

Obituaries

James (Jack) Duane Cook

Oct. 20, 1930 - Aug. 4, 2008
Jack Duane Cook died at the Grace Manor Care Center in Burlington, Colo., on Aug. 4, 2008, at the age of 77.

Jack was born on Oct. 20, 1930, to Grover and Emma (Harrington) Cook on the family farm south of St. Francis, Kan., in the Neville neighborhood. Jack never attended school but he learned to drive the farm vehicles and tractors and was a great help on the farm. Jack loved hoeing weeds, watering, mowing and always had a desire to live in a trailer in Denver.

After his mother's death in 1987, he went to live in a group home at Dynamic Dimensions in Burlington where he loved going on the group outings and especially loved playing bingo and going bowling. While there he worked crushing cans and mowing lawns. In 1998, after a fall, he went to live at Grace Manor Care Center until his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Grover and Emma Cook; brother, Robert; sisters, Kathleen Cook, Bernadine Winters and Anita McGowan; brothers-in-law, Ralph McGowan and Owen Dando and niece, Charlene McGowan.

He is survived by sisters, Betty Smith and husband, R.B. of Burlington, Doris Stuhlmiller and husband, Junius, of Denver, Colo., and Jan Dando of Surfers Paradise, Australia, and brother-in-law, Charles Winters of Lockport, N.Y.; many cousins, nieces, nephews as well as great-nieces and -nephews and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, Aug. 8, at Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis, with Pastor

Jeff Landers officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Grace Manor staff and Dynamic staff and friends.

Casket bearers were Mike Smith, Ron Kowalski, Dan Stuhlmiller, Royce Cook, Stan Warman and Joe Warman.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Haddon Walter Leibbrandt

Sept. 22, 1924 - Aug. 5, 2008
Haddon "Lee" Leibbrandt was born Sept. 22, 1924. He was the youngest of four children born to John and Katherine (Raile) Leibbrandt at the family farm 10 miles west of St. Francis, Kan. He died at Life Care Center of Aurora, Colo., on Aug. 5, 2008.

He attended elementary school at East Gurney and graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1942, where he was a two-time state wrestler.

He enlisted in the Merchant Marines in Denver in November 1944, where they delivered high test aviation fuel and airplane parts to various ships in the Pacific Theater. He saw service in Saipan, Antiwotoc, Luzon, Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines and finally, Okinawa. Haddon was honorably discharged at Richmond, Calif., in August 1947.

Haddon married Joyce Metzler in May of 1948. For the next nine years, he was engaged in farming, and they became parents of three of their five children. In 1957, they moved to the Denver area. He began working in the electrical industry and joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He worked in commer-

cial and industrial construction, both locally and across the entire country.

During this time, two more children were born, and he maintained farming operations in Kansas on weekends and during summers. He remained actively involved in farming throughout his entire life, and retired from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1989, after more than 30-years of service.

Haddon's recreational passion was Bronco football, and he became a season-ticket holder the same year that John Elway joined the Broncos. The back-to-back Super Bowl Championships were the highlight of his sporting enthusiasm.

Haddon was a member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of his marriage, and then became a member of the First United Methodist Church when the two churches merged. He later transferred membership to the Burns United Methodist Church, and finally to the Denver First Church of the Nazarene, where he remained a member until his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant sister, Delphine; older brothers, Robert and Raymond; grandson, Kerry Girardin, Jr.; and daughter-in-law, Danette Leibbrandt.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce; daughter, Evelyne (Chris) Padilla; son, Russell (Joan) Leibbrandt; daughter, Marji (Terry) Randall; daughter, Kerry (David) Wolpo; son, John Leibbrandt; grandchildren, Mikki, Melissa, Rachel, Austin, Ashira and Benjamin; great-grandson,

Dominic; sister-in-law, Gladys Leibbrandt and nephew, Robert Jr. (Barbara) Leibbrandt.

A graveside service with military honors followed by interment was held on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at St. Francis Cemetery in St. Francis with Pastor David Butler as officiant.

Pallbearers were Russell Leibbrandt, John Leibbrandt, Terry Randall, David Wolpo. Doug Barnhart and Rod Kling.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Newcomer Family Funeral Home, East Metro Chapel in Aurora, Colo., officiated by Chaplain Houston Lewis.

Donations can be made in Haddon's name to Colorado Cancer Research, 2253 