

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

Summer 2021

## \*\*\*\* 2021 Re-elected Officers \*\*\*\*

President - Delila Roberts      Treasurer – Jolene Lettow

Secretary – Nancy Neilsen

Assist Sec. & Communications – Michele Kalsem

VP & Historian – Nels Nord

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See Us on Facebook or the Web at [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)

Email: [4huxleyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:4huxleyhistory@gmail.com)

See us in person at “The Hub” museum located at 515 N. Main in the 3C’s building or make an appointment to visit the shelter house.

Hours: M-F 8:30 -10:30 am at Hub  
or call 515-231-9174 to make an appointment.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *To engage and support 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.*

# Huxley and Ballard Teachers and Administration

Part 2 of a Series by Nels Nord

## Larry Dean Shaeffer



Larry Dean Shaeffer was born July 25, 1941, in Boone, Iowa, to Frank and Lois Shaeffer. Larry married Beverly Ann Nerness on November 17, 1962.

Larry Shaeffer was a graduate of the first Ballard Community High School graduating class of 1959.

Larry was an excellent athlete, especially in basketball and baseball. He was probably the best pitcher in central Iowa when he pitched for Huxley High in 1956, 1957, 1958 and for Ballard in 1959.

Larry started his teaching and coaching career at Scranton and then Story City. He came to Ballard as Junior High Principal in 1969 and also became basketball coach in 1970.

After coaching 29 years as Ballard basketball coach, in 1999 he retired and was Senior High Principal until he retired in 2000. Larry's teams posted a 426-197 record, won 12 conference championships, 11 district championships, and 4 sectional titles. In his coaching career, he had 456 career varsity wins in 33 years of coaching at Scranton, Story City, and Ballard.

Larry took 7 teams to the state tournament, placing third in 1982 and fourth in 1984. Ballard won 4 straight conference titles twice (1981-84 and 1990-1993) and from 1982-1984 won an impressive 68-3 record with all 3 losses coming at the state tournament.

Larry was named the District Coach of the Year by the Iowa Basketball Coaches Association five times. Pat Cole was his assistant for 28 years and Darrell Herrin for 12 years.

Larry passed away of a heart attack on December 18, 2011 at the age of 70.

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Local Veteran's—Continuing series 3rd installment by Nels Nord

## Ole Garish Halverson

Ole Garish Halverson was born August 29, 1921, in Slater, Iowa, to Halver "Shag" Halverson and Bella Eide Halverson. Ole lived on a farm east of Huxley with one sister and seven brothers. Gunder, Margaret, a 1934 Huxley High graduate, Herbert, a 1935 Huxley High graduate, Adrian, Marion, a 1943 Huxley High graduate, Palmer and Wayne, a 1953 Huxley High graduate. Palmer died in 1941 at the age of nine after being hit by a baseball while playing baseball.

Ole enlisted in the Army on March 19, 1943, at Camp Dodge after working as a farm hand for his father and Grant Rullestead.

He was in infantry training when he was diagnosed with Hydronephrosis, Kidney and ureteral disease. He was operated on at Wakeman General Hospital, Camp Atterburg, Indiana, but died on September 26, 1946. Ole was buried in the Palestine Lutheran Church Cemetery on October 1, 1946.





## Harold Rye—Fjeldberg Pastor & Ballard Graduate

By Steve Rye to Nels Nord—VP & Historian

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I received a letter from Steve Rye, a 1959 Ballard classmate of mine and Rowena's, on the history of his father, M. Harold Rye and mother, Lorraine Rye.

Huxley's Fjeldberg Lutheran Church has had nearly two dozen called pastors in its 156 years history, but only two served more than fifteen years. In 1948 Pastor Rye accepted the Fjeldberg call after declining twice, and moved his family from Stavanger Lutheran Church near Seneca, Illinois. Pastor Rye, at the age of 35, had served parishes in Minnesota, Montana and Illinois.

Fjeldberg's history was anything but smooth in the 1940's. World War II was in full swing and then in 1945 the Fjeldberg Church was destroyed by fire the day Orville and Edna Hellickson were going to be married.



The new church construction was completed in 1948 and a new pastor, S. M. Topness, passed away after three months on the job. The new call committee contacted Pastor Rye and he accepted the call and began his 15-year career in the fall of 1948 at Fjeldberg.

Harold had met his wife, Lorraine Peterson, at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. After graduating from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, he was ordained in 1938.

The Rye's took their surname from the Rye farm in south central Norway. Many Rye families immigrated to Dane County, Wisconsin, and northern Iowa. Pastor Rye was born in Monango, North Dakota and raised in Hamblantown, Iowa.

