

John J. Rutz

4-26-1990

Funeral services for John J. Rutz, age 85, were held April 30 at 10:30a.m. at the United Church of Christ, with the Rev. Dr. James S. Vuocolo officiating. Interment followed in the Wheatland Cemetery. Mr. Rutz died at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland on April 26 following a long illness.

John J. Rutz was born Sept. 18, 1904 in Denhoff, Russia, the son of John W. and Katherine (Steinbrecher) Rutz. In 1911, the family came to this country to Ellis Island, when John was six years old.

The family moved to Windsor, Colo., and farmed. This is where Mr. Rutz was reared and educated. On Dec. 23, 1923, he married Elizabeth Wiedeman in Windsor, Colo. They moved to Wheatland in 1937 where he farmed until his retirement.

Mr. Rutz was an avid fisherman and was State Horseshoe Pitching Champion in 1947. He qualified for the National Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1948. Ted Allen, 10-year World Champion "Pitcher" was a good friend and the two traded each other horseshoes. Mr. Allen was from Loveland, Colo. Mr. Rutz was also a champion boxer in Windsor, Colo.

Mr. Rutz had another talent, that of water well dower, where a divining rod was used in search of water. He dowsed 120 wells, and all but three were successful. He enjoyed his farming on the Wheatland Flats. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and three children, Harold R. Rutz of Torrington, and Beverly Hitt and Leroy J. Rutz, both of Wheatland. A sister, Molly Pierson of Zephyrville, Fla., eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren also remain.

Serving as pallbearers were Dennis Rutz, George Bohl, Bill Auyer, Joe Howard, Harry Weber and Derek Marker.

A memorial has been established to the Platte County Memorial Hospital Nursing Wing in Wheatland.

The Platte Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.