High, Grade 10, 97; Grade 11, 64; Grade 12, 77. That made a total of 589 students enrolled in kindergarten up through the 6th grade, 243 in Junior High and 238 in Senior High."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD –

September 15, 2019

Schools Here Overcrowded

"It is a good thing a new school house will be built soon to take some of the load off the overcrowded Luverne public schools, because otherwise some of the youngsters might never get to see the inside of a real school house.

There are 227 children here who are attending makeshift classrooms this year.

Thirty-two first graders, under the tutorage of Mrs. Wilma Sandstede, are housed in the Baptist church.

The Methodist church provides a classroom for 28 second graders under the instruction of Mrs. Mae Oehlerts. There are 33 first grade pupils in the little white school building moved in from the country to help contain the overflow of students. Mrs. Betty Popkes handles this class.

More students have spilled over into the library where Mrs. Margaret Cooney and Mrs. Eleanor Crawford have 134 kindergarten pupils to share in morning and afternoon classes.

So far, School Superintendent Eitrem's office reports, no exceptional difficulties have come up due to the distance from makeshift classrooms are from the main school. Each outpost is provided with phones so contact can be maintained with school officials.

The first graders assigned to the temporary classrooms compose just about one-half of the total first graders in the system, excluding Ash Creek. The 28 second graders make up about one-fourth of the total registered.

County School Supt. V. M. Barrett said that the county schools were not experiencing any overcrowding, except in certain cases where some classes are bigger than others.

Hardwick, with 190 pupils and 8 teachers, is the most crowded in certain classes, he said. Steen reports an enrollment of 58. Mr. Barrett said he expects the rest of the county schools to have their enrollment figures in within a few days."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD – September 22, 2019

"Rock county has received a check for \$136,141.94, as its share of State aid for its public schools, according to receipts at the officer of Ray Koehn, county auditor."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD – October 27, 1955

"Rock county added some \$45,939.81 to its coffers last week when it received two checks from the state for school funds.

"County treasurer Paul Herreid was sent one check for special state aid to schools in the county in the amount of \$32,002.88 and the other totaled \$12,936.93, as the state October apportionment of the school fund."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD – January 19, 1956

New School About 60% Completed

"We're expecting to have the classrooms ready for use by Sept. 1," Donald S. Jones, project superintendent on the new Luverne junior-senior high school building said yesterday.

Completion of the gymnasium and shop rooms will possible be a little later, he added.

Right now, the building, started last spring, is about 60 per cent completed, according to Jones. The entire building is now enclosed with the exception of two windows above the main entrance. The second floor of the south wing is now the only portion of the building that is not heated at the present time. Two of the three boilers are in use, and some of the permanent heating is in place in the building.

Floors have been completely poured in the north wing, and the final floor topping has been poured on the first floor of the south wing.

Partitions have been completed on both floors of the north wing and the workmen began putting on lath Monday. Partitions are also in the basement locker area and in the music wing in the center section behind the gymnasium, Jones stated.

The general contractor has about 25 men on the job at the present time, and about 15 men in other trades are working on the project."

ROCK COUNTY STAR HERALD – November 8, 1956

It's 30 Years Since "Old" High School Was Dedicated

"Since the city of Luverne was founded, it has had six different school buildings, which include the new junior-senior high school building, and the two older building which are still standing, and three which no longer exist.

Gone are the first school house, the one which replaced after it burned and the old Central building, which was completed in 1886, and was razed after construction started on the high school building in 1925.

It was just 30 years ago that the high school building, now converted into a grade school, was completed.

It was formally dedicated on Friday, night, October 29, 1926, at appropriate ceremonies in the new auditorium. H. C. Bell was then superintendent. The late O. E. Ferguson was president of the board of

education and the late W. E. E. Greene of Luverne, was the architect.

It was built at a cost of \$230,000. In 1926, as in 1956, it was necessary to delay school opening one week to complete work on the building.

Total enrollment then was 575 pupils in all 12 grades compared to 1,292 enrolled here this year. Readers are reminded, however that part of the Luverne student growth is attributable to the enlarged school district, resulting in rural districts merging with the Luverne district.

