DJIA 33869.27 0.50% A

Search Q

About WSJ

Home World U.S. Politics Economy Business Tech Markets Opinion Books & Arts Real Estate Life & Work Style Sports

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

It all starts here.

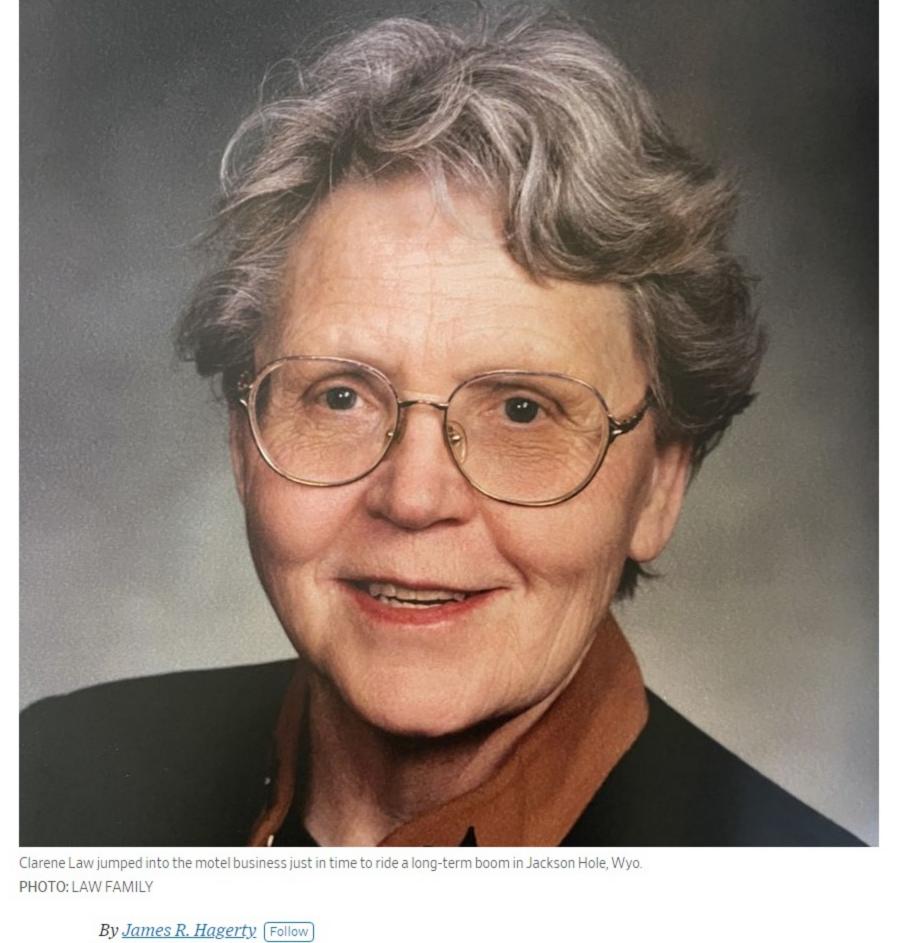
LISTEN NOW

Innkeeper Clarene Law Thrived on Jackson Hole's Boom O

SHARE

WORLD | OBITUARIES

Entrepreneur, who has died at age 89, bought a motel in the early 1960s and kept adding properties and rooms



PRINT AA TEXT

cost less than \$10 a night and free TV was a selling point.

Clarene Meadows, later known as Clarene Law, was a working mom with a problem in the early 1960s: When her children got sick, who would take care of them?

A personal, guided tour to the best scoops and

Sept. 29, 2022 10:03 am ET

Listen to article (5 minutes)

meaning she could work from home long before that was a familiar option. She borrowed money from her parents and other relatives to put together a down payment

on the \$125,000 asking price. She thus became an innkeeper in an era when rooms often

was for sale. It wasn't fancy but offered mountain views. Her family could live at the motel,

As a hotel bookkeeper in Wyoming's Jackson Hole valley, she heard that the Antler Motel

At the time, Jackson was a little-known town NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP where people might stop on the way to Yellowstone National Park. Over the next few The 10-Point.

decades, it blossomed into a luxurious year-

round attraction where visitors could hike, ski stories every day in The Wall Street Journal. and get an inkling of the Wild West. The valley Preview Subscribe began hosting an annual retreat for central bankers and academics.

