

Peter Wesley "Pete" Johnson

December 29, 1927-September 6, 2000

Services for Peter Wesley "Pete" Johnson, 72, were held Friday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Wheatland with Rev. Les Ludlam and Pastor Gordon Swedberg officiating. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Pete died Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

He was born Dec. 29, 1927, at the home of his grandparents, seven miles east of Wheatland; the only child of John W. and Anna L. (Murray) Johnson. Pete grew up in the Antelope Gap community helping family and friends and exploring the area on horseback. He attended rural schools through the eighth grade and graduated from Wheatland High School in 1945. He was baptized in Chug Creek as a teenager.

Pete married Mildred Cobb on June 15, 1948 in Wheatland. Pete's parents retired in 1951 and moved to Wheatland and Pete and Mildred took over running the farm and ranch. He helped build the first telephone line in the Antelope Gap area that served the community in the fall of 1961. He helped establish the first rural fire trucks throughout Platte County and the State of Wyoming. Pete served as County Fire Warden from 1965-1995; served on the State Rural Fire Advisory Board from 1965-1995 and was secretary-treasurer from 1968-1995. He was very supportive of his children's activities having served as Little League baseball coach; a 30 year 4-H leader, chaperoning or hosting activities on the ranch many times and he and Mildred chaperoned State 4-H trips to the Denver Stock Shows, Washington D.C. and Chicago, Ill.

Pete was also a 50-year member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a past member of the Masonic Lodge, and a longtime member of the United Methodist Church and life member of the Antelope Gap Grange.

Pete enjoyed his family, visiting with friends, hunting, fishing, embroidery and leather work.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred C. Johnson of Wheatland; three children, Gary Johnson and wife, Gayle of Checotah, Okla., Linda Gilbertson and husband, Ed of Yankton, S.D., and Lee Johnson and wife, Evelyn of Wheatland; eight grandchildren, Jeremy, Justin, Jace and Jayme of Checotah, Dallas Knapp of Kearney, Neb. and Tanya Knapp of Fremont, Neb., and Ashley and Matthew Johnson of Wheatland; two aunts, Alice Johnson of Wheatland and Bessie Hunter of Raymond, Wash; and numerous cousins.

Serving as pallbearers were Jim Kittell, Jim Blevins, Arland Childers, Lyndon Miller, John Watson and Larry DuVall. Honorary pallbearers were Jim Collins, John Thalken, Max Rothleutner, Jerry Kennedy, Willard Weber, Roy Hitt, Al Childers, George Faris, Bob Blevins, John Suntych, Dick Moody, Kenneth Moore and all of his many friends and family.

Memorials to the United Methodist Church, 907 - 9th St., Wheatland, WY 82201 or The Platte County Community Center Project, 357 Goodrich Rd., Wheatland; WY 82201, would be appreciated by the family.

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