

Robert L. Garton

2-6-1981

Robert L. Garton, 62, died Friday, Feb. 6, 1981 at the Platte County Memorial Hospital after an extended illness.

Garton was born Aug. 7, 1918 near Torrington. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Garton.

As a youth, he was active in 4-H and sports and he was an Eagle Scout. He attended Torrington High School and graduated in 1936. He was offered a football scholarship to the University of Wyoming.

In 1940, he served a year in the National Guard. When World War II was declared, he joined the Army, serving with the 115th Cavalry. He was a communications officer before going overseas with the 3rd Cavalry Group. While in Europe, he was awarded the Bronze Star. He was discharged from the Army on Feb. 26, 1946.

Garton was married to Thelma Irene Plaga on Nov. 6, 1943. In 1947, they moved to the present Garton Ranch where they ranched until retiring in 1979.

Garton was a past president of the Laramie Peak Stockgrowers and the Shamrock Farm Bureau. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason, a member of the Korean Shrine, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Garton is survived by his parents; Melissa Lay of Casper and Arthur Garton of Edmond, Okla.; his wife, Thelma, of Wheatland; two sons and their wives, Steven and Margo and Greg and Elizabeth, two grandchildren, Coy and Bobbie Ann, all of Wheatland; one brother, Riley Lay of Casper; and two sisters, Barbara Sheperd of Maysville, Okla., and Mary Lea Wishon of Edmond, Okla.

He was preceded in death by one brother.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 9, at 11 a.m. at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Wheatland with the Rev. Sidney Hoadley officiating. Burial was in the Wheatland Cemetery. Masonic graveside rites were conducted.

Serving as pallbearers were Mick Miller, Elwood Hanna, Tony Testolin, Jack Radichal, John Berry and Neal Willhite. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Raymond Henke, Frank Berry, Walt Berry, Bill Poage and Bob Simmons.

A memorial has been established to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Salt Lake City.

The Schrader-Prell Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.