

Alvin Russell Johnson, 1916-1995

A service for Christian Burial for Alvin Russell Johnson, 78, was held Monday, May 22, 1995 at 10 a.m. at the Platte Funeral Chapel in Wheatland, with Father Ron Shell of St. Andrew's Missionary Episcopal Church of Cheyenne officiating. Interment followed in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mr. Johnson died Wednesday, May 17, 1995 at United Medical Center-West in Cheyenne. He was born June 30, 1916, in Longmont, Colo., the son of Russell Arthur Noah and Mary Rose (Madden) Johnson. Alvin's father was a factory assistant superintendent for Great Western Sugar and as a result, Alvin was reared and educated in Longmont, Gering, Neb., where he graduated from high school, and Wheatland.

Alvin married Eva Belle Ballard on Aug. 27, 1938 in Walden, Colo. He worked for Great Western Sugar, Glenn Nixon-O.P. Skaggs Grocery, the Wyoming Highway Department from 1956 until retiring in 1978, and for the United States Census Bureau from 1984 until 1994 when he again retired. He raised sheep on his 80 acres, and he was also the Cooperative Observer for the National Weather Service for 29 years, until the time of his death.

Alvin was licensed and admitted to the Wyoming Order of Lay Readers by the Bishop of Wyoming at All Saints Episcopal Church in Wheatland on Feb. 14, 1954. He served the Episcopal churches in Wheatland, Glendo, Hartville, Douglas and Esterbrook. He continued layreading in the Missionary Episcopal Church at Saint Andrew's until November, 1994. He was a member of Saint Andrew's Missionary Episcopal Church in Cheyenne.

Alvin is survived by his wife, Eva Belle Johnson of Wheatland, and a daughter, Kristina Johnson of Wheatland. Also surviving are three sisters, Lorraine Baker of Manhattan Beach, Calif., Rosemary Bickle of Spearfish, S.D., and Kathryn Wedemeyer of Turlock, Calif., and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John Willard Johnson. Serving as pallbearers were Clifford Dexter Wedemeyer, Russell Greg Wedemeyer, William McConnell, Kent O'Kelly, Gene Bobier and Dennis Bobier. Honorary pallbearers were William J. Strike, John Jobe, John Labertew, Edward Wilhelm, Ray Kowrach and Merwin Moore.

Memorials to Saint Andrew's Missionary Episcopal Church, 3325 McCann Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001, would be appreciated by the family.

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