

Orval Earle

August 9, 1924 - January 8, 2004

Funeral services for Orval Earle, 79, were held Tuesday, January 13, 2004, at 10:00 A.M. at Wheatland Bible Church in Wheatland, Wyoming, with Pastor Marlin Driskell and Pastor Tim Ricker officiating. Interment with military graveside rites conducted by the Laramie Peak Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3558 and American Legion was in the Wheatland Cemetery with Pastor Lynn Howe and Pastor Ralph Martin officiating.

Mr. Earle died Thursday, January 8, 2004, at Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

Orval was born August 9, 1924, in Guymon, Oklahoma, the son of Kenneth and Etta Velora (Stockton) Earle Sr. At the age of four, he moved with his family to New Mexico, attended school in Hayden and graduated from Clayton High School in 1942. In August of 1943, he entered the Army Air Corps and served until February of 1946. After his military service, he was self-employed for several years. In 1946, he co-founded the Hayden Rodeo, which continues annually each Labor Day weekend in Hayden, New Mexico. On June 7, 1953, he married Thelma Faye Parman. To this union a daughter and son were born. In August of 1958, Orval and his family moved to Wheatland, Wyoming, to be the ranch foreman of the Two-Bar Ranch west of Wheatland. He was employed as ranch foreman on all of the Howe Ranches for 21 years. This was followed by periods of self-employment and six years as manager of the Dickson Ranch. In March 1986, he entered semi-retirement, while continuing to help his neighbors and community until his passing. Orval enjoyed time with family and friends. He was known in his community as a true Christian, Cow-

boy, and Gentleman. His passions were horses and hunting. Orval will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Thelma of Wheatland; a daughter, Lana Gayle and her husband, Tim Ricker of Douglas; three brothers, Kenneth Earle Jr. and wife, Alice of Clayton, New Mexico, Harrison Earle of Tucumcari, New Mexico, and Edward Earle and wife, Donna of Nara Visa, New Mexico; a sister, Wanda and her husband, Harold Smith of Clayton, New Mexico; three grandsons, Cory Ricker and wife, Melissa of Pensacola, Florida, Ryan Ricker of Douglas, Wyoming and Woody Ricker and wife, Stacey of Douglas, Wyoming; two great granddaughters, Amanda and Elaina Ricker of Pensacola, Florida; and numerous nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

Orval was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Orval Dennis Earle on June 12, 1979; and two brothers, Walter Lee Earle and Max Dwane Earle.

Serving as pallbearers were Cory Ricker, Woody Ricker, Ryan Ricker, Norman Earle, Johnny Mungia, John Earle, Gary Earle, and Ronald Smith. Honorary pallbearers were Jim Stevenson, Barney Wood, Tom Christinck, Merlin Moore, Francis Ricker, Fred McGuire, and all of his many other friends.

The family would appreciate memorials to First Baptist Church of Wheatland, Wyoming and Frontier Baptist Church of Douglas, Wyoming in care of First State Bank, P.O. Box 39, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201-0039.

Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel of Wheatland was in charge of the arrangements.