

Bud Hitt

May 6, 1928 – February 11, 2016

Bud Hitt passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at his home in Bryan, Texas on Feb. 11. Bud was born in Rolla, Mo. on May 6, 1928 while his father attended electrician school there. He was raised on the Slater Flats on the land homesteaded by his grandfather. He attended a small country elementary school then attended Wheatland High School.

At the age of 17, he chose to serve his country and he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the height of WWII. He served until the end of the war when he was discharged and then returned to Slater. Bud married Beverly Rutz, his high school sweetheart, in Wheatland in 1949. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in November. Bud and Beverly built their farming operation on the Slater Flats, first renting land, then purchasing the land devoted to raising wheat.

Bud was a great conservationist and innovative agricultural producer, becoming one of the largest wheat producers in Wyoming. He loved working the land and he was very passionate about the future of agriculture. Bud served on the Wyoming Wheat Commission, and the Wheat-

land REA Board of Directors. In the early 1950's he and several neighbors formed the Chugwater Telephone Co. and proceeded to install hundreds of miles of telephone poles and lines all over the Chugwater area, Slater Flats, and Iowa Flats to enable the rural residents to have telephone service.

Bud is survived by his wife Beverly of Bryan, Texas, daughter, Lori (Darren) Owens of Bryan, Texas, grandchildren, Mark Hitt of Torrington, Adam Hitt, of Longmont Colo., Amy Auyer of Bryan, Texas, Michelle Auyer of Vernon, Texas, and three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father William Morris Hitt, mother, Helen Qualls Hitt, brother, John Hitt, and his son, Douglas Hitt.

A Memorial service will be held in Wheatland at a later date. Condolences can be sent to the family at 3603 Park Meadow Ln, Bryan, TX 77802. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations to Wyoming Future Farmers of America at www.wyoffafoundation.com or mail to Wyoming FFA Foundation, 1286 Upton Fairview Rd. Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.