

Obituary

Darwin Bailey Wixom, 82



Darwin Bailey Wixom, 82, of Blackfoot, Idaho passed away peacefully on April 21, 2010, following complications from surgery. Darwin, the son of Justin Ira Wixom and Susan Bailey Wixom, was born on June 1, 1927 in Blackfoot Idaho. He attended grade school in Groveland and Blackfoot. He left high school at the age of 14, to care for his mother when his father passed away, but later returned and graduated. After he graduated, he taught himself drafting through a correspondence course.

Darwin married Vestle Michelson on April 16, 1955. Vestle was working at the Bon Ton in Blackfoot at the time. When Darwin came in, Gus Morris, the owner, pointed at Darwin and said “Vestle, you need to catch the short guy—he’s a rich one”. She did, and while he wasn’t rich materially, all of us found him rich in every other way.

Darwin managed his mother’s farm in Groveland until he and Vestle married. He worked several years for Albertsons, first in Blackfoot and then in Burley Idaho. He and Vestle moved back to Blackfoot and he worked at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for thirty-six years, first as a draftsman and then as a boiler operator, x-ray technician, and in document control and management. His favorite employment was working the gate at the Eastern Idaho State Fair for the past 20 years. He was active in the community, serving as a member of the Blackfoot Historical Society and the Groveland Cemetery Board.

Darwin was an award winning gardener, and an expert woodworker. His favorite times were spent with his four children, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He loved visiting new places and having new experiences. Some of his favorite memories were hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon (at the age of 64), cruising through the Hawaiian Islands with Vestle, and traveling to Mexico.

Darwin was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and served as an Elder.

He is survived by his wife, Vestle Wixom; sister, Lola Herres, Groveland, and his four children, Michael Bailey Wixom (Heidi), Las Vegas, Nevada, Pamela Ann Wixom-Cornett (Brian), Blackfoot, Bart Wixom, Denver, Colorado (Reggie), and Sandra Perschon (Steve), Blackfoot. His parents and ten brothers and sisters preceded him in death.

Darwin’s greatest legacy was his example. From the age of 14, he cared for others—first his mother, then his family, and then his brothers and sisters when they were ill. He will be loved and missed, but always remembered for his generosity, his kindness, his service to others, and his smile.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Hawker Funeral Home, 132 S. Shilling Ave., Blackfoot, Idaho with Jerry Wixom conducting. The family will meet with friends from 6-8 p.m. on Friday evening at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service.

Interment will be in the Groveland Cemetery.

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