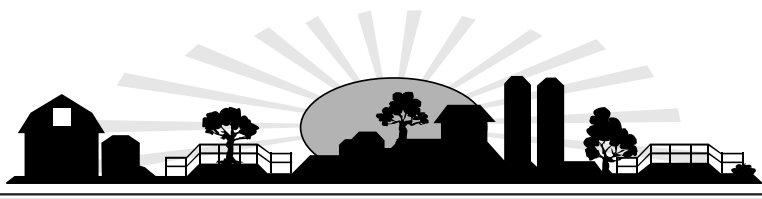


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Guns and hunting lead to a very interesting life beyond farming

▲ Larson Gun Sales opened in 2009

Laird Larson has always had a passion for guns. A fascination if you will. "When I was a young boy, many westerns were on TV, including The Lone Ranger, Rawhide and Wagon Train and I really liked guns from a young age. With a birthday in February, my new gun and holster set had to last until Christmas. Every Christmas and birthday I'd get a new gun and holster."

So when Laird opened his gun business in 2009, Larson Gun Sales, "My mom was not surprised." Larson Gun Sales is located nine miles east of Clark, two miles north and a mile east.

Laird and his wife Kathy have been farming on the Larson home place for over 40 years. Larson has been very active in agriculture, serving on several seed, grain and wheat production boards.

He has been fortunate to turn his hobby into a business, although he will be quick to tell you it is still very much more a hobby than a business; and with a Clark County connection he has turned his passion for guns and hunting into two trips to South Africa, and he's not done with his hunting adventures to South Africa.

"I like to shoot"

Many Baby Boomers grew up with the Wild, Wild West of good guys-bad guys and guns were just a part of the westerns and 'adventur-

ous stories of yester-year'. "I like to shoot," stated Larson. His fascination with guns led him to his hobby enthusiasm and ultimately to his Winchester rifle collection and his Larson Gun Sales proprietorship.

9422 Winchester Rifles

Guns are works of art and if you see Larson's Winchester collection on display, you will be impressed with his passion and fine eye. Larson's 9422 Winchester Rifle collection is not all-inclusive, but close. The 9422 model is a rim fire, lever action rifle, made between 1972 and 2005.

"My son Shane's first rifle, when he was 12, was a 9422. When I began acquiring 9422's there didn't look to be too many. I am now aware of two other guns that were made that I don't have." His Winchester collection is now located in his office at the gun shop.

From this hobby and collection standpoint the Larson Gun Sales business became a reality. "It's a hobby first," Larson indicated and that is the type of atmosphere he strives for, sitting on the couch and visiting about what the person wants. "It's not a box store."

"I like people. I like guns. I like to know what people want with their gun as they commission me to look for a gun. I like that."

Larson noted that many individ-



uals are looking for a gun like dad had. "I search for it and more often than not, I find it." His business card reads...Let me help find what you want!!

"I thoroughly enjoy doing what I do, in this type of atmosphere. I like to hear what the person wants. I give them options and certainly try to please. I truly understand that guns are an investment. Guns do hold their value."

Because the business has evolved, Larson needed to expand storage and inventory, so a 'trophy room' was added to the south of his business.

Adding on a trophy room

The reason we built on was threefold, stated Larson, "We needed wall space for trophy mounts; we needed floor space and the ability to control quality guns; and we needed storage room. Plus, we need a trophy gun case area."

Larson's expansion of his gun shop makes quite a room with great potential for the hunting atmosphere, but it isn't completed yet. When finished there will be several mounts from South Africa, including: a cape buffalo, a blue

wildebeest, a red hartebeest, and an impala. Three of these animals are Rowland Ward's (system of record) trophy animals.

There will be some quality guns located in this room and Larson wants to control the location of these guns.

"I've accepted the fact that I can't be several places at one time. I can't please everybody all the time, but I try very hard to treat people the way I want to be treated," Larson said and he feels that with this new room he will have the ability to provide great customer service and aid in making all the right decisions.

When a hunter walks in the door at Larson Gun Sales and wants to trade in his gun, Larson asks him three times, "Are you sure you want to trade this off?" Larson said that generally, he sees people want to find a gun they no longer have. He's had people trade off a gun and then come back the next day. "Again, guns are works of art in my mind. They are keepsakes."

Hunting trip to South Africa

Laird and Kathy Larson have made two trips to South Africa,

Larson

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Laird and Kathy Larson have taken two trips to South Africa the last two years. On the first trip, Laird bagged this Rowland Ward's (similar to Boone & Crockett for big game records) White-tailed Gnu, in February, 2012. This photo was taken in the new addition at Larson Gun Sales.

