

Norman Cleveland Hanks, 74, of Wheatland, Wyo., died Jan. 6, 2006, in a work-related accident.

He was born on Sept. 14, 1931, in Jay Em, Wyo., to C. Harvey and Ruth (Hayes) Hanks. He was educated in Morris Springs rural school, and at a country school near Laramie Peak. He graduated from Wheatland High School in 1949.

Norman worked with his father at a sawmill near Laramie Peak until entering the U.S. Army in 1953. After his honorable discharge in 1955, he returned to the family sawmill operation.

On July 19, 1964, he married G. Jean Kafka in Wheatland. They began their life together at the family sawmill, and in 1970, moved onto the 75 Ranch when Norman took a job with the Bard Ranch Company. Together they raised their children, Rex and Norma, on the McFarlane Ranch, and had many happy times together enjoying ranch life.

Norman was a member of Laramie Peak VFW, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the First Christian Church. He was known for his compassion to other veterans. In 2004, he was awarded his Korean war medals, 51 years after serving his country.

He enjoyed working the ranch and being outdoors; hunting with his son each fall, spending time with his wife and family, and camping with his grandchildren and son near Laramie Peak. A true cowboy, he always loved his horses and dogs, especially Rowdy. In 2004, Norman fulfilled a lifelong dream and took a trip to Alaska with his wife to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; son Rex and wife of Glenrock, Wyo.; daughter Norma Hanks-Leonard and husband of Casper, Wyo.; and two grandchildren, Aspen and Jordan Hanks. He is also survived by four siblings: Marilyn Garrett, Neil Hanks, Tuff Hanks and Kenneth Hanks; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held Jan. 11 with interment at Wheatland Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Norman Hanks Memorial Scholarship Fund in care of Platte Valley Bank, P.O. Box 337, Wheatland, Wyo. 82201. ♦

