

# Gone, but not forgotten

Harold William Garrett 1908 to 1996



Harold William Garrett

By Dana Bieber  
Editor

Gone, but not forgotten. Harold William Garrett, 88, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 31 at the Platte County Memorial Hospital.

A man who set an example for all, Garrett forefathered the Laramie Peak Museum, the Senior Center, the Peak program at the Wheatland High School and his latest project,

the new Visitor Center in Wheatland.

"I never felt anything but admiration for my father, whether in public or private," said Joann Ryan, Harold Garrett's daughter. "There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for someone unless it was impossible to accomplish."

Born Jan. 8, 1908, in Denver, Colo., Garrett spent his early childhood in Colorado. He and his family later moved to Wyoming where he received his education and graduated from high school in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Garrett's younger brother, David, said Garrett has always been a giver and inspirer.

"He'd do anything for you," David said. "We were buddies. I don't ever remember him getting mad at me. He was the sort of person who would cut through the red tape and just do it."

When David was little, he shared a bedroom with Harold and another brother. "At that time, things were pretty tough. Harold was out of school and working. He shared everything he had with the family."

It was those giving, loving and respectful qualities that drew Eleanor Dam to Garrett.

United in marriage Aug. 20, 1935, Eleanor has often said over the years, "I have never been in love before, but I have been in deep respect all my life."

"He always treated me like a husband should treat a wife," she said. "He was a fun and caring man. I tell people we just never got mad at the same time. We respected each other and each others' thoughts."

Although Eleanor said Harold didn't think he was special and or she think herself special, many people think otherwise.

Teaching Encampment school in Wheatland and Douglas while completing a college degree from the University of Wyoming, Garrett was inspirer to kids.

After completing army duty in the mid 1940s, Garrett returned to Wheatland to work as a meat cutter for the OP Skagg Grocery and Market. In 1949, he purchased the West Side Grocery and Market, and operated that business for 25 years.

During those years, Garrett used his grocery store to promote education. For every kid who brought in a good report card, he would offer them a 5 cent treat. And for those who brought report cards with bad grades, Eleanor

said, would still get a treat, but they would have to hear a lecture first and then promise to do better in school.

In Garrett's later years, he devoted himself to a small nursery business, which he ran until his ill health forced him to retire.

Still keeping himself involved in numerous community projects, Judy Woodworth said Garrett sparked the visitors center into being. "He put his heart and soul into the visitors center," she said. "He always had a sparkle in his eye when he talked about it because he knew it would be good for the community."

The Chamber of Commerce executive director, Woodworth said he motivated and inspired the whole community to donate money, labor and material.

"At one time he challenged everyone in town that he would give \$1,000 to the center if anyone would match it," she said. "He's really going to be missed."

Memorial services for Garrett were held Saturday, Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. at the Platte County Funeral Chapel in Wheatland, with pastor Gordon Swedberg officiating. Masonic rites were conducted by the Wheatland Masonic Lodge No. 16 AF&AM.

Harold is survived by his wife Eleanor of Wheatland; two children "Jack" Garrett of Payson, Ariz. and Joann Ryan of Seattle, Wash.; two brothers, David Garrett of Punxsutawney, Penn. and Paul Garrett of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; seven grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister and three brothers.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that those wishing might plant a tree or bush in Harold's memory, or contribute to a charity of their choice.

The Platte County Funeral Chapel of Wheatland was in charge of the services.



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