

OCKINGA, BILLY WAYNE
November 7, 1936-May 14, 2008

A celebration of the life of Wheatland, Wyoming resident, Billy Wayne Ockinga, 71, will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 25, at the WVFD Training Center for family and friends. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Gorman Funeral Homes-Platte Chapel of Wheatland.

He died Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

Billy was born November 7, 1936 in Venango, Colorado, the son of Ernest E. and Margaret Marie (Bauer) Ockinga. He was reared and educated around the Lyman, Nebraska area. He helped his Dad on the family farm. On November 25, 1956 he married Alice M. Dietz in Morrill, Nebraska. After their marriage, he worked on various farms in Morrill and Mitchell, Nebraska, until moving to Wheatland in 1962. Billy farmed all his life. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and had a great faith in God. He liked to work with his hands and make things welding. He considered his kids and grandkids his hobby and enjoyed helping everyone. Billy had a great sense of humor and was the family's favorite weatherman.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Alice of Wheatland; five children, Cindy M. Holmes of Wright, Wyoming, Karen Valentine and husband Matt of Fort Collins, Colorado, Kimberly Exon and husband John of Wheatland, Toni Knight and husband Scott of Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Eric Ockinga and wife Joann of Wheatland; four siblings, Delores Holcomb and Ken Ockinga, both of Wheatland, Sandy Krueger of Henderson, Colorado and Doug Ockinga of Cheyenne, Wyoming; ten grandchildren, two step-grandchildren; one great grandson and one step-great grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Darlene Johnston; a niece and a nephew.