

Happy anniversary Maple Lake Lumber

MAPLE LAKE LUMBER
Celebrates 60 years!

By Brenda Erdahl
Ken Hennen and his wife, Marge, took a leap of faith when they bought the Maple Lake Lumber Company in 1965.
That was back when lumber was delivered by train and in the winter, coal sold better than 2x4s.
Ken was a manager for Salzer Lumber Co. in his hometown of Watkins until he was transferred to the company’s Maple Lake site. He had only been working there for six years when Salzer offered to sell him the business.
In a 2015 Maple Lake Messenger article, Ken described how the winters were harsh back then and lack of machinery made the work backbreaking.
His grandson Brad can still remember unloading truckloads of lumber by hand. When they got their first fork truck they were in heaven.
Sixty years later, Maple Lake Lumber is still going strong, and Brad is the third generation to operate it. He bought the family business in 2023 from his parents Daryl and Kathy Hennen who operated it since 1992. Both continue to be involved in the company today.
Maple Lake Lumber is celebrating its 60th anniversary with little fanfare but a lot of gratitude.



Ken and Marge Hennen bought the Maple Lake Lumber Company in 1965. Pictured above are the second and third generation owners. From left, Daryl and Kathy Hennen recently sold the family business to son Brad Hennen.
“We would like to thank our loyal contractors and all our customers who have done business with us for the last sixty years,” Brad said. “A small-town business like us wouldn’t be around without our loyal customers, contractors and employees.”
Located at 120 Oak Ave. South in Maple Lake, Maple Lake Lumber salesmen have more than 150 years of combined experience to offer new and repeat clients. Likewise, many of the contractors Maple Lake

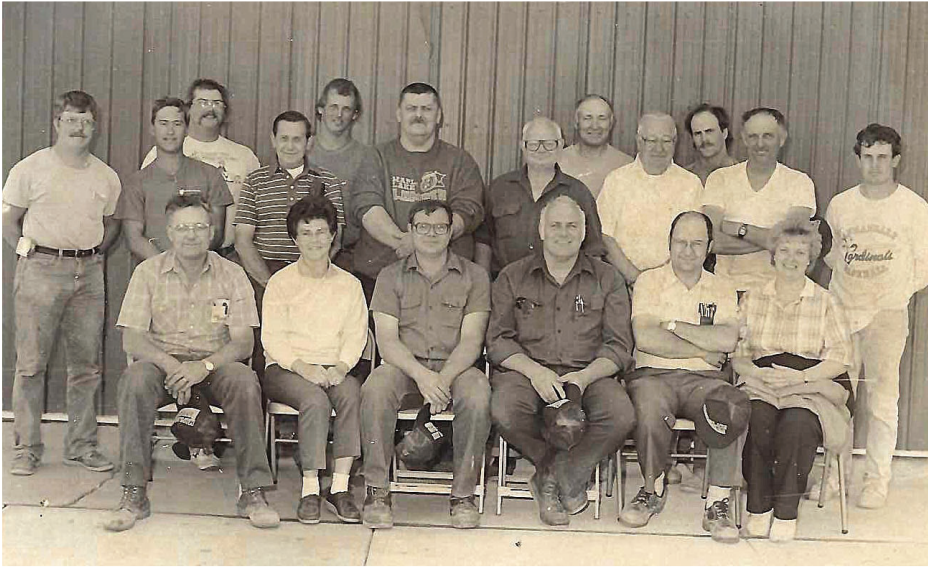
Daryl has been around the longest and no one knows the business better. Next to Daryl when it comes to experience is Tom Neu. He joined Maple Lake Lumber 35 years ago and has built a solid reputation for himself.
Brad started building pole sheds for the lumber company in 1999 and now is the store’s post frame building specialist. Ed Vinkemeyer joined the crew in 2001, and Chad Shoberg joined as a salesman in 2018. The newest salesman is Dan Tongen. He brings 40 years of building experience to the job.
“You know you are doing something right when your employees are staying for so long,” Kathy said.
Pete Piram, Travis Erger and Kenny Nyquist man the front counter and are often the first people customers see when they walk in the door. Erger is also in charge of inventory and takes customers’ orders. A couple more men loading and unloading inventory and several experienced drivers make up the lumber yard’s 20 member staff.
This fall, they will be looking to fill another sales position. People with a construction background are encouraged to apply.
Products and services
Maple Lake Lumber supplies materials for big and small projects, for do-it-yourself-types or as packages that include contractor services. The company has been working with the same trusted contractors for years. Some have been with Maple Lake Lumber since
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Staff at Maple Lake Lumber – 2025



Staff at Maple Lake Lumber – 1989



Maple Lake Lumber Staff Photos: Four staff members remain in 2025 from the 1989 staff photo above. Daryl and Kathy Hennen, Mike Lauer and Al Huikko.

Kathy and Daryl bought the business in 1992.
“We can get you in touch with people you need to start the building process,” Brad said.
Their website maplelakelumber.com



Maple Lake Lumber construction specialists can put you in touch with trusted contractors who know how to do the job right.

ber.com is a good place to begin when taking on a new construction project. Customers can view building products such as doors, windows, decking and hardware and get quotes specific to their needs.
To make the process even smoother, Maple Lake Lumber

has recently updated its website, so it is more compatible with customer technology and easier to navigate.
For those who prefer a more hands-on shopping experience, the lumber yard’s showroom is

stocked with a wide selection of items from interior and exterior siding to windows, doors, moldings and decking.
“They can come here and see exactly what they will be getting. Customers can crank out the windows, walk through the doors or compare boards and trim in pine, maple, oak, and poplar and

decide which one they like best,” Kathy said.
Maple Lake Lumber’s experienced salesmen are always on hand with their specialized construction knowledge waiting to answer questions and offer advice. At the same time, the lumber yard’s prices are competitive and the materials they sell are all high quality.

According to Brad, lumber prices are the lowest they’ve been in four years so now is a good time to build your dream home or tackle that project you’ve been putting off.
To make your project even more affordable, Maple Lake Lumber has a selection of over-stock items to sell at discounted prices.

Sixty years and counting

Maple Lake Lumber has come a long way since Ken and Marge bought the business in 1965. In 1995, Daryl and Kathy added an additional 8,300 square feet to the lumber yard’s main building and in 2005 they built the showroom. Today the Maple Lake Lumber complex consists of 15 buildings, most of which are located south of the railroad tracks.

The one thing that hasn’t changed is the Hennen family’s commitment to the community. Kathy currently serves as the treasurer for the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce and Brad followed in his dad and grandpa’s footsteps when he joined the Maple Lake Fire Department. The Hennen family’s commitment to Maple Lake, their customers, employees and

contractors, has been proven time and again over the last 60 years, and with any luck, it will continue for many years to come.
For more information on Maple Lake Lumber Co.’s products and services, stop in, give them a call at 320-963-3612, visit them on-line at MapleLakelumber.com, or like them on Facebook to get current sales or information.



When you visit Maple Lake Lumber you have the choice of one of several construction specialists who will help you plan, design and estimate the cost of your project whether you are building a new house or a new patio.
Photos submitted

Maple Lake Lumber Yard – 2025



Maple Lake Lumber Yard – 1980’s

