

Max Elwood Hanna

June 8, 1916-June 15, 2002

Max Elwood Hanna, a long time rancher in the Sybille Canyon passed away at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins June 17.

Elwood was born June 8, 1916, at Bayard Nebr., the eldest son of George Max and Gertrude L (Imus) Hanna. He was raised on their ranch near Bayard, and attended Chimney Rock School and Bayard High School. Elwood came to Wyoming in the 1930's to ranch and farm with his cousin, Virgil Walls, at Albin. He then worked for the Kenneth Bell Dairy at Cheyenne, and in 1945 started working for John H. and Marie Bell at their Quarter Circle Reversed Z Ranch at Iron Mountain. While there Elwood got his E3 brand for cattle and horses and started his cattle herd. He helped trail in the roping calves that Bells provided for Cheyenne Frontier Days for several years.

Elwood became Bell's ranch foreman on the Konold Ranch, a former Two-Bar ranch located in the North Sybille Canyon. From 1947-58, he wintered and calved some 800 cows on the Konold, and summered them on the Laramie Plains.

A top horseman, Elwood broke, trained and shod his horses, preferring Thoroughbred-Quarter Horse crosses because of their good walking gaits and all-around cow horse abilities. He was a good ranch-roper and cattleman. He trained cow dogs, which interested others in the community to begin using dogs to help work cattle.

On June 8, 1952, Elwood married Myra J. Flaharty at the United Methodist Church in Wheatland, and recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

They lived on the Konold Ranch until 1958 when they moved to the PR5 Ranch which they leased from Myra's parents, Earl and Myrtle Flaharty. They later purchased the ranch.

They built up their Hereford cattle herd, taking their calves to the Omaha Stockyards and Torrington Sale Barn for many years. Elwood was particularly proud of the Hereford club calves he sold, some of which won top honors in County 4-

H classes.

Despite developing hip problems in his 80's Elwood never hesitated to help his friends and neighbors. He continued to work cattle riding his horses, Rocket and Buck, getting some help from his cowdog, Ben.

Elwood was a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Laramie Peak Stock Grower's and the Albany County Stock Grower's, and was a Wyo. Stock Grower's Assoc. Executive committeeman from Albany County from

1994-2000. He was a long-time commercial Hereford rancher and a member of the Wyo. Hereford Assoc. He also belonged to the Wyoming and Platte County Farm Bureau. A UW Cowboy Joe Club member, he donated a steer calf to the "Steer a Year" program for years.

Elwood is survived by his wife; daughter Susan J. Hanna and husband Martin Weaklim of Laramie; three sisters, Inna and husband Frank Gabriel of Faith, S.D., Lavone and husband Lorance Ricklefs of Mitchell, Nebr., and Lois and husband Sam Ash of Summerfield Fla; a granddaugh-

ter, Julia Weaklim and a grandson Ian A Weaklim; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Monte, Harold and Elden; an infant sister, Lucille, and an infant brother, Raymond

Funeral services were held June 22 at the United Methodist Church in Wheatland, with the Rev. Les Ludlam officiating. Interment was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Tom Christnick, Tony Testolin, Chuck McFarland, Milton Small, Orval Earle and Melvin Wright. Honorary pallbearers were John Wickam, Owen McGill, Fred McGuire, Huey Dawson, Greg Garton, Lee Miller and Tom King.

Memorials may be sent to the Laramie Peak Stock Growers Scholarship Fund, H.C. 64, Box 765, McFadden, Wyo., 82083.

