

Obituary

George Hansen Olsen, 91

Deeply loved and always remembered, George Hansen Olsen, 91, passed away at his daughters home in Sugar City, Idaho on July 8, 2010 from natural causes.

George was born October 18, 1918 in Hyrum, Utah, the eldest of seven children, the son of George Wilford Emanuel and Lillie Viola Hansen Olsen. His family moved to the Blackfoot-Thomas area when he was just a young boy, where they farmed. George graduated from high school in 1936, in a graduating class of about 12.

George married Verna M. Wallace on March 6, 1946 in Blackfoot. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Mesa Arizona LDS Temple on March 4, 1949. Their first home was in Mesa, Arizona, later they moved to Montana, where he became a cattle rancher, then moved back to Blackfoot, where they lived for 52 years. George owned and operated Olsen Salvage for 20 years, and was well known throughout Bingham County and the surrounding area, as the man to go to for auto parts and buying and selling used cars.

Throughout his life, George had many talents, one of which was being able to build anything with his hands, and he could conceive, design and engineer in his mind and apply it without writing anything down. Another great talent he had was that he had the ability to instantly strike up a conversation with every person he met. He never met a stranger. George found great pleasure in life when he was hunting, camping, traveling, teasing or playing jokes on the children. He especially loved spending time at "the family ranch" with his family.

George was active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. George and Verna served a mission in Salt Lake City, in the Family History Center in 1991-1992, where they also had the privilege of serving as Tabernacle ushers. They also served as coordinators at the Deseret Industries in Blackfoot.

George is survived by his wife, Verna of Sugar City; three children, Anette (Kenneth) Allen of Sugar City, Marlene (Keven) Balsler of Hurricane, Utah and Darwin J. (Kimberly) Olsen Sr. of Wapello; 20 grandchildren; 39 great grandchildren; three sisters, Margaret Butt, Marvella McBride and Rosella Coleman; and a brother, Alvin Olsen.

George is preceded in death by his parents; sons, Dewayne and Carl; sister, Beth Olsen Gravatt; and brother, Leland. The family would like to express profound gratitude to Hands of Hope Hospice for the love, respect, support and great care that was given to George and family.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at the Wapello LDS Church. Family will meet with friends and relatives from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2010 at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue in Blackfoot, and for one hour prior to services at the church. Interment will follow the services at the Grove City Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to the family at condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.

