

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

FALL 2019

## 2019 Officers

### President

Nels Nord

### Vice President

Delila Roberts

### Secretary

Janet Stoll

### Treasurer

Jolene Lettow

### Member-at-Large

Richard Sydnes

### Newsletter

Janet Stoll

### Webpage

~ We Need You ~

### 2019 Calendar:

*Meetings are the 4th  
Monday of the month  
at 6:00 pm in the city  
Council Chambers*

**"The Hub"** museum is  
located at **515 N. Main** in  
the 3C's building.

### Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday  
8:30 - 10:30 am  
or call Nels to set up a visit  
515-231-9174

## Nord's Notes

~ A word from our president ~

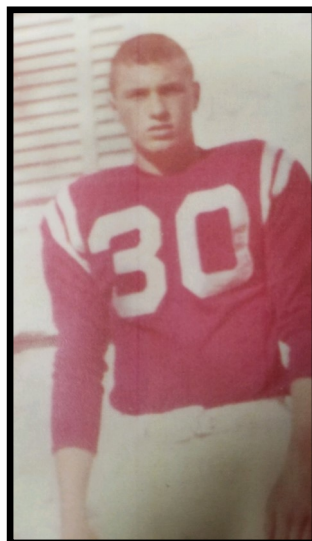
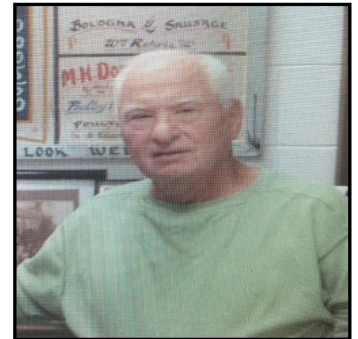
### Ballard's First Graduating Class - 1959

It was on September 2, 1958, that the first senior class came together at the old Huxley High School.

Huxley and Kelley had already come together several years before that. Slater and Cambridge students joined us that September day to form the first and "the best" class ever at Ballard.

The reason I say that is we were the foundation that made Ballard the great school it is today.

Of the 53 classmates, there were 23 from Huxley, 7 from Kelley, 10 from Cambridge, and 13 from Slater. There were 29 boys and 24 girls in the class of '59 that graduated from Ballard High School on Friday, May 22, 1959.



Nels Nord - Co-captain  
1st Ballard football uniform

Class Motto: "One Goal Reached and Many Beyond"

Class colors: Red and White

Class Flower: White Carnation

Valedictorian: Gayla Richardson

Salutatorians: Betty Bruns and Carolyn Hillebo

Class president: Stephen Rye

Vice-president: Rowena Accola

Class secretary: Gayla Richardson

Class treasurer: Dianne Soderstrum

Betty Bruns, Carolyn Gill, Carolyn Hillebo, Gayla Richardson, Stephen Rye, Dianne Soderstrum, Gordon Steel, and Colleen Tweedt were senior members of the National Honor Society. Ray Cruse and Carolyn Gill received the citizenship award.

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**MISSION STATEMENT :** *To engage the Community of Huxley, Iowa in the preservation, education, and celebration of our heritage and ancestry. To preserve for research and education, the artifacts, information, and verbal histories about the lives of the people of Huxley from its pioneer origins to the present day and into our future.*

Cont'd from page 1

Since it was the first year of Ballard High School, there was no homecoming. Instead, a school carnival was held. The first king and queen of the carnival royalty were Ray Cruse and Rowena Accola, held in November, 1958.

The fall of 1958 was especially important for me because Ballard fielded its first football team. None of the prior schools had football before the reorganization.

Ballard's first football game was September 19, 1958 at the Nite Hawk Baseball Park where we defeated United Community School 15-12 with over 1,000 people attending who overflowed the portable bleachers. Ray Cruse and I were the first co-captains of the Ballard football team and Dean Cramer was the first coach. Ron Rosenfeld, a freshman, scored the first touchdown for Ballard on a 12 yard run.

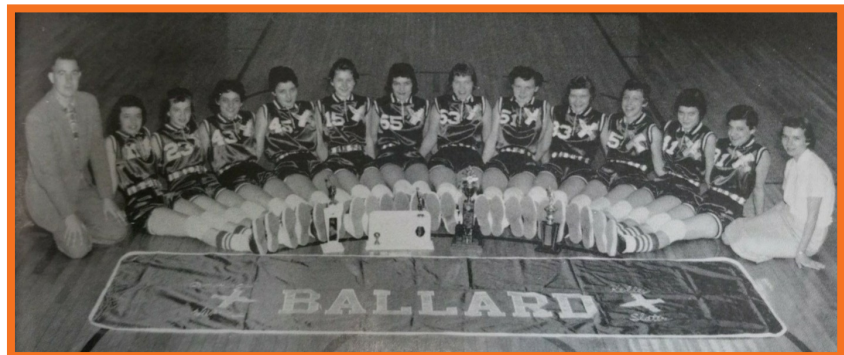
Seniors on the team were Jim Cerise, Larry Swim, David Halverson, Gary Gibson, Ron Rude, Ron Finch, Larry Shaeffer, Larry Larson, Art Wilson, Al Finch, Clark Westvold, Ray Cruse, Monte Lantz, John Kalsem, Richard Steensland, and Nels Nord.