Clarene Law, as she became after her 1973 marriage to Creed Law, expanded the family

entrepreneurs in her area and served as a Republican in the Wyoming House of

business to include several more lodging properties with a total of 477 rooms, whose daily

rates range from around \$225 to \$500 in high seasons. She became one of the best-known

Ms. Law died Sept. 21. She was 89. In the early years, she cleaned rooms and washed sheets. Until recently, she still helped

oversee the business.

her face.

Representatives for 14 years.

"There aren't any rooms in town."

Fun," she recalled this exchange with one customer:

"This is a lousy place." "Well, you don't have to stay here."

Though Ms. Law believed in friendly service, she had her limits. In a memoir, "And I Had

"Maybe you should go, then, and not come back." She slapped another customer—but only after he threw a paper weight at her and spat in

Early on, a local banker told her he could make loans backed by cattle, but not motels. She found more amenable lenders in Casper, Wyo., and Chicago.

"Of course you get some jerks," she wrote, "but 99% of people are not jerks."

Twin Falls, Idaho, as a teenager. She was a tomboy who played baseball and made snow sleds out of old car fenders. Aiming to become a pharmacist, she attended

Born Alta Clarene Webb on July 22, 1933, she grew up in Idaho and was the third of five

children. Her father managed road-construction crews. The family moved frequently and

slept in homemade trailers. They had moved about 20 times by the time she settled down in

MORE OBITUARIES what is now Idaho State University but stayed only a year and a half. At age 20, she married Muslim Brotherhood Religious Franklin Meadows, who was heading into a Leader Yusuf Qaradawi Dies at 96 career as a teacher and guidance counselor. She · Hilary Mantel, Prizewinning 'Wolf tried a variety of jobs, including writing stories

Arnold Fisher Provided Better Care for Wounded Warriors

Hall' Author, Dies at 70

Our inaugural list of the top executives making

making a brew pub out of it," she wrote.

grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

WHAT TO READ NEXT...

brought the family to Jackson in 1959. Family finances were tight. She remembered frequent meals of elk burgers with creamed peas. The motel business gave her a growing income and stature in the community and, eventually, the state. Mr. Meadows wasn't as fond of the business and missed the cultural attractions of cities. They divorced in 1973, and she married Mr. Law, who had been in the restaurant-franchising business.

and selling ads for newspapers.

A guidance-counseling job for Mr. Meadows

For Remote Workers,

These U.S. Cities Are

Great Places to Live

Hard or Soft Landing?

Blackstone's Big New

Idea Leaves It Bruised

MOST POPULAR OPINION

Opinion: A Shameful Vote in Virginia

Opinion: Mystery

University

MOST POPULAR NEWS

North America

U.S. Military Shoots Down Fourth High-Altitude Object Over

20 💭

- Investors Flee U.S. Stock Funds
- Some Economists Say Neither if Growth Accelerates
- Opinion: The University of North Carolina Fight Escalates
- Invasion Object of the Week Opinion: DEI Spells Death for the Idea of a
- to Save Chicago From Progressive Misrule?

Opinion: Is It Too Late

- RECOMMENDED VIDEOS Video: U.S. Shoots Down Suspected Chinese Spy Balloon
 - ChatGPT Rival

Earthquakes Stand to

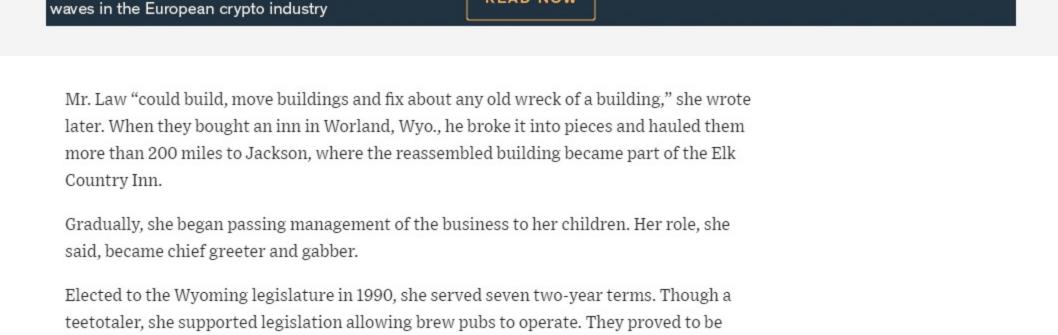
Deepen Turkey's Economic Struggles

Google Shows Off

- Bing With AI: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on Why Search Is Changed Forever
- Crumbling

Why America's Water

Infrastructure Is



READ NOW

She taught Sunday school for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Though her motels thrived, some other investments, including farms and a dude ranch, didn't work out.

