

OBITUARIES

Randall E. (Randy) Larsen

July 23, 1947 - May 10, 2012



Randall E. (Randy) Larsen, 64, passed away at his home on May 10, 2012 ending an 18-month battle with esophageal cancer. Randy was born in Sterling on July 23, 1947 to Andy and Martha Larsen. He grew up in Norton and graduated from Norton Community High School in 1965. He was a 1970 Bachelor of Architecture graduate from Kansas State University. On March 29, 1969, Randy married his soul mate, Pam Thurman of Great Bend. Randy was stationed with the Army Corps of Engineers in Honolulu, Hawaii from 1971-1974. During this time, he was able to work under a licensed architect for his apprenticeship, allowing him to sit for the licensing exam. He was licensed as a Registered Architect in Hawaii in 1974 at the age of 26.

After being discharged from the Army and following a short stay in Wichita, Randy and Pam moved to Fort Collins, Colo. in December of 1975. Brett was then 4, and Amy was 1. Blake was born in 1977. Randy opened his own architectural practice in January 1977 at age 29. His firm was known as Ran-

dall E. Larsen, Architect, and then later Larsen Associates. Randy and Pam moved from Fort Collins in 1995 to follow Pam's career. They returned to Fort Collins in 2006 with Randy being the President of the FWA Group Architects, a firm based in Charlotte, N.C. The focus of his architecture throughout his career was higher education and particularly research and development facilities. Many of his projects are located on both the Main Campus and Foothills Campus of Colorado State University.

Randy is survived by his wife of 43 years, Pam; his children, Brett (Karrie) of Fort Collins, Amy (Shane) Fanning of Greeley, and Blake (Kareen) of Wellington; his mother, Martha Larsen, of Loveland; 12 grandchildren, Cody, Jonah, Abby, Landon, Kai, Carter, Dane, Ben, Abuzaid, Kalid, Lainey and Temesgen; his sister, Jane Larsen Wigger of Louisville, Ky., a brother, Roger, of Columbus, Miss., and several sisters and brothers-in-law including Kevin and Marisa Struckhoff of Fort Collins.

A memorial service was held on Monday, May 14, at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins. A reception was held afterwards in Shepardson Hall at the church. Cremation has taken place. A private burial will take place at Resthaven Memory Gardens.

Memorial gifts are to the Poudre Valley Hospital Foundation - Cancer Center or the Larimer Humane Society, all in care of Resthaven Memory Gardens, 8426 S. Hwy. 287, Ft. Collins, CO. 80525. Family and friends can view the online obituary and sign the guestbook at www.resthaven-colorado.com

Phyllis Leone Willey

April 29, 1923 - May 11, 2012

Phyllis Leone Willey, daughter of Harry and Ethel (McNatt) Gregory, was born April 29, 1923 in Sydney, Iowa and passed away at the Good Samaritan Center in Hays on May 11, 2012 at the age of 89.

Phyllis grew up in Iowa and Nebraska and attended the local schools. On Dec. 10, 1941, she married Robert Alfred Willey. They made their home in Nebraska and several other communities including Norcat, Denver, Colo. and Norton.

Phyllis was a member of the Eagles Auxiliary where she was a Past Madam President and was in the Eagles Hall of Fame. She greatly loved and enjoyed her grandchildren and family.

Survivors include one daughter, Michelle Marsh, Norton; one brother, Neil "Mack" and

wife, Jean Gregory, Littleton, Colo.; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Robert, one son, Barton, one grandson, Andrew Willey, and five brothers, Joseph, Vernon, Dale, Ronald, and Marvin Gregory.

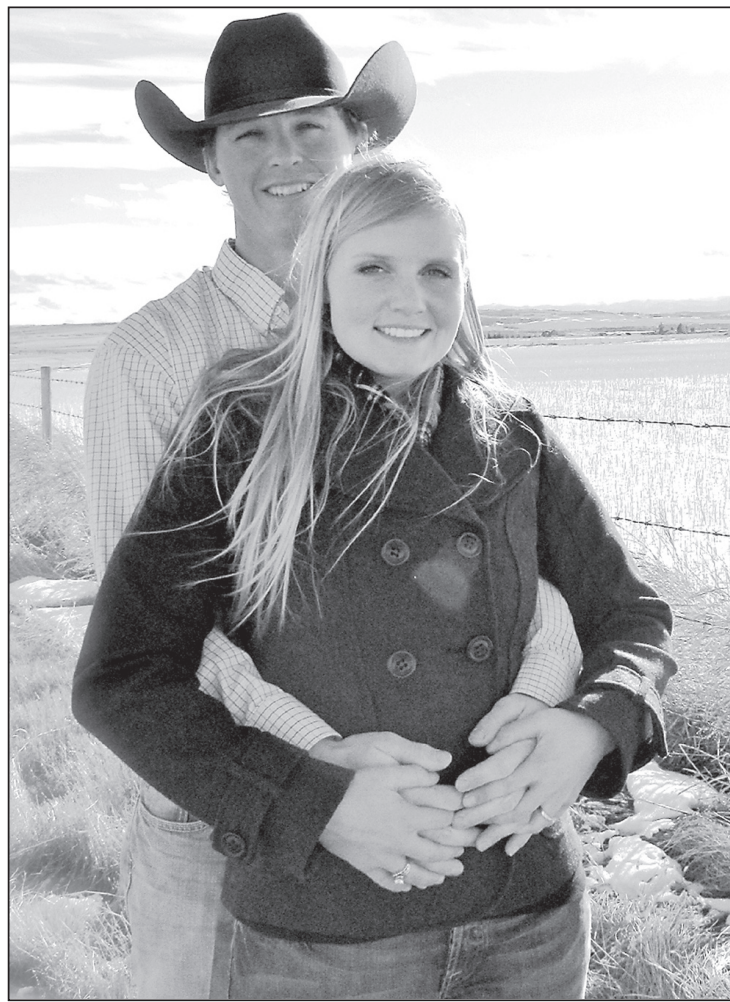
Funeral services were held on Monday, May 14 at Enfield Funeral Home and burial was at the Norton Cemetery.

Contributions can be made to the Phyllis Willey Memorial Fund.

Condolences can be sent to www.enfieldfh.com

Arrangements were made by Enfield Funeral Home of Norton.

Engagement Announcement



Lynsey Miller and Chance Harman plan to marry on Saturday, July 7, 2012 at Okotoks, Alberta, Canada at the Miller farm.

Parents of the couple are Ron Harman, Norcat; Renee Harman, Oberlin, and Ervie and Jackie Miller, Okotoks, Alberta, Canada.

The future groom's grandparents are Robert and Anita Montgomery, Oberlin, and the late Max Harman, Norton.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Alberta High School of Fine Arts; a 2008 graduate of Academy of Equine Dentistry, and a 2009 biology graduate of Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.

The groom-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Decatur Community High School and graduated from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in 2007, earning a Science degree of Agriculture Production Systems.

The bride-to-be works as a Horse Dentist in Okotoks, Alberta, Canada, and her fiance trains horses.

Decoration Day, a day in May

Decoration Day was always on May 31 in the years before Monday holidays with the attendant long weekends came into being. It was also the official beginning of summer as far as kids were concerned since school ran until the very end of May, having begun on the day following Labor Day. It heralded official "white shoe" season, the first family picnic, and most important, it was a day of supreme garden anxiety. Would the peonies bloom too soon, too late, or just in time?

Mama spent the last week of May anxiously checking peony buds every morning. If we had a mild spring and the buds were burgeoning too early, they were picked at a certain stage, carefully swaddled in newspapers and stored in the bottom of the refrigerator in hopes they would hold until the big day. If a late spring delayed budding, much fretting took place. Either way it meant the bath tub would be filled with buckets of warm water on the evening of May 30 and in those buckets, bundles of peony buds being coaxed to open to full blossom before the sun rose on Decoration Day.

In the meantime tall fruit juice cans were covered with foil, tied 'round with ironed-out ribbons salvaged from gifts. A few treasured paper mache baskets saved from funeral arrangements, complete with slightly bedraggled bows, were brought up from the basement and prepared for the major arrangements. We needed at least a dozen bouquets for the Cafferty family graves plus a pansy bowl for remembrance of a dear old friend.

Morning dawned and found Mama in the garden, cutting every daisy, pansy, iris, rose and any other flower that had dared to open. Not a single bloom escaped her scissors. Dad muttered under his breath about "foolishness" but each year he faithfully got the water jugs ready and managed to get the picnic basket safely stowed in the trunk, wrapped in damp burlap to keep it cool. I sat among the containers in the back seat, charged with keeping them from tipping, pansy bowl on my lap. Mama balanced a bucket of fragile iris between her feet and off we went to the Hill City cemetery, a whole twenty-five miles north, at about forty miles per hour. En route we stopped

Child of the '40s Liza Deines



to pick wild roses and yucca spikes, which proliferated along the roadsides.

In and around all of the floral preparations, food had also been prepared. Fresh rolls, tiny beet pickles, the first of the little green onions and radishes and always Mama's cocoa red chocolate layer cake, held precariously together with toothpicks and fudge frosting. Aunt Florence brought a basketful of farm-raised fried chicken, green beans and homemade butter, Aunt Mabel brought relishes of all kinds and her awful black cherry and black olive jell-o salad. No one ever forgot the year she first brought hot cherry peppers and Mama, unaware of their "kick," popped one in her mouth. She spent the rest of the day guzzling lemonade trying to cool off her tongue. Uncle Jack teased her forever after

Flags and twenty-one gun salutes, addresses by veterans in slightly snug uniforms, the mournful sound of "Taps," then flowers and graves, shared

memories of those gone before, hugs with a tear or two filled the morning. Family, fun and fried chicken followed at the green stone shelter house in the Hill City park and the day ended with a twilight drive home. Mama, at last relaxed, each year declared, "I think this year's flowers were the prettiest ever." Decoration Day will always be these things to me.

Memorial Day weekend is a whole different occasion. Since my marriage in 1960 we have gone to Zion Cemetery south of WaKeeney where my husband's family, and now my husband, are buried. It is much more a worship service than a patriotic celebration. At the farm my brothers-in-law grill hamburgers, the nieces and nephews play softball, we eat and visit and later they all load into the pickup and go out to "help" feed cattle. It is a joy and a pleasure that I now must miss due to dialysis treatments. I always looked forward to this treasured family tradition, although it could never replace the Decoration Days of my childhood.

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Plant your sweet potatoes very soon

Kay Melia

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Sometime during your gardening career, you may have heard a conversation (or participated in one) that went something like this:

Old gardener: "Well I better plow that area over there. It's almost sweet potato planting time."

Young gardener: "Say what? You can't raise sweet potatoes in this country!"

Old Gardener: "Whaddaya mean I can't grow sweet potatoes here? I plant 'em every year!"

Young Gardener: "You may plant 'em but I'll bet you don't dig any. I read a book once that said sweet potatoes had to be grown in the south, like in Louisiana, or other parts of the south."

Old gardener: "Listen you young whippersnapper. I plant 'em and dig at least a bushel every year, and if you tried 'em, even YOU might grow a few!"

Sometime, somehow, word got around that you just couldn't raise a crop of sweet potatoes in this area because of the short season we supposedly have here. Sure, our growing season is shorter than it is in, say Shreveport, but we still have plenty of

growing time and warmth to harvest a bumper crop of sweet potatoes. Most of today's sweet potatoes require from 90 to 100 days to mature after planting the slips. In an average year, our region is blessed with an average of 150 days of growing season, which is plenty of time for the sweet ones.

I mentioned planting the "slips." Unlike Irish potatoes, you must plant little pieces of growth from a regular sweet potato. Here's how you do it. Stick about 6 toothpicks around the middle of a store bought sweet potato, and place the root-end in a quart jar filled with water. The toothpicks will hold the top of the potato out of the water. Soon, the sweet potato will sprout and send out stems and leaves. When about six inches long, simply snip off the slips. place the bottoms in a glass of water, and they will soon form roots. Then, when fully rooted, plant them outside when the soil is very warm and the calendar says go.

Very few sweet potato growers do it that way anymore. If the local garden center guy doesn't carry them, then you can order a dozen plants and they will be shipped to you at the proper planting time. Proper

planting time in this area is now. Expect to pay about \$12 to \$15 for a dozen plants. Planting soil should be worked very deeply because the tubers will be large and need good soil as they expand. Many gardeners still set out their plants into a previously formed mound, approximately six inches high and a foot wide. You really don't have to do that if your garden soil is worked deeply.

China is the world's largest producer of sweet potatoes with 80 million tons grown in 2010. About half the crop is used for pig feed, which seems kind of a shame unless you prefer bacon to eat rather than sweet potatoes. New Zealanders eat the most sweet potatoes, averaging about 15 pounds per person per year.

You have many varieties of sweet potatoes to choose from, but Georgia Jet seems to be the favorite around here. Beauregard and Centennial are close behind. Vardaman is a newer variety that is gaining popularity because it is a bush type of plant...a good space saver.

How about it young gardeners? You, too can grow sweet potatoes, but get them planted very soon!

'Polyester' to open in June

The Harlan County Dam Playhouse of Republican City announces their cast for "Polyester-The Musical." Local talent includes Duane Cernousek, Matt deFreese, Melanie deFreese, Chelsea Richards and Scott Wagnor.

The show's opening weekend is June 2 and it will run the first three weekends in June. Show times are Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before show time. For more information please call 308-799-3093.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents "Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art." This exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is brought to you by Mid-American Arts Alliance and organized by the Museum for African Art in New York City. This exhibit opened April 20 and will run through May 27.

On June 2 and 3, the Joy of Painting Class will be held. The class starts at 9 a.m. and runs un-

til 3 p.m. There will be an hour taken for lunch. Saturday, June 2 the painting will be "Dock for Two" and Sunday, June 3 the painting will be "Birds and Grapes." If interested call 785-689-4846 or go to www.hansen-museum.org and get the information.

Water aerobics will be starting Tuesday, June 5. Shari Buss, Logan, will be the instructor. Again if interested call in or go to our website for information.

Our May Artist of the Month is Theresa Eschliman from Indianola, Neb.

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