

## Ernest LaVerne :Ernie"Kittell

1927 – 1997

Funeral services for Ernest LaVerne "Ernie" Kittell, 69 was held Friday, July 11, 1997, at 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Wheatland, with Ministers Andy Gudahl and Dan Driggs officiating. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mr. Kittell died Tuesday evening, July 8, 1997, at his home near Wheatland.

Ernie was born December 1, 1927, in Arcola, Wyo., the son of Harry Franklin and Ione Mildred (Paullin) Kittell. He was reared in Arcola and attended school at Carpenter, Wyo. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Wyoming prior to joining the United States navy and serving two years in the military. Upon his return from the service the family moved to Wheatland in 1948 and began ranching at the Kittell ranch where he lived until his death. Ernie married Barbara L. Wilhelm on January 8, 1951, in Cheyenne. He was very involved in his community. Ernie was a member of the National Cattlemen, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, served as Laramie Peak TV Committee Chairman, he was very active in the Platte county Fire District and in State Fire, was the Warden for the Platte County Fire District from 1996 until the time of his death, the Palmer Canyon Zone Warden from its beginning until 1996, was Precinct Committeeman for 27 years and State Republican Committee for 12 years, was Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Laramie River Water users for years, was an Elder and former Trustee of First Christian Church, served as Platte County Commissioners 4 years, was a member of the Farm Bureau for many years, he managed a Little League team and Girls' Softball Team at one time, held all offices in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was a member of the State Fire Advisory Board, was chairman of the Rancher's Grasshopper Committee, was a member of the Underground Water Advisory Board for 8 years, and was a member of the Platte County Search and Rescue Association.

Ernie was an avid hunter and fisherman, and loved to tell stories.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Wheatland, four children, Teri Griffin and husband, Jerry of Douglas, Judy Phifer and husband, Brook of Denver, Colo., James Kittell and wife, Donna of Wheatland; and two grandchildren, Nicholas and Cody Phifer of Denver.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents.

Serving as pallbearers will be Duncan Irvine, Tom McGuire, Kenneth Hanks, Dave Noyce, George Branscom, Jeff Falkenburg, and Garret Falkenburg. Honorary pallbearers will be the elders of the church, Clint Loyd, Stuart Barry, Lee Shoop, Bob Shoemaker, Don Gudahl, Juan Peralta, and Dale Tatman.

Memorials to the First Christian Church, 95 – 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Wheatland Wyo. 82201 would be appreciated by the family.

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