That fall, Ballard didn't only play football, we played fall baseball and went as far as the sub-state tournament before being defeated by Breda/St. Bernard. Athletes that played both football and baseball were Ron Finch, Larry Shaeffer, Larry Swim, Larry Larson, Ron Rude, Ray Cruse, and Nels Nord. Larry Shaeffer, Ron Finch, and Terry Jennings were outstanding players on the baseball team.

The girls basketball team of 1958-1959 were outstanding and went to the state tournament with a record of 24-1 before being beat out by State Champs, Gladbrook. Seniors on that Ballard High School team were Colleen Tweedt, Gayla Richardson, and Patti Locker, and were the first tri-captains of the team. David Blackman was the coach of the girls. While the team was attending the girl's state tournament, a snow storm dumped 15 inches of snow in central Iowa. The basketball team and cheerleaders were stranded at Vets Auditorium on the final night of the championship, so a sock-hop was started to keep the patrons occupied, which lasted all night.



Tri-Captains: Gayla, Patti, Colleen



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Cont'd from page 2

The boys' basketball coach was Elwood Sapp. The seniors on the team were Larry Shaeffer, Ron Rude, Al Finch, Ray Cruse, Larry Larson and Terry Jennings. The team had a record of 13 wins and 7 losses.

When Cambridge, Slater, Kelley and Huxley consolidated in the fall of 1958, our senior class of 1959 really got along great, even though we were rivals for so many years.

The class of "59" has had class reunions every five years since we graduated. It has been 60 years since the class of "59" graduated. We had our 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion on July 6, 2019 and 21 classmates attended.

We, unfortunately, have lost 14 of our 53 classmates.

We all will cherish the memories we had as the first class to graduate from Ballard High School.

Nels A. Nord, President  
Huxley Historical Society

Rowena (Accola) Nord  
Judy (Adams) Menning  
Chris Aldrich  
Darlene (Anderson) Buche  
Elaine (Bender) Kahler  
Betty Bruns  
Bruce Carlson  
Ed Carney  
Jim Cerise  
Ray Cruse  
Dan Dyvig  
David Erickson  
Al Finch  
Ron Finch  
Judy (Floden) Weyer  
Diane (Freeland) Jenkins  
Gary Gibson  
Carolyn (Gill) Sesker  
David Halverson  
Sharon (Hill) Shaeffer  
Carolyn (Hillebo) DeBie  
Leila (Houge) Sharp  
Terry Jennings  
Twila (Jordan) Henderson  
David Kalsem  
John Kalsem



#### BALLARD HIGH SONG

Cheer O Cheer for 'ol Ballard High  
We never falter, We never die  
Cheer O Cheer for Ballard High  
tear down the thunder out of the sky  
though the team may be great or small  
"Ol Ballard High will win over all  
Cheer O Cheer for Ballard High  
and send them to victory

B-A-double L-A-R-D  
Ballard High, Ballard High, you RAH! RAH!  
RAH!

