

MITCHELL, FERGUSON SHIVES

1873-June 7, 1963

On June 7, 1963, another of our honored pioneers crossed the Great Divide. Ferguson Shives Mitchell ("Fergie to his many friends) passed away at the Platte County Memorial Hospital following a brain hemorrhage. For the past two years he had been an invalid, confined to his home in Wheatland.

Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1873 in a family of 14, he is survived by only one brother, of Glendale, Calif., Shives Mitchell who also ranched in Wyoming at one time.

Fergie came to Casper in 1892 to join his brother George and went into the sheep business there, but soon sold out and both brothers bought cattle ranches on the North Laramie River. Shives later joined them and their spread extended fourteen miles along the river.

In 1914, Mr. Mitchell returned to Aberdeenshire and there was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bruce. Returning to his ranch and beautiful new home he built for his bride, they spent many happy, active years. They had many community interests, one of the county's finest ranches, and good Hereford cattle. Their home was known for its warm hospitality, beautiful garden and interesting dinner and bridge parties.

In 1931, Mr. Mitchell began to take an active part in Republican politics and in that year was elected representative from this county to the 21st Legislature. He was re-elected and served the 21st and also the special session. In 1947 they sold their ranch and moved to Wheatland to spend their retirement years. He served as Justice of Peace for some time thereafter.

Mr. Mitchell never missed a meeting of the Masonic Lodge of which he was a 50-year member. He was also a lifetime honorary member of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, the 6th man to ever receive this certificate.

Mrs. Mitchell's sudden death in 1959, was a great blow to him, and his health soon failed.

He is survived by one brother; 20 nephews and nieces and numerous great nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m. from the Schrader Chapel with Rev. Clifford Poulson, Sr. officiating. Interment was in the Wheatland cemetery with his grand nephews as pallbearers. A.F. & A.M. Lodge No. 16 conducted services at the graveside.