

Earl L. Blevins

12-5-1994
Funeral services for Earl L. Blevins, 88, were held Saturday, Dec. 10, 1994, at 10:30 a.m. at the First Christian Church in Wheatland, with Pastor Mark Patzke of the Covenant Lutheran Church officiating. Interment followed in the Wheatland Cemetery. Mr. Blevins died Monday, Dec. 5, 1994, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

Earl was born January 16, 1906, in Whitetop, Va., the son of Wells and Dora Blevins.

After working in the coal mines of Virginia, he moved out west on his own at about the age of twelve. While working on ranches in Wyoming and Montana, he learned the cowboy's trade.

Later, his love of rodeo and his skill at bulldogging, resulted in many championships including those won at Madison Square Garden and the Denver Stock Show. He was Life Member #83 of the Rodeo Cowboys Association, and was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Mr. Blevins served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II. It was while riding on horseback along the coast of the Carolinas, watching for German submarine landings, that he invented a device to vary the length of saddle stirrups.

He later perfected and patented this device as the Blevins Buckle for western saddles.

He married Joan Van Kleeck on June 20, 1942. Together they built the Blevins Manufacturing Company from a shoestring operation in their basement to a thriving international business.

With his wife, he emigrated to the west after the war in 1945. In partnership with Ned and Anne Bryant, he went into the ranching business on Sybille Creek. He continued to ranch until the time of his death.

Earl is survived by several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Joan, in 1986.

Memorials may be made to the Platte County Fairboard, 59 Antelope Gap Road, Wheatland, WY 82201, or to the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Attn: Mike Husband, 101 Pro Rodeo Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919.

Serving as pallbearers were Jim Schindler, Bill Lockman, Jack Finnerty, Neil Stugart, Tony Testolin, and Frank Jones. Honorary pallbearers were all of his many friends.

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