

Bryce G. Orr

Funeral services for Bryce G. Orr, 72, were Friday, September 17 at the first Christian Church in Wheatland, Wyoming with Ministers Andy Gudahl and Floyd Hopper officiating. Interment was in the Wheatland Cemetery with the American Legion Post #6 of Cheyenne, conducting military graveside rites, with presentation of the flag by a representative from the Marine Corp.

Mr. Orr died Tuesday, September 14 at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

Bryce was the son of Henry and Shophia (Mathias) Orr, born on his parent's farm located 9 1/2 miles southwest of Wheatland, on April 4, 1921. He attended the local schools and graduated from Wheatland High School with the class of 1939.

Following his graduation he was employed briefly by the Logan Oil Company. He looked for employment in Tacoma, Washington, but the depression still had an effect on job openings so he returned to Wheatland. The

clouds of war were forming in Europe and then Japan bombed Pearl Harbor bringing on World War II. Shortly following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bryce joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to San Diego, California, for basic training. Upon completion of basic training, he was assigned as a Drill Instructor at the San Diego base and was the Drill Instructor for sixteen platoons. Following this assignment, he went to the South Pacific with the first Marine Division which was included in the landing at Guadalcanal, then to the island of Peleiu. He was also with the First Marine Division as it made the landing on Okinawa which was the final battle in the Pacific war. He was wounded and evacuated to naval hospitals in Saipan, Hawaii and San Diego. The next ten months were spent recuperating from the wounds experienced at Okinawa.

On January 14, 1943, Bryce and Louise Wedemeyer were married in San Diego, California. Bryce was honorably discharged in June, 1946.

1947 saw Bryce and Louise purchase the Courtesy Super Service in Wheatland, Wyoming, which they operated in conjunction with the Texaco Bulk Plant for the next 32 years, retiring in 1979.

Besides operating the businesses, Bryce found time to be a member of the Wheatland Town Council for eight years and four years as the Mayor of Wheatland. During the time in the two elective offices a bond issue was approved by the Town Council and passed in the town election by the citizens of Wheatland to pave all the unpaved streets in the town. Curbs and gutters were also poured where required at that time. The Town Council and many business people supported the Highway By-Pass legislation that soon became a state law requiring a vote of the people to approve the by-passing of any town in the state of Wyoming. The child curfew ordinance also went into effect by the Town Council.

He was a member of the First Christian Church since April, 1954; a member of the V.F.W., the American Legion, and was an active member of the Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department from 1936 until being named to the Town Council; he was active in the Wheatland Jaycees in his early years. He enjoyed auto racing, and traveled to the Indianapolis 500 to witness the event 26 consecutive years.

Bryce is survived by his wife, Louise of Wheatland; two sons, Butch and Jerry Orr of Wheatland; a daughter, JoAnn Maxwell of Aurora, Colorado; two brothers, Leland Orr of Casper, and Willard Orr of Lake Havasu City, Arizona; four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Lorene Paradise; and two brothers, Harold and Ortha Orr.

Serving as pallbearers were Jerry Orr, Butch Orr, Bill Maxwell, Johnnie Orr, Calvin Goddard, Robert Orr, and Johnnie Baker. Honorary pallbearers were Dick Snook, John Labertew, Al Lawrence, Owen Lambert, Jack Weber, and Bob Towns.

A memorial to the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory medicine, 1400 Jackson Street, Denver, Co 80206 or the First Christian Church of Wheatland would be appreciated by the family.

The Platte Funeral Chapel of Wheatland, is in charge of the arrangements.