Ms. Law's survivors include her husband, Creed Law, along with three children, seven

The Jackson Hole News & Guide quoted one of her self-assessments: "I just stand here

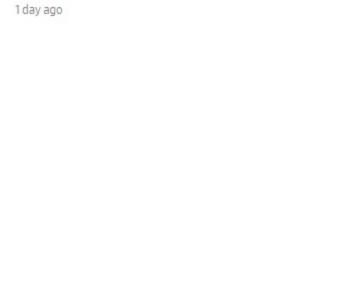
behind this desk 14 hours a day. There's nothing unusual about me."

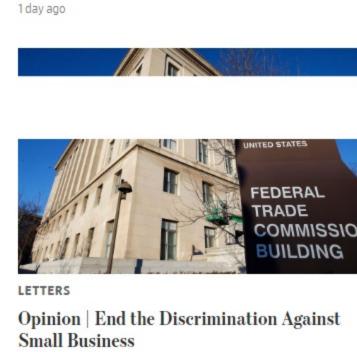
"great economic stimulators," revitalizing downtowns "by taking an old building and

Write to James R. Hagerty at bob.hagerty@wsj.com Appeared in the October 1, 2022, print edition as 'Innkeeper Created Jackson Hole Empire'.

SHOW CONVERSATION (20) V

THE OUTLOOK THE OUTLOOK Japan Says Sayonara to Idea of Central Japan Says Sayonara to Idea of Central Banker as Rescue Hero Banker as Rescue Hero





FEDERAL

COMMISSIC

BUILDING

TRADE



FEDERAL TRADE

COMMISSIO

BUILDING

1 day ago

LETTERS



Small Business

1 day ago

5 days ago

Market Watch

ADVERTISEMENT

Why Asia will lead the global

economic recovery: 2023

JPMorgan's Chase to hire 500 bankers to expand small-business relationships



economic outlook Nomura What is the latest on ETFs?

MarketViews The latest trends on responsible investing MarketViews



JCPENNEY:

BEST BUY:

coupon

Off Sitewide

TARGET:

MACY'S:

Entire Order

Macy's coupon - Sign up to

get 25% off next order

MANSION GLOBAL

MarketViews

Audi India.

MarketViews

Trending news on Gold Markets

Unlimited Mileage covered within 5

Years of driving your Audi.

The latest news on commodity markets from leading experts

Dianomi^{*}

MICHAEL KORS: Michael Kors Valentine's Day: JCPenney Coupon Code: 30% Target Promo Code: 20% Off check out our Promos for Women T.J. MAXX:

SPONSORED OFFERS

10% Off TJ Maxx Coupon -Rewards Credit Card THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Customer Service Tools & Features

Deal of the Day! Claim as

much as 50% less - Best Buy

Newsletters & Alerts Guides Topics My News

Ads Advertise Commercial Real Estate Ads Place a Classified Ad Sell Your Business

Subscribe Now

More

About Us

Corrections

Jobs at WSJ

Buy Issues

WSJ Shop

Content Partnerships

BACK TO TOP #

Sign In

Corporate Subscriptions Professor Journal Student Journal WSJ High School Program Public Library Program WSJ Live Commercial Partnerships

a Dow Jones company

WSJ Membership

Subscription Options

Why Subscribe?

WSJ+ Membership Benefits

Cancel My Subscription

English Edition ▼

Customer Center

Contact Us

RSS Feeds Video Center Watchlist Podcasts Visual Stories Sell Your Home Recruitment & Career Ads Coupons Digital Self Service

News Archive Register for Free Reprints & Licensing

Dow Jones Products Barron's BigCharts Dow Jones Newswires Factiva Financial News Mansion Global MarketWatch Risk & Compliance Buy Side from WSJ WSJ Pro WSJ Video WSJ Wine

> Privacy Notice | Cookie Notice | Copyright Policy | Data Policy | Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use | Your Ad Choices | Accessibility Copyright @2023 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.