

982 PRESTON JOHN COLVER DAVIS

Preston John Colver Davis, 70, died March 7, 1982 at the Platte County Memorial Hospital.

He was born at the family homestead on a ranch south of Wheatland Oct. 15, 1911, to Jesse and Jessie Whalen Davis. He was educated in the Wheatland school system and as a young man worked for a road construction company owned by his father. Some section of early highway which they built are still in use.

On May 28, 1952, he married Myrtle Barrett. Following the marriage, Preston worked on many ranches and farms in the area, helped construct the Cottonwood Creek Tunnel, and later worked for the Great Western Sugar Company at the firm's factories in Wheatland and Mitchell, Neb. Returning to his earlier occupation, he worked several years for the Wyoming Highway Department as a surveyor in the engineering division using modern methods instead of the horse-drawn equipment available to him in the early days of road construction.

He finally went to work for Orr's Texaco Station until illness forced his retirement in 1973.

Preston was a longtime member of the I.O.O.F. lodge and remained active even after he became ill. The lodge will honor his in a graveside memorial service.

Survivors include his wife, Myrtle Barrett Davis; two sons, Barry Preston Davis of St. Louis, Mo., and Brian Kent Davis of Randolph Township, N.J.; two sisters, Gladys Morey and Wynette Watrous, both of Cheyenne; one brother, Milton Davis of California; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Pauline McGrew; two brothers, Shirley and Harris Davis.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. by the Rev. Kenneth Saunders at the United Church of Christ.

Pallbearers will be his son, Barry Davis, and nephews, Dave Barrett, Gene, Randy, Jerry and Sid Davis.

Burial will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established to the I.O.O.F. sponsored United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth.

Schrader-Prell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.