

John Bernard Thalken

2-14-1999

Services for (former Yoder, Laramie, Casper) Wheatland resident John Bernard Thalken, 92, were conducted by Pastors Denzil G. Mauk and Gordon M. Swedberg on Wednesday, February 17 at the Wheatland Bible Church in Wheatland, Wyo. Interment was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mr. Thalken died Sunday, February 14 at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland. He was born March 27, 1906 in Cheyenne, Wyo., the first child of John Bernard and Anna Elizabeth (Fields) Thalken. His boyhood was spent in Cheyenne and Buford, Wyo. In his youth he and his family moved to Laramie, Wyo., where he was educated and lived until 1942. He served in the Wyoming National Guard Horse Cavalary as a young man. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and Wyoming's first student airplane pilot.

On October 1, 1928 he married Lydia Marie Dollefeld in Ft. Collins, Colo. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 1998.

In his early career, Mr. Thalken was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad and Western Public Service of Laramie. In 1942, he went to work for the United States Bureau of Reclamation at Seminole Dam, Wyo. In subsequent years he was transferred to Guernsey Dam, Kortess Dam and Alcova Dam in Wyoming; Anderson Ranch Dam in Idaho; Blue Mesa Dam in Gunnison, Colo; and was Supervisory Mechanical Inspector during the construction of Glen Canyon Dam (Lake Powell), Ariz. He was a member of the American Society of Electrical Engineers and was affiliated with the Wheatland Bible Church. Following his retirement he and his wife lived in Casper, Yoder and Wheatland, Wyo.

In addition to his wife of the family home in Wheatland; he is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, John E. and Phyllis M. Thalken of Wheatland; his daughter and son-in-law, Barbara A. and L. Paul Eastridge of Casper; five grandchildren, Katherine A. Watson and Dr. John P. Thalken both of Wheatland, Gloria L. Fiorini of Simi Valley, Calif., Gayle A. Eastridge-Revere and Carol P. Janski both of Casper; and 17 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mary Keenan of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. and Anna Murdock of Laramie, Wyo.; and one brother, Joe Thalken of Laramie.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Patricia Ann Thalken; his sister, Dorothy Thalken; and his brother, George Thalken.

A memorial to the Wheatland Bible Church or Gideons International in care of the Platte Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 816, Wheatland, Wyo. 82201 would be appreciated by the family.

Serving as pallbearers were Charles Thorne Jr., Virgil Reynolds, Glen Weber, John E. Murdock, Virgil Askren, and Jim Watson. All of his many friends serving as honorary pallbearers.

The Platte Funeral Chapel of Wheatland was in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Thalken was 92 years old and he lived not only a long life, but an incredibly interesting one. His grandson, Dr. John Thalken, told me he has many fond memories of his grandfather. He told me recently, "He was