



Senior Feature

The lumberyard was Dick Hilmo's first and only job

Lifelong Clark County resident Dick Hilmo was born April 20, 1939 to parents Roy and Margaret Hilmo.

Dick's mother and father both grew up northwest of Crocker. They met as children growing up and going to school together. They were the true definition of childhood sweethearts. Margaret, Dick's mother, was the daughter of Ray and Mary Hotzler. Dick's father Roy, was the son of Ole and Julia Hilmo.

Dick's parents farmed with cattle and grain, and his mother was a homemaker. Dick grew up as an only child for four years before his little sister Carol (Finstad) was born. As a child, Dick has fond memories of playing games and running around outside with his sister, cousins and neighbors. He spent most of his time as a kid helping and playing on the farm.

When Dick was 13 or 14 years old, his dad took him on a trip to Chicago to visit some of his cousins. During their trip, they attended a baseball game played with the Brooklyn Dodgers, when Jackie Robinson had recently made his debut as the first African American



25 years ago Dick was gifted his first collectors son. Today his collections consists of over 400 John Deere tractor by his son in law Jeff Robinson.

baseball player in the Major League.

Dick was able to approach him as he was leaning against the dug-

out and got his ball cap signed by Robinson. While the cap remains in the family, who has it now and how it came to be that way still seems to

be an unsettled debate. Growing up in the same area and attending the same school, Dick and his wife Joan became the next gen-

eration of childhood sweethearts. They spoke of shenanigans as they were growing up together.

Joan reminded Dick of a time they were in science class preparing to dissect snakes. Dick and some of his school pals were charged with carrying a cage full of the snakes down the stairs. Of the four boys carrying the cage, one or more accidentally dropped them, and the cage broke, filling the space with snakes and creating quite the ruckus.

The Tri-R, located at the junction of S.D. Highway 20 and S.D. Highway 25, was once a popular after-school hangout. Dick and his schoolmates and friends would gather there and order ice cream malts. They would use their straws to fling spitballs at the ceiling above them.

Dick spoke of some of the classes above him in high school and vividly remembered some of the Halloween tricks they pulled. He recalled a piece of machinery, a buggy specifically, that was taken apart, brought up to the top of the local elevator and reassembled at the top.

Other tricks he recalled were let-

ting chickens and goats loose in the school house and gymnasium and tipping over or moving outhouses off of their holes.

There used to be a place on the west side of Bradley where Bob Stevens had machinery, and they would move some of the equipment out into the streets. Things they got away with back then, Dick said, kids would surely be locked up for today.

When Dick was in high school, he worked as a farmhand for Alfred

Hilmo (continued on page 5)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
December 20	4	-16	T
December 21	-5	-14	M
December 22	-3	-22	0.06
December 23	-14	-22	0.02
December 24	-8	-17	0
December 25	-5	-17	0
December 26	8	-6	0.21
2022 precipitation to date	21.72		
2021 precipitation to date	24.55		

2022 in review, the first six months

How will 2022 in Clark County be remembered? Let's reflect on the first six months of 2022.

January

Wallace Knock was elected chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners. Chris Sass was elected vice chairman. Commissioner committee assignments for 2022 were made as follows: Mental Health - Sass; Extension - Richard Reints; Weed, and Pest - Knock; Airport - Terry Schlagel, Sass and Francis Hass; ICAP - Hass; First District - Reints; Glacial Lakes - Schlagel; Legislative Contact - Knock.

Teresa Seefeldt was named vice provost for undergraduate education at SDSU.

Fifteen years ago, Donna Sante was involved in a very serious car accident, just west of Clark and was given the SAVED BY THE BELT award by the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Clark ag leadership class sent 22 Christmas Military Boxes to South Dakota troops, one platoon stationed in Iraq.

Laura Handke co-writes play

More than 40 participants from the 2021-22 Leadership South Dakota class visited Clark County for its annual "Rural Day" learning experience.

Willow Lake divides city into two voting wards.

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) named Terry Kaufman of the Clark Rural Water System (CRWS) as the Rural Water Manager of the Year during the organization's Annual Technical Conference in Pierre.

After close to 14 years with the Clark County Courier, Annette Helkenn retired.

February

The CHS Drama Department earned one of two top Region 6B spots for the State One-Act Festival. Clark High School performed Antigone Now, by Melissa Cooper. The six CHS students who earned Outstanding Actor Awards include Maddy Pickrel - Antigone, Chad Kolden - Creon, Logan Hurlbert - Ismene, Emma Rahm, Heath Hemmingson and Nevaeh Rusher for their roles in the Chorus.

At the February 1 meeting of

Commissioners, a public hearing was held for Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Remember When?

The Clark Middle and High

the Iroquois tourney championship.

Stephanie Sauder ran for S.D.

planting Hispanic churches around the upper Midwest for a decade.



The Clark High School FCCLA is competing in "rarefied air." Every year at the state FCCLA Convention, Clark High School gets students qualified for the National Convention, this year in San Diego, and has outstanding results.

The left picture features the Senior Quiz Bowl team, who have held on to their title and won for the sixth year in a row. On the team this year, from left to right, are: Macy Steen, Tyler O'Neill, Gunnar Kvistad, Teagan Ortberg and Chad Kolden. They will be competing in San Diego, California in July.

#3.

Starting in February, the Clark

School Agriculture Department received a grant for \$4,716 from the Greater Clark Area Community Foundation to fund the grow benches needed for the new greenhouse building.

Christian Albano, son of Anthony and Jodi (Keck) Albano, and grandson of Mary Keck, formerly of Clark, is a member of The Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps stationed at Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.

Roger Anderson given 50-year American Legion membership certificate.

Sophomore Maddy Pickrel earned a Superior Individual Award for her role as Antigone in the Clark High School One-Act play performed at the State One-Act Festival in Rapid City.

The tenth annual Lee Schlagel Memorial Basketball Tournament was held.

City of Clark's three voting wards showed minimal change, as Ward I will still be the southern part of Clark, Ward II will remain the middle portion and Ward III, the north end.

The Cyclone fourth grade girls basketball team went 4-0 to capture



Keynote speaker for the convention was Holly Hoffman from Survivor: Nicaragua season 21. She gave a very motivational speech on never giving up and making the most of every situation. The members were also able to attend her workshops on Monday. In the right picture, from left to right, are: Holly Hoffman, Logan Hurlbert, Will Hovde, Jakob Steen, Kayla Jordan, Misonoda Kabwe, Jack Helkenn, Summer Seefeldt, Aaron Zemlicka and Talya Ortberg.

For more on the FCCLA convention turn to page 6.

District 4 House of Representatives.

County commissioner districts and polling places changed. Clark and Willow Lake also redistricted.

basing his ministry around a unique demographic: dairy farms.

Clark wrestlers earn second place team honors at Region 1B



These seven Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone wrestlers qualified for the South Dakota Class B Wrestling Tournament, this Thursday through Saturday in Sioux Falls. Thursday is a team competition day with individual match-ups starting Friday.

Two Cyclones won Region 1B Championships. Josh Kannegieter at 128 and Gunnar Kvistad at 152. Kvistad also won the Gene Benthin

Region 1B Sportsmanship Award.

Left to right, Josh Kannegieter, Ethan McElhone, third at 138; Kasey Michalski, fourth at 182; Lucas Kannegieter, second at 170; Gunnar Kvistad, Avery Nichols, second at 285; and Cooper Pommer, second at 106. Danielle Batchlor also qualified for the State Tournament.



Spring has been all across the board regarding temperature, wind and moisture. Rain has come, as has wind and really up and down temperatures. Timely rains will be important this summer, but many cornfields are showing potential. This 80 acre field of Mark and Sandy McHenry's was the first one that was planted this spring, on May 5. With fertilizer applied and good rains, it is definitely knee-high by the Fourth of July.

The featured "Children of the Corn" 2022 are Jason and Sarah McHenry's children, twins Halle and Logan, who will be three in August and seven month old Sadie.

Their grandparents are Mark and Sandy McHenry of Clark and Bob and Julie Jeffries of Pierre.

Seven CWL Cyclone wrestlers qualified for the South Dakota Class B Wrestling Tournament.

Michael M. Sanchez has been

Gunnar Kvistad is Region 1B

2022 in Review (continued on page 12)

Happy New Year from the Clark Area Community Foundation!

Members: Gayle Wookey, Tom LaBrie, Chad Fjelland, Susan Fjelland, Diane Varilek, Greg Furness, David Warkentien, Nicole Nelson and student members Summer Seefeldt, Conner Mudgett and Nevaeh Rusher.