

# Richard DeForrest "Dick" Riley

March 2, 1917 - July 3, 2008

A graveside celebration service and interment for Richard DeForest "Dick" Riley, 91, was conducted at 3:00 P.M., Monday, July 7, 2008, in the Wheatland Cemetery at Wheatland, Wyoming, with Pastor Gary Robbins officiating.

He died peacefully Thursday, July 3, 2008, at his home near Wheatland.

Dick was born March 2, 1917, the son of Adolphus DeForest "Dolph or A.D." and Martha B. (Schrader) Riley at the Riley Homestead Ranch northwest of Wheatland, delivered by the area mid-wife, Eve Donaldson. His elementary education was at the Fish Creek Schools. He took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the "half mile" event at the Tri-State Track and Field meet held at Lusk, Wyoming in 1935, the year he graduated from Wheatland High School.

He was a member of the "Turtle Rodeo Association" riding in the Saddle Bronc Division and once trailed horses from the Laramie Plains with the Yarbrough bucking horse string to Cheyenne Frontier Days in the late 1930's. During hard times, he broke saddle horses for area residents; worked as a surveyor for the Civilian Conservation Corps; and, continued to help his folks with the ranch. In the 1940's - 1950's, he was a card holding, sworn "silent deputy" for the Platte County Sheriff's Department under George Wahn and Bill Sutherland. On June 4, 1950, Dick married Barbara Frances Lockett in Wheatland and they bought the Riley Ranch and continued in the ranching business. During the 1950's, he purchased a sawmill and sold lumber at Fort Laramie. In 1960, he built a new home as the first home he and his wife had was his Uncle Jake Lewis' homestead, a one-room house which had been "rolled" in with a team of horses!

By 1968 he completed a course with the Carnation Beef Breeder's Service learning the new technique of "artificial insemination" and started the exotic Limousin and German Gelbvieh breed of cattle in the area. He also instructed the F.F.A. at Wheatland High School on the procedure of AI.

In 1970, he and Barb established the Kamp Dakota Campground and Guest Ranch. He built a rodeo arena and had amateur rodeos. He said he wanted every young cowboy and cowgirl to have a chance to learn the sport the "right way". In the early 1980's, he was leading 3-5 day horseback

pack trips into the Bear and Arapahoe Creek areas of Laramie Peak and was interviewed and advertised by the "Western Horseman" magazine, the February 1988 edition.

He enjoyed all the guests, local and afar and they enjoyed his campsite stories of the area, history, homesteads, and his homemade baking powder biscuits. He was a true historian, an area volunteer firefighter, loved ranching, the great outdoors, and had a passion for horses.

In 1993, the ranch was sold to the next generation, Randy and Adene Kusma and they, along with Dick, continued on with the cattle ranching business. As Tom Phillips summed it up, "Dick was born, raised, lived, and died on the Fish Creek Ranch--one couldn't ask for better than that."

Survivors include three children, Richard Charles Riley of Wheatland, Barbara Ilene (Beaha) Loucks of Rock Springs, Wyoming, and Adene Marthel Kusma and husband Randy of Wheatland; his last great friend and rodeo pal who stood by him in times of need, Owen McGill of Wheatland; a very "special" lady and family friend who could share in the days long past and put a smile on his face and a spring in his step, Mary Kafka Barrett of Wheatland; two sister-in-laws, Iva Keller and Elois Miller of Glenrock; cousin, Tom Phillips who was like a "brother", and his wife, Shirley of Casper; nephew, Rollie "Butch" Goering of Casper; and three nieces, Birdie, Donna, and Carol.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Barbara on November 29, 1992; sister, Aletha Goering and her husband, Rolland "Tug"; brother, Truman Riley; granddaughter, Shanan Lea Riley; grandson, Sean Riley; his "best man", Chuck McAuley; as well as Glen Dunlap, Sid Sturgeon, and so many other good rodeo friends and ranchers.

Serving as pallbearers were Dick McAuley, Edgar McAuley, Jim McAuley, Mark Phillips, Rick Riley, and Randy Kusma. Honorary pallbearers were Owen McGill, Glen Hall, Duane Walker, and Tom Phillips.

Memorials to the Dick Riley Memorial Fund, 1150 Fish Creek Road, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201 would be appreciated by the family.

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