

1994

## Gordon Arnold Drury

2-9-1994

Funeral services for Gordon Arnold Drury, 91, will be held today (Saturday, Feb. 12, 1994) at 2 p.m. at the Wheatland United Methodist Church with the Rev. Linda Barnes officiating. She will be assisted by Pastor Gordon Swedberg, Minister Andy Gudahl, and the Rev. Dr. James S. Vuocolo. Interment will follow in the Wheatland Cemetery, with graveside rites by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Paradise Lodge No. 29, and Banner Rebekah Lodge No. 16.

Mr. Drury died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1994, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland following a brief illness.

Mr. Drury was born Dec. 20, 1902, the son of James and Leora (Boner) Drury in Beloit, Kans. He was educated in rural schools. He grew up on his father's ranch and loved horses and was a good horse trainer.

He worked on ranches in Scottsbluff, Neb. He first came to Wheatland on Feb. 5, 1922 and worked on a farm/ranch operation.

In 1923, he returned to Kansas and worked in Topeka for the Fred Harvey Hotel chain. They had a restaurant and served food for passengers on trains for the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. He returned to Scottsbluff working for the Lincoln Trust Company, appraising and selling land for them.

He then moved to Emmett, Idaho, where he owned and operated a bakery and restaurant.

When the Depression hit in 1929, he had returned to Kansas and set out again for Idaho, but stopped in Wheatland to visit friends. Dave Martin was looking for a ranch hand and the first day he worked, Mr. Drury met Dave's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Geringer. The couple was married on Dec. 7, 1933.

In the fall of 1935, he purchased a used furniture store located where the Moose Lodge is now. They later built the present store with money loaned by Mr. Bovee, Shirley Bovee Shockey's grandfather.

The Drurys operated the store until 1985, just a few months short of 50 years.

Gordon was elected in 1942 to the Wheatland Town Council and served two terms.

He was elected Mayor in 1950, and served two terms -- 12 years in all on the council.

During his tenure with the council, he helped improve the cemetery, plan the street paving, instigated getting a new water well and helped improve the City Park.

He went into the auction business at the request of his brother-in-law, John Geringer, in 1942. They held farm sales, estate sales and ram sales in Casper. He attended auctioneering school in Minnesota in 1942.

He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Paradise Lodge No. 29, the Banner Rebekah Lodge No. 16, a life-long committed Christian, and member of the Wheatland United Methodist Church.

He was a past member of various business and professional organizations, and of furniture and auctioneering groups.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Christine "Elizabeth" Drury of Wheatland, and two children, Ed Drury of Vancouver, Wash., and Jeanie Reddy and her

Gilbert, Dick Schroeder, Herb Merback, Dale Tatman, Lanny Carey, Arland Childers and Hugo Lenz. Honorary pallbearers will be Wesley Wagner, Joe Smythe, John Labertew, A. Edward Kendig, Charlie Knudson and Al Childers.

A Gordon Drury Memorial Fund has been established at the Norwest Bank in Wheatland, and would be appreciated by the family. Family and friends may call at the funeral chapel on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday.

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



GORDON DRURY

## Ex-Mayor G.A. Drury dies at 91

Funeral services for Gordon A. Drury, 91, are scheduled this (Saturday) afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Wheatland United Methodist Church, with Rev. Linda Barnes officiating. She will be assisted by Pastor Gordon Swedberg, Andy Gudahl, Minister, and the Rev. Dr. James S. Vuocolo.

Mr. Drury, a long-time Wheatland resident, served two terms as Wheatland's Mayor, and served a total of 12 years on the Wheatland Town Council, from 1942 to 1954.

Drury and his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth, had operated a furniture store in Wheatland for almost 50 years, when they retired in 1985.

He is survived by his wife, two children, two grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. A