There were 28 faculty members, one of whom is still serving the public schools here. She is Miss Gertrude Goodine, who teaches fourth grade. Two others, who were teaching here at that time still reside here. They are Mrs. Martin Hansen (Esther Jerdee) and Mrs. Carrie Marsden.

Building of the school building was delayed for five years after the bond issue had been authorized.

Luverne votes approved the \$350,000 bond issue in 1920, and the bonds were later sold to bear interest at a rate of five per cent.

But, when bids for the erection of the new building were received, it was found that the cost of the building materials and labor made it impossible to secure such a building as the plans and specifications called for, for less than \$200,000 in excess of the funds available for the purpose.

The architectural firm which had designed the building could not be induced to provide plans for a structure that could be erected at a cost within the sum available through the bond issue, so the Luverne school board dispensed with the firm's services, forfeiting the architectural fees paid them in the amount of \$14,000.

They then entered into a contract with the Luverne Architectural Co. (Mr. W. E. E. Greene), which prepared the plans and specifications that were used for the building."



Class of 1959 gathers for reunion at Bluestem

The Luverne High School Class of 1959 gathered for a 60th reunion Sept. 14 in The Bluestem restaurant, Luverne. Pictured are (front, from left) Pat Phillips, Carol Wulf, Sandra Winter, Sharon Mulvihill, Judy Smeins, (second row) Curt Dooyema, Steve Hoiland, Fred Cook, Bill Mulligan, Eleanor Van Guilder, Jim Rolfs, Fred Steins, Dave Connell, (back) Rich Cronberg, Jerry Britt, Jim Ahrendt, Everett Van Engelenhoven, Paul Aukes, Tom Getman and George McKay.

Bonnema shares update on Generations in Luverne

By George Bonnema,
Generations president

I wrote an article last year for the Alumni News introducing myself and how and why I became involved in the senior nutrition program in Rock County.

Here is an update on what our team has been doing:

- We wanted a name that identifies who we are, and indicates that we are inclusive and inviting. The result was a new name, Generations replacing Luverne Senior Citizens.
- We have increased membership from 26 to 206 and growing.
- Previously, a good day at congregate dining was 30 participants. Recently we served 85.
- Lynette Hoiland is our new site coordinator and she has infused our daily meal experience with energy and new fun ideas.
- We have a team working on selecting a site and plans for a totally new facility that will improve our meal service and enable us to host health and social programs and activities.
- We are working with Good Samaritan Communities and MNRAA to initiate Rock County Dementia Network as a resource for persons dealing with various forms of dementia.



Jason Berghorst photo/0808

Lynette Hoiland, left, is known as “the new Neva” in her role as the new coordinator for LSS Meals at Generations. She’s pictured with Neva Clausen, who served in the role for over 30 years and continues to volunteer at Generations.

Luverne graduate heads up meals program at Generations

By Jason Berghorst

Lynette (Niessink) Hoiland, Luverne, is already enjoying her new position.

“It’s a great fit for me at this stage of my life,” she said.

Hoiland began as the coordinator of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Meals at Generations in Luverne in mid-July.

According to Hoiland, the main responsibilities of her new position are to grow the program and to provide a vibrant place for senior dining and fellowship.

“I’m really enjoying the opportunity to serve this population,” she said.

“As I observe my own parents, I’ve realized how important nutrition is in the aging process.”

Hoiland said there are four part-time employees and numerous volunteers who work at the LSS meals site.

One of Hoiland’s most

faithful volunteers is 92-year-old Neva Clausen, who retired from the coordinator position only four years ago after more than 30 years in the position.

“Neva’s a rock star,” Hoiland said. “She’s been training me and answering all my questions.”

Clausen’s legacy at the meal site led to a nickname for Hoiland.

“As soon as I walked in the first day, people said, ‘So you’re the new Neva,’ and it stuck,” Hoiland said. “And I’m OK with that.”

LSS Meals at Generations serves up to 70 noon meals a day, plus home-delivered meals, five days a week.

Hoiland pointed out that the busiest days are the “half-price days,” when customers can purchase a full meal for \$2.25 thanks to the generosity of local



Class of 1994 gathers for reunion at Take 16 Brewing Co.

