

FRITZ, CLARK J.
MAY 27, 1906—FEBRUARY 13, 1999

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Clark J. Fritz
2-13-1999

Services for Clark J. Fritz, 92, were held Wednesday, February 17, at the Glendo Community Church in Glendo, Wyo. with Pastor Gordon Swedberg officiating. Interment followed at the Wheatland Cemetery. Mr. Fritz died Saturday, February 13, at his apartment in the Glendo Senior Outlook Apartment Complex in Glendo following an extended illness.



Clark Fritz

Clark Fritz was born May 27, 1906 in Hastings, Iowa the son of Simon E. and Myrta (Nimms) Fritz. He was the ninth born of their 15 children. In 1907 the Fritz family moved to Colorado residing in the LaPorte-Ft. Collins area, where they engaged in grain, dairy and sugar beet farming. He attended country schools in LaPorte and Waverly, Colo. In the summer of 1925, Clark and two of his brothers, Alfred and Rodney, were employed by William F. Macfarlane to put up hay on the 14 Ranch, 17 miles west of Glendo. The ranch had been established by Macfarlane in 1879. Having been favorably impressed with Clark's work and personality, Macfarlane offered him a permanent position. Clark accepted the offer and returned to the 14 Ranch in January, 1926. He worked initially as a ranchhand and later as ranch foreman, for two decades through the death of William Macfarlane in 1943, and then of his son, Stuart, in 1945. Thereafter Clark became a partner in the ranch with Macfarlane's daughter, Florence. That partnership continued for nearly 50 years until Florence's death in 1993. Since 1993 Clark has operated the 14 Ranch as sole owner with the help of long time employees, Dean and Virginia Cundall. Together Macfarlane and Fritz conducted a commercial cattle business at the 14 Ranch for 120 years with the exception of two drought years in 1934 and 1935. During his 73 years at the 14 Ranch, Clark witnessed dramatic changes in the operation of the ranch. In his early years heat and cooling were

obtained by hand cut wood and ice; light came from oil and carbide lamps, water was obtained by gravity and hand powered pumps and most food staples—meat, eggs, dairy and vegetables—were grown and processed on the ranch. Supplies and provisions were hauled by wagon. Ranch work and travel were accomplished by saddle and work horses, hand tools, and strenuous physical labor. Clark lived through the evolution of gasoline and diesel engines, rural electrification, telephones, propane heat, four-wheel drive vehicles and satellite televisions. Through this experience he became known as an authority on Horseshoe Creek ranch history, and became the areas most revered story teller, a role he took great pleasure from. Clark was fond of animals, especially his saddle horses and dogs. He was an avid hunter and fly fisherman. He enjoyed playing cards and watching college and professional sports.

In September, 1945 Clark married Gertrude Anderson, a home economics teacher from Wheatland, Wyo. She died July 13, 1986, and the couple had no children. Clark Fritz was named "Top Hand" at the Platte County Fair in August, 1973, an award given annually by the Fair Board to the outstanding rancher in Platte County. He was a long time member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association and the National Cattleman's Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and 13 brothers and sisters. He is survived by one brother, Alvin "Ford" Fritz of Cheyenne, Wyo., his close friend, Betty Lancaster, of Glendo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers were Jay Collins, John Lancaster, Jim McVay, Gene Russell, Jim Wilson and Gary Cundall. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Lewis Archie, Jim Gamble, Jim Foreman, Lawrence Prager, Maragaret Wilson and Maxine Robinson.

Memorials to the Glendo Ambulance Service in care of Britt Wilson, P.O. Box 404, Glendo, Wyo. 82213 or to the Glendo Senior Citizens Center in care of Mary Ann Smathers, P.O. Box 152, Glendo, Wyo. 82213 would be appreciated by the family.

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