



MARVIN BAKER/Republican Photo

Langdon Mayor Don Haugen presents the "key to the city" to Hazel Grange. Haugen proclaimed July 1, Hazel Grange Day in Langdon.

Grange unveils book in Langdon ceremony

By MARVIN BAKER
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July 1, was a monumental day for Hazel Grange of Calio. Just two days shy of her 91st birthday, she had her latest book officially released.

A ceremony was held at Maple Manor Nursing Center in Langdon where Grange now lives. Mayor Don Haugen officially proclaimed July 1 Hazel Grange Day and presented her with a key to the city. Local musicians, the Old Time Band, provided music for Grange and her guests.

Don Johnson, a friend and associate of Grange, spoke briefly during the ceremony. "At first I thought Langdon, North Dakota would be an unlikely place to launch what will be a classic of literature."

Grange wrote the manuscript nearly 40 years ago and thanks to the *Lost River Press* of Wisconsin,

the manuscript has been published and is now available for sale.

Even though this isn't the first book Grange has had published, she calls it a nice birthday present. "Of course I'm excited. Wouldn't you be," Grange said.

Titled *Live Arrival Guaranteed, A Sandhill Memoir*, the book reflects the story of Grange, and her husband Wallace, and how they purchased land at auction in central Wisconsin during the 1930s and turned it into a successful wildlife farm.

According to the book's publisher David Personius, he enjoyed reading the manuscript after Johnson presented it to him.

"I got the manuscript from Don (Johnson) about three years ago. I started reading it and couldn't put it down," Personius said. "It was a yellowed manuscript that had been turned down by a number of
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publishers. It was one of the most delightful stories I've read even though the pages were frail. And it's timely because of the wetlands preservation."

Grange said Johnson recommended the manuscript be given to Personius at *Lost River Press* in Boulder Junction, Wis.

"I had the manuscript and Don suggested a publisher. I always checked with Don because he knows good writing," Grange explained. "They took a look and Mr. Personius said it was exactly what they were looking for."

The book's editor Mary Katherine Parks said the manuscript was very well written.

"From my perspective, she didn't have a college education and there wasn't a comma out of place," Parks said. "I don't think I changed anything and that's very unusual."

And over the course of the next 40 years, Hazel and Wallace together molded the refuge until retiring and moving to Calio in 1965. Grange said that Wallace worked with wildlife since he was a child.

Friends say that Hazel had a way with animals and often befriended them. Grange herself admitted it.

"I had pet skunks, foxes and a fawn. I talked to them," Grange said. "I made them tame by loving them. They enjoyed hearing a person's voice."

Personal friend and neighbor in Calio, Cathy Haus recalled Grange's love for animals.

"Hazel had 10 cats in the summer and 20 in the winter," Haus explained. "She didn't want them

totally tame. She wanted them to revert back to neighboring farms if something ever happened."

Personius said he isn't certain if the book will be available in North Dakota, although it has been picked up nationally by Walden and B. Dalton.

He added that if those book stores in North Dakota don't have it on the shelves, it can be ordered or purchased through mail order. A number of the books were sold during the ceremony.