Senior Features of 2013

Wife, mom, seamstress and donut maker

▲ Marcene Hanson also assembled electronic parts

When she sometimes stayed at her grandparents' house, going in their outside sauna was a regular Saturday night activity. "It was a Finnish custom" claimed Marcene (Anderson) Hanson of rural Vienna.

Marcene Emaline Anderson was born on July 19, 1931 to Japhet and Mary (Hendrickson) Anderson on their farm seven miles northeast of Lake Norden, about a half mile off US Highway 81. Four years later, her brother Roger joined the family. "I didn't even know he was coming," said Marcene. "Back then they never told you ahead of time. I stayed at my Aunt Edla and Hjalmer Mathiesen's and when I came home, there he was."

Grandparents

On her dad's side of the family, his parents Ole and Maria Anderson were both born in Norway and both passed away before Marcene was born. They had eight children.

On her mother's side, Ole and Emma (Grape) Hendrickson lived on a farm southeast of Lake Norden and Marcene stayed with them a lot she said. He was from Finland and she was from Sweden. They had 12 children, three died in infancy.

"It was always cool in my grandparents' house as they had a summer kitchen, where cooking was done in the summers. They also had a sauna building that would double as a smokehouse after butchering. Sitting in a sauna on Saturday nights was a Finnish tradition I believe," said Marcene. "Lanterns were the only lights in the sauna which was heated by burning wood."

Young years

"Washing clothes was an all day job I remember, my mother was always hauling water in or out it seemed. We had a windmill pump near the barn. I can still see plain as day the image of my little brother on his tricycle, all dressed in clean clothes getting too near the wash tub and falling back-



Marcene Hanson was born Marcene Emaline Anderson on a farm near Lake Norden in 1931. Growing up with Norwegian and Finnish traditions, she went on to graduate from Lake Norden High School, taught school near Hayti for a couple years, then raised four children in Foxton township with husband Melvin Hanson. She also worked at electronic factories for 23 years before retiring in 2003 at 73 years old.

Hanson

(continued on page 8)

Willow Lake Prom is Friday

The 2013 Willow Lake High School Junior/Senior Prom will be held in the WLHS Auditorium with the banquet, followed by the Grand March, followed by the dance.

The Willow Lake Prom will be held on Friday, April 26. The banquet will start at 6:30 p.m. with pictures to follow.

The Grand March will begin at 8:30 p.m. "A Starry Night" is the theme for the evening and the colors will be dark blue and silver.

WEATHER

	HI	LO	PR
April 16	34	22	0
April 17	32	25	tr
April 18	29	17	.13
April 19	32	16	0
April 20	33	11	.10
April 21	38	26	.18
April 22	30	18	.15
2013 precipitation to date	3.84"		
2012 precipitation to date	5.69"		

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer



Keith Schaefer is the Clark city carrier assistant for the US Postal Service. Above, he is done sorting the mail and ready for delivery on Tuesday.

Doing more than just delivering the US mail

▲ Keith Schaefer is a hero

As Keith Schaefer was delivering mail last Saturday morning, he did an act of heroism. Schaefer has been a city carrier assistant with the US Postal Service in Clark since October, 2011.

"When I dropped Betty Marx's mail in her box on N. Commercial St. in Clark on Saturday, I heard a faint 'no'. Then another 'no' so I thought maybe she was talking to her cat. When I heard the third 'no' I then heard a 'HELP'. I looked around and then looked in the garage door," said Schaefer and when he heard something again, he then saw her.

Marx had broken her hip Friday when she had gotten home and had not made it into the house. She was lying in the garage wrapped in a blanket.

"I asked her if she was okay and all she told me was that she was

cold!"

Marx had fallen going up the stairs after her friend had dropped her off on Friday and she couldn't get up. "I found out later that she had broken her hip," said the postman.

Schaefer then called the ambulance, and in less than two minutes, before the ambulance had time to get there, Sheriff Rob McGraw and Mike Geise arrived to aid as did her friend, Loralee Henry, the first on the scene.

Schaefer said that he is just happy that Marx is alright and said last he knew she was still in the hospital.

Schaefer, a native of Bryant, graduated from Hamlin High School in 2003. He and his wife Samantha have three daughters, Aubrey, 5; Allie, 3; and Adlynnne, 18 months.



"Cow Tippers" presented at Clark High School

Mrs. Brown, played by Hannah Steffen, right, is a modern day teacher forced to complete her doctorate in education at a backwoods rural school, without the aid of technology. Student Anthony Bethke is on the left.

"Cow Tippers", the Clark High School play was performed in front of nice-sized audiences, both Friday and Saturday evenings. Luanne Warren is the CHS play director.