

# Elmer John Johnke

Funeral services for Elmer John Johnke, 65, were held Saturday, Jan. 14, 1995, at 2 p.m., at the Platte Funeral Chapel in Wheatland, with Andy Gudahl, Minister of the First Christian Church officiating. Interment followed in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mr. Johnke died Monday, Jan. 9, 1995, at his home near Wheatland.

Elmer was born July 31, 1929, in Hurley, S.D., the son of Elmer Carl and Myrtle Mae (Olmstead) Johnke. He moved to Wyoming at a young age with his parents, settling in Chugwater, where he was reared and received his education.

Elmer served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict as a tank commander and gunner.

He married Donna Rae Atkinson on Aug. 7, 1954 in Wheatland. They lived for a time in Chugwater, Riverton and Washington state before returning to Chugwater.

At this time, they worked for the Harding-Kirkbride ranches in the Laramie Peak area with Elmer's mother-in-law.

Then, Elmer and Donna worked on the Miracle Mile Ranch for a year before returning to work the upper ranch at the North Laramie River for 12 years with Elmer's mother-in-law.

They worked the Ark Law Ranch for a year before moving to their own ranch at Antelope Creek in the fall of 1989. Elmer loved ranching and reading western books.

Elmer is survived by three children, Linda Hall and husband, Dean, of Billings, Mont., Eugene Johnke and wife, Linda, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Clayton Johnke and fiancée, Rachel Bieber of Wheatland. Also surviving are two brothers, Ted Johnke of Hartville, and Clifford Johnke of Wheatland, six grandchildren and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his wife, Linda, on Oct. 18, 1994.

Serving as pallbearers were Clayton Rietz, Luke Corl, Jerry Kennedy, Norman Hanks, Gene Kennedy and Tom Atkinson. Honorary pallbearers were Gene Hall, Junior Bromley, Dwayne Walker, Roger Garrett and all of his many friends and family.

A memorial to the American Lung Association of Wyoming, 415 E. Pershing Blvd., Box 1128, Cheyenne, WY 82003, would be appreciated by the family.

The Platte Funeral Chapel of Wheatland was in charge of the arrangements.