Members of the Luverne High School Class of 1994 celebrated their 25thth reunion this summer at Take 16 Brewing Company in Luverne. Pictured (from left) Joe Serie, Willy Baker, Denis Paquette, Jason Steensma, Scott Overgaard, Heidi (Papik) Sehr, Eric Berning, Scott Ketterling, Traci (Reverts) Gyberg, Craig Boll, Anitra (Rath) Overgaard, Nate VerSteeg, Brian Fick, Amanda (Dover) Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Sara (Zebe) Henning, Scott Loosbrock, Jodi (Lodes) Eck and Amanda (Reu) Barton.

Are you getting more than one (1)

Alumni News at your house?

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

Thank you

Attention snowbirds:

If you are not going to be at the address that you got your July issue during the months of October, January, April issue if you could email me your alternative address I would appreciate it and will change it back and forth according to what month you will be gone so that we can save some money on the "temporary away" returns....thank you...

Patti Pierson piersonprp@alliancecom.net,
1-507-920-5186 or

1562 201st ST Hardwick MN 56134

Bonnema shares update on Generations/continued from page 12

As president of Generations, I am encouraged and inspired by the support we are receiving from this community as we advocate for people in their retirement years.

As we look forward to a new building with rooms to host activities, it will be exciting to see that potential realized.

Senior Nutrition continues to be my focus because I appreciate the quality and accessibility of what we offer both in home delivered meals and congregate dining. I also see the consequences of poor nutrition.

A useful gift to honor your parent(s) or grandparent(s) for their birthday, a holiday, or just because would be a meal punch card.

That gift is a great opportunity to introduce them to the meal service and you can hold them accountable for using it. They can choose the day that has a menu that appeals to them. The daily menu is given on our local radio as well as the weekly newspaper.

Also, our Face Book page (Generations formerly Luverne Senior Citizens) lists the daily menu in addition to what activities are happening. For information about ordering a meal card, call us at 507 283 9846.

“As I observe my own parents, I’ve realized how important nutrition is in the aging process.”

*— Lynette Hoiland,
Meals Coordinator at Generations*

“It’s all about integrating the different generations and serving a growing demographic in Luverne.”

Hoiland at Generations/from page 12

sponsors.

“That price is very motivating for some seniors,” she said.

“It’s a great way to get people in the door.”

According to Hoiland, LSS appreciates the local businesses, organizations and individuals who sponsor those half-price days. “We are always looking for more sponsors to support that program as well.”

The cost of sponsoring a half-price day is \$150-\$200 a day, according to Hoiland.

Hoiland is also energized by the changes and improvements that are happening with the organizations that share the Generations building, formerly known as Luverne Senior Citizens.

“It’s all about integrating the different generations and serving a growing demographic in Luverne,” she said.

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.

Reunions in the Making

Please send change of address to Alumni News or email: piersonprp@alliancecom.net

20th Year Luverne Girls High School Hockey Reunion

June 6th 2020

All Hockey Girls Past & Present
Plan on Attending

Contact Dave Siebenahler at
hockey2742@hotmail.com

More details coming later

CLASS OF 1965 55th Class Reunion June 5-7, 2020

Celebrate during Luverne's
Buffalo Days Celebration

Reunion Contact: Randa Gangestad
randagangestad@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1970 50th Class Reunion June 5-7, 2020

Save the Date-Buffalo Days Weekend!

LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOL ALL SCHOOL REUNION

July 15—18, 2021



Kicking off with Luverne's 59th Annual Hot Dog Nite!

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us as we celebrate
the completion of the big building, remodeling and renovation
project at Luverne Public Schools!

Tour the newly remodeled school including the beautiful
Performing Arts Center!

Other events are being planned through the weekend!

Have a great idea and/or interested in helping plan the event?

Contact: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

ARE YOU PLANNING A CLASS REUNION? Email Patti Pierson at piersonprp@alliancecom.net
and she will be able to provide you with a class listing and also labels.

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Johnna Ahrendt, Patti Kirby Pierson, Rock County Opportunities and Lori Sorenson.

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Alumni News

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