The son of a banker and Lorraine was from Fertile Iowa, and raised in Forest City, Iowa, only 15 miles from Hamlantown. Her father was a country doctor in the Forest City area. Both were raised in strong Norwegian Lutheran households.

During Pastor Rye's time at Fjeldberg, he was very proud of guiding the educational wing to completion in 1959. Lorraine served as the junior choir director and teacher. Their small town/Norwegian/Lutheran bringing up was a perfect fit in Huxley at that time. They raised their three sons, Steve, Jamie, and Howard, and all attended Huxley Consolidated School and graduated from Ballard Community School. Steve was the president of the first graduating class of Ballard in 1959.

Pastor Rye suffered with multiple sclerosis and, at the age of 55, moved to Des Moines as assistant pastor of a Lutheran church.

Pastor Rye died in Mesa, Arizona, on May 25, 1996 and Lorraine passed away on April 26, 1991 and they both were interred side by side in the middle of the Fjeldberg Cemetery. In both life and death, Huxley was their home.



1905



**Excerpt of Fjeldberg History during the period of Pastor Rye's service  
taken from [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)**

On February 22, 1945, a great calamity struck the congregation when the church building and all of its contents were destroyed by fire. However, two weeks later at a special meeting of the congregation in the auditorium of the Huxley High School, it was decided to build a new church. Work was soon begun, and the cornerstone was laid on October 28, 1945. In June of 1946, the basement was ready for use. Because of wartime shortages, the church was not completed and dedicated until February 22, 1948, exactly three years after the fire. The cost of the new church and equipment was \$64,251.52. This entire total was raised by December of 1948.

On January 23, 1957, the congregation voted to build a new parish addition. This new unit was dedicated on May 24, 1959 by Rev. Olaf Holan. The dedication also included an afternoon children service. A total of \$81,507.40 was spent on this new building, which also included some remodeling of the main building, new hot water heating equipment and all furnishings. The remaining debt resulting from building the parish addition was paid in full during 1968.



# Annual Meeting Minutes 2021

The Huxley Historical Society's annual meeting was held on April 26, 2021, at 6 PM. The meeting was held via Zoom so that as many as possible could attend. Date, time and Zoom address were emailed to the membership prior to the meeting. The current board members were in attendance connecting at the Hub office via Zoom.

Board members in attendance were: President, Delila Roberts; Treasurer, Jolene Lettow; Historian, Nels Nord; Assistant Secretary and Communications Tech, Michele Kalsem; Secretary, Nancy Neilsen.

President, Delila Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:05PM. Mrs. Roberts shared a few comments and then introduced the board members.

Treasurer, Jolene Lettow reviewed the 2021 budget which is included as a separate document. All credits (income) at this point in time appear within achievement. The budgeted expenses (debits) have been arrived at with available rates. The April treasurer's report will be received at the end of the month.

Michele Kalsem reported on current activities connecting our community as well as the plans for the future. We are encouraged as the freedom to move about and meet live will grant us a better connection with our library genealogy project, starting the upgrades at Nord/Kalsem shelter house and continuing the research at the Ballard Cemetery. Documents with additional comments attached.

Election results were reported by Secretary, Nancy Neilsen. The document has been added to the website as recorded and notarized. The current board members were elected. The board will remain with the current officers/responsibilities.

The meeting was adjourned and President Roberts invited member, Paul Sandve, to relate his remarks. Mr. Sandve was kind enough to forward these remarks via email and we are including these as an attachment to our annual meeting minutes and posted to web site.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Neilsen, Recording Secretary

## Sad News

**Idalice (Dobbe) Lee, Huxley Class 1943, 3/27/21**

**Sheldon Lee, Huxley Class, 1948 6/3/21**

**Barbara (Hill) DeJong, Huxley Class, 1956 4/12/21**

**Judy Fausch, HHS Lifetime Member, 6/25/21**

**HUXLEY****HISTORICAL****SOCIETY**

Primary Business Address  
 Address Line 2  
 Address Line 3

### 2021 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Please Renew by Jan 30, 2022

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2021 Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$ 500.00

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

The Fjord recipe booklet \$ 5.00

S&H for booklet \$ 2.00

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

S&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 \_\_\_\_\_

### \*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\*

Effective immediately Membership fees will be due in January of each Year.

If you have stories and photos you would like to share, please send them to the Huxley Historical Society.

You can either send them by email to [4huxleyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:4huxleyhistory@gmail.com) or by mail to HHS, 515 N Main St, Huxley, IA 50124

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