

Robert W. Newkirk

Robert Wallace Newkirk, 83, died Dec. 3, 1981 at Platte County Memorial Hospital.

The son of John and Cora Sankey Newkirk, Robert was born March 21, 1898 in Bethoud, Colo. The family moved to Wheatland in 1908 and then moved to the Bowie Ranch, now owned by Don Robbins, on the North Laramie River in 1916.

Robert worked on ranches and cooked for round-ups until he was ready to join the armed forces in 1918. At that time his family was hit by tragedy with the death of his father and eldest brother, Elmer. Robert and his sister, Mary, helped their mother raise the four minor children in the family. He traveled to McFadden to work for the Ohio Oil Company and then in 1925 married Orpha Swope in Laramie.

The Newkirks became the parents of two children. They lived on the ranch near Wheatland and later bought a farm where Orpha died in 1970. He married Gladys Wagner and the couple made their home in Wheatland until the time of his death. He was a member of the Wheatland Masonic Lodge No. 30 AF & AM, the Shrine, and Eastern Star.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys of Wheatland; one son, Robert D. of Riverton; one daughter, Cora Jean Davis of Denver, Colo.; two sisters, Mrs. Lance (Mary) Robinson of Rock River and Mrs. Gordon (Alpha) Goode of Laramie; three brothers, Wilbur of Grass Valley, Calif., Charlie of Orting, Wash., and James of Truth or Consequences, N.M.; one stepson, Lawson Wagner of Wheatland; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. at the United Church of Christ with the Rev. Kenneth Saunders officiating. Masonic graveside rites were conducted by the Wheatland Masonic Lodge. Pallbearers were Don Watson, John Jobe, Greg Garton, Gene Kennedy, John Slagle and Richard Chase. Burial was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established to the Estarol Fund. The Schrader-Prell Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.