

Obituary

Eldon Leroy Gardner, 67

Eldon Leroy Gardner, 67, of Blackfoot, Idaho passed away October 10, 2011 following a short illness.

He was born on November 1, 1943 in Blackfoot, the sixth of eleven children of Raymond and Nina May Crow Gardner.

His upbringing on his parents' small, rocky farm was hard but happy. He was the epitome of a "people person," a good husband, father, and grandfather, ranch foreman and hunting guide.

His interests included horses, livestock, gardening, reading, and telling stories and jokes. Among his many endearing qualities was his encyclopedic memory for jokes, which he told at every appropriate opportunity.

He is survived by his wife, Christine Finkelnburg Oats and son Kyle at the home in Pocatello; by his daughters Cindy (Mark) Lach of Blackfoot, Lisa (Balaji) Chanamolu of India, and Elizabeth Oats of Bellingham, WA; and siblings Carol (Wayne) Hale of Moreland, Yvonne (Glen) Bevan of Riverside, Delsa (Carl) Allen of Pocatello, Rose (Robert) Sopher of Clearfield, Utah, Ronald (Betty) of Kuna, Patsy (Steve) Jones of Pingree, Verla Marrisseau of Mountain Home and Robert (Linda) of Mountain Home; grandchildren Felicia (Dustin) Crumley of Blackfoot, Megha and Krishna Chanamolu, and Peyton Schwinger and Cole Berry; and 2 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Evelyn (Bill) Nebeker and Effie (Dave) Waldner.

A celebration of his life will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, October 15, at the Blackfoot Elks Lodge, 123 North Ash Street. Arrangements under the direction of Hawker Funeral Home in Blackfoot. Condolences may be sent online to

condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.

