

Joe R. Howard

WHEATLAND — Funeral services for Joe R. Howard, 79, will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 23 at First Christian Church, with Pastor Andy Gudahl officiating.

Interment will take place at a later date.

He died June 18, 2003, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital.

Born Dec. 18, 1923, in Bentonville, Ark., he was the son of M. Ray and Florence O. (Null) Howard. The family moved to Wheatland in 1936, and he graduated from Wheatland High School in 1942. He then worked as a truck driver for Salt Creek Trucking. He married Mary L. Strickler in Wheatland on April 9, 1944.

During World War II, he served in the National Guard, as well as working for a plastics factory and a weed removal company in California. He returned to Wheatland and worked at the cemetery. He then farmed with his father and later on his own. He also worked on the railroad, on Glendo Dam construction, and for H.D. Silver. He retired from farming in 1984 and began working for

Wheatland Co-op Association as their fertilizer plant manager. He retired in 1992, working part time in the spring and summers from 1996-2002.

He was a past Governor and member of the Loyal Order of Moose and served on the Platte County Weed and Pest Board.

Survivors include his wife, Mary L. Howard of Wheatland; four daughters, Jorga Schmaing of Cheyenne, Linda Rietz and her husband of Wheatland, Sandy Dalles and her husband of Laramie and Marsha Kafka and her husband of Wheatland; two sisters, Helen Rutz of Wheatland and Edith W. Bailey of Seattle; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, James F. Howard.

Memorials may be made to Platte County Memorial Hospital, 201 14th Street, Wheatland WY 82201 or to Loyal Order of Moose #1631 Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 433, Wheatland WY 82201-0433.

Gorman Funeral Homes-Platte Chapel is in charge of arrangements.