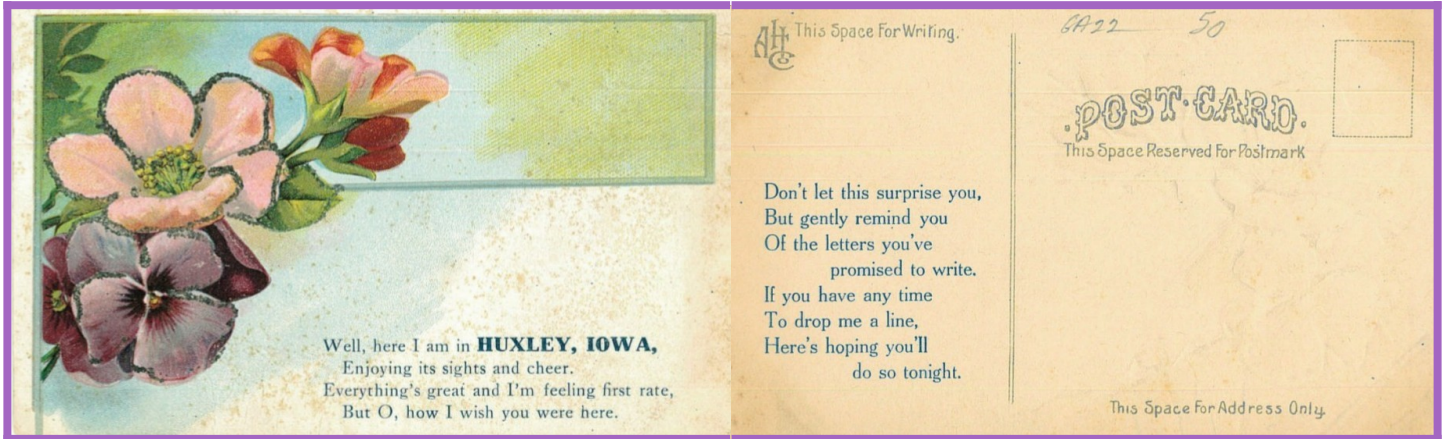
REPEAT

Gary Lande  
Monte Lantz  
Larry Larson  
Patti (Locker) Van Gundy  
Wayne Metcalf  
Lou Ella Meyer  
Sandra (Murray) Owings  
Nels Nord  
LeRoy Peterson  
Sandra (Peterson) Boresi  
Joan (Purvis) Helland  
Gayla (Richardson) Dieball  
Ronald Rude  
Stephen Rye  
Nancy (Sesker) Schwab  
Larry Shaeffer  
Nancy (Sheldahl) Sheehy  
Diane (Soderstrum) Hermann  
Gordon Steel  
Richard Steensland  
Larry Swim  
Colleen (Tweedt) Lyster  
Rita Warren  
Clark Westvold  
Joyce Williams  
Sandra (Williams) Banks  
Art Wilson

## POSTCARDS OF YESTERYEAR

In the 1880s, many postcards were printed with small sketches or designs on the message side. The 1890s saw photography starting to be used in postcards. From 1900-1915, with multiple postal daily pickups and deliveries, postcards were the text messages, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook posts of their times.

Today, postcard collecting is a popular hobby. Do you have Huxley postcards in your collection? If so, we would be overjoyed if you would be willing to share them with us. So in turn, we can share them with the rest of our members.



A sweet little poem to send to your family or friends



110 S 3rd Ave - postcard shows the home had once belonged to Anfin Richardson and then Clarence Hill



Posing for a 1908 Iowa State Fair ad were these Huxley girls in their new hats. From left they are:  
Carrie Kloster, Dorothea Guttebo, Charlotte Guttebo, and Nettie Birkestrand



## Board Member Spotlight > > >

### Meet Richard Sydnies - HHS new Member-at-Large

Hello, my name is Rich Sydnies, I spent the first 19 years of my life growing up in Huxley with my parents, Gene and Mary and also my older brother Gerald. At the age of 18 I joined the Navy reserve. I spent the next year at home attending weekly meetings and going to boot camp at the Great Lakes training center. After my first year I was sent on active duty. I was stationed on the USS Diamond Head. The Diamond Head was an ammunition ship. I sailed both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Our ship was assigned to a 10 month duty in Vietnam.

After my 2 years of active duty I came home and attended AIB business school in Des Moines while working part time for Hy-Vee grocery stores. I spent the next 9 years working for Hy-Vee. My second job was with Super Valu for the next 27 years. I worked in the following locations. Des Moines, Greenville, Ky, Omaha, Ne and Little Rock, Ar.

During my working years I got married and my wife and I had 2 sons. My wife passed away while I was working in Little Rock. Soon after her death I retired and moved to Ankeny. I reconnected with Sandie Sorenson who I dated in high school. Sandie and I were married and have lived in Ankeny for 16 years.

Sandie and I have been members of HHS for about 4 years. I'm looking forward to help HHS grow not only in members, but also in the amount of history items that we have about Huxley.



## 2020 HHS Meetings > > >

Beginning with the month of January 2020, the monthly Huxley Historical Society meetings will be held every other month.

This will assist our Board Members with planning, changing, and updating exhibits at our museums "The Hub" and Nord-Kalsem Shelter.

Also, the monthly meetings will be held in the Huxley City Council Chambers from October to April and then at the Nord-Kalsem Shelter for the months May through September.

## 2020 Memberships > > >

### Please Don't Forget to Renew

This year, the Huxley Historical Society changed the membership calendar to a fixed year renewal running from January to the following December. All memberships received between October and December will be applied to the following year.

It is never too early to renew! So, stop in and see us, or fill out a membership form and mail it along with your payment. You'll find the membership form on the last page of your newsletter.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT  
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
PHONE: NELS NORD 515-231-9174  
EMAIL: HHS@HUXCOMM.NET



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

411 likes so far!

### A Fallen Hero of the Koran War



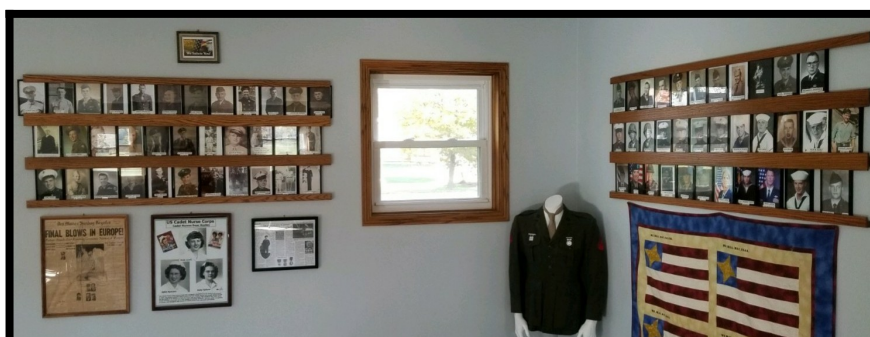
Paul Jacobson was born April 30, 1929 to Rev. Hiram and Marjorie Jacobson, who served the Palestine congregation from 1939 to 1949. Paul was an only child. Paul graduated from Huxley High School in 1947.

Paul was a First Lieutenant in the Air Force when he was shot down while piloting an F-86 Fighter Jet over North Korea on February 12, 1953. He was never found – missing in action.

Even though Paul was an only child, he spent a lot of time with his neighbor and friend, Omar Brendeland and Omar's family.



## NORD-KALSEM MILITARY DISPLAY



We are making progress on our military exhibit which is located at the Nord-Kalsem Community Shelter. Many thanks to our members and others for their donations to make this exhibit. Also, our deepest gratitude to the City of Huxley for donating the space to make this exhibit possible!

We're also putting together an exhibit to display the beloved items from the Huxley Horse Show, which was a great attraction to Huxley for several years. Much appreciation to Owen "John" Kalsem and family for donating their treasured belongings from this special time in Huxley history!



**Join us for Pancakes by Don!**  
**Saturday, November 2, 7am - 10am**



**SERVING PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, BEVERAGES**

**Nord-Kalsem Shelter House**  
**204 W. 4th Street, Huxley**

**SPONSORED BY THE HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**The Smell of Fall is in the Air**

**And soon,  
the Smell of Don Rimathe's  
Famous Pancakes will be too!**

***Free-Will donation***

**Come join us at the  
Nord-Kalsem Shelter and check  
out the many improvements  
made to the building.**

**Both inside & out!**

**The Crispness of Winter Chill  
will soon be in the Air.**

**Please help us provide warmth  
to our Ballard Students  
by donating new warm outer  
gear, as well as,  
socks and underwear  
as your admission to our  
Historic Maland Home.**

**The Huxley Historical Society  
is pleased to invite you to our  
Holiday Open House  
at the beautiful Maland Home**



**Sunday  
November 17  
2-5 pm**

**306 N. 1st Ave.  
Huxley**

**Please bring  
hats, gloves,  
scarves,  
socks, underwear,  
boots, etc.  
to help out  
Ballard students  
this winter.**

**Thank you!**

**HUXLEY****HISTORICAL****SOCIETY**515 N. Main Ave  
Huxley Iowa. 50124

Name in Blue?  
[Take a Moment to Renew!](#)

**FALL 2019  
HHS NEWSLETTER**

**2020 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2020 Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$ 500.00

HHS donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Maland Home donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Fjord recipe booklet \$ 5.00

S&amp;H for booklet \$ 2.00

2nd ed. DVD / 1939-1955 events \$ 20.00

S&amp;H for DVD \$ 2.50

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of check# \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: **HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124**

**Office use only:** email \_\_\_\_\_ member list \_\_\_\_\_ label \_\_\_\_\_  
 member card \_\_\_\_\_ tax letter \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*\*\***

**Pancakes with Don!!**

*Nord-Kalsem Shelter House - 204 W 4th St*

*Saturday Nov 2nd - 7am-10 am*

*FREE WILL Donation*

**Maland Home Holiday Open House**

*306 N 1st Ave - Sunday - Nov 17th - 2pm-5pm*

*\*\* Donation of warm outer wear for our Ballard Students \*\**



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