

Lucerne Edwin "Ed" Mers

September 7, 1913 – July 6, 2006

Ed Mers, 92, passed away Thursday, July 6, 2006, in Riverton.

Ed was born Sept. 7, 1913, on the Slater Flats, southwest of Wheatland, where his mother Elva Effa (Enix) Mers and father John Calvin Mers homesteaded.

Ed attended country school, and then went to Torrington for high school when he was 14. He said he was the only boy still in short pants the first year. He graduated in 1930.

After high school Ed helped on the family farm for a while, then, during the depression he joined the 3 C's and worked on the development of the Devil's Tower National Monument area. He then worked for the state as a surveyor, and later in Cheyenne in the Sales Tax Division.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked he tried to join the Marines; they told him he was too small, but that the Army had a new outfit called Paratroopers. They were right, and Ed joined up.

Before going to the Army, one of Ed's sisters had introduced him to a schoolteacher named Allene Judson. They were married on Nov. 22, 1942. Before Ed went to Europe, a son, Gary, was born on Oct. 18, 1943, which happened to be Allene's birthday. After the war, a daughter, Gay, was born, on June 16, 1948.

After coming home from WWII, Ed farmed for several years. He also helped design and build several homes for family members. In the mid-'60s Ed and Allene sold the farm and Ed built a mobile home park and a frame house on the west side of Torrington. Allene taught school and Ed drove a Ready-Mix truck to help pay for the project and two kids' college.

When the power plant was being built in Wheat-

land, Ed and his brother-in-law Bud Dower built another mobile home park there.

When Allene retired from teaching, they bought a motor home and traveled. They finally decided they liked south Texas and started wintering in the Rio Grande Valley, continuing to do so until 2001. Summers were spent in Wyoming, mostly in Riverton with their daughter Gay and her family.

Ed was a member of Rotary and he served on the Board of the Goshen County United School District. He said it was nice being the wife's boss until he didn't vote the way she liked.

Ed enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, reading, watching football, square dancing and people watching. He and Allene visited every state except West Virginia, and many foreign countries. They even square danced on the Great Wall of China on one of their trips.

Ed is survived by his son Gary (Paula) Mers of Spanaway, Wash.;

daughter Gay (Mike) Hughes of Riverton; grandchildren Shay (Michael) McBride of Seattle, Wash.; Michelle Mers of Dallas, Texas; Connie (Jim) Hetzel of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mike (Lori) Mers of Boise, Idaho; Tavy (Mike) Hostetter of Spanaway; Brandi (John) Musgrave of Reno, Nev., and Drew Hughes of Riverton. Ed has 10 great-grandchildren, Shelby, Meghan, Jordon, Bryce, Shane, Logan, Talli, London, Stacia and Lola. Also surviving are sister-in-law Betty Dower of Denver, Colo., brother-in-law Jake Goertz of Slater, and many nieces and nephews.

Ed's wife, Allene, passed away June 9, 2005.

Services were held Monday, July 17, at 11 a.m. in Wheatland at Gorman Funeral Home, Platte Chapel. Services were conducted by family members, followed by a gravesite service at Wheatland Cemetery.



Ed Mers