

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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“The Guy with the Camera”

Horst’s love for photography takes off in retirement

By Janet Larreau

Arnold resident Garald Horst says it’s rather hard to remember when photography became an interest in his life.

“I do remember using the Brownie 620 that I borrowed from my mother to take a sunset photo. After development the photo looked great, but it was black and white. Wish I had that photo!” he said.

Garald, who was only six at the time, still has that Brownie 620. Now, at the age of 81, he’s known as “the guy with the camera.” He doesn’t go anywhere without his D810 – even to the grocery store.

“A good number of photos are opportunity shots! There it is, take the shot. Both plants and animals have patterns, so sometimes there is a planned short period before a ‘right’ photo moment,” said Garald.

Many times, you’ll see his wife Karen, a Central Nebraska farm girl, by his side. The two met on a blind date in the spring of 1964 and were married in the summer of 1966. They went on to finish their BS degrees, and while Karen taught, Garald worked on his MS and PhD degrees. Higher education, research, and teaching took them from Lincoln, to Missouri and Texas, and finally back to Lincoln in 1990 for a UNL Agronomy and Horticulture research and teaching position for

Garald, and a position in the Lincoln Public System for Karen. Early on, they had two children, a boy and a girl.

And then, after 48 years of living in three states and large cities, the chance to rediscover rural Nebraska came with another career change and a move to Arnold. Retirement and the move provided Garald with dynamic photo opportunities through rapidly changing landscapes and wildlife habitat.

“We bought a small house here in 2007 and started to spend weekends here when it was convenient to get away from Lincoln,” said Garald. “Family, small town, and scenery were the attractions as we looked for a retirement location. We began to spend most of our time here during the Fall of 2010.”

In May 2011 they started construction on their retirement home on a hill north of Arnold. The location gave them great weather, plant and animal wildlife, and landscape-sky visibility opportunities, which Garald has fully taken advantage of. His images can be found in local businesses, have raised money for the community at the annual Arnold Community Foundation fundraiser, and have won many area awards - including an Excellence Award from the Association of Nebraska Art Clubs. He can also be

seen capturing Arnold events, and shares his photos on both the AEDC and SORC websites.

Garald says he has thousands of images on file, but only a few that he likes ever make it to the printer.

“There is one in particular that has absolutely no artistic value,” he said. “The image is named ‘Please Do Not See Me’ – a photo of a fawn trying to hide in the grass as I am taking a photo of it.”

Garald has a long list of cameras he has used over the years for what he describes as “his obsessive hobby.” His last three, the D7200, D810, and D850, are still in use, but the D810 with a 24-120mm zoom lens is his “grab camera.” His list of equipment also includes tripods, a computer system with photo editing monitor, and numerous hard drives for storage. Over the years, he has kept up with advances in image post processing software, which he uses for his select photos.

Academic opportunities pushed Garald’s love for photography into the background until later in his life, but now he’s enjoying every minute of it, planning dates and routes to capture that perfect photo.

“Without Karen’s support and patience, this all would not have worked out!” he said.

Select images are on sale year-round at the Mullen Art Center, by contacting



Local amateur photographer Garald Horst (holding his “grab camera” - a D810) displays what has become his best selling photo, taken on the Dunning road at sunrise with the McGinn windmill in the distance. “We were driving up the road, and he stopped. I rolled down the window, and he took it. The ducks were taking off. One second later, and the photo would have been lost,” said Garald’s wife Karen.

the couple directly, email- an image from his col- then contacting him di-
ing Garald at garaldh@ lection at <https://garald-horst.pictorem.com>, and media, size, and price.



One of Garald’s favorite images, titled “Please Do Not See Me,” is what he describes as an “opportunity shot” - taken in the yard of the Horsts’ home north of Arnold.

New Fence Going in at Arnold Cemetery



It was an exciting day for the Arnold Cemetery improvements last Thursday, January 8, as Tyler Long of Precision Fencing out of North Platte volunteered to help lay out and start the fence project. Blowers Farms sent Charlie Blowers in with a Bobcat and digger to dig 180 holes, and John Phillips, Michael Johnson and Dena Mills put in the first section of fence.

“Michael handled 160, 60 lb. bags of quick concrete that day for us and laid out posts and rails. He was a trooper and we couldn’t have done it without him,” said Dena.

Volunteers will continue to work on the fence as weather permits.

(Above) Cemetery board member John Phillips and Tyler Long of Precision Fencing put in posts and rails on the north side of the Arnold Cemetery.
(Below, left) Charlie Blowers operates a Bobcat skid steer to drill fence post holes.
(Below) Michael Johnson unloads 60 lb. bags of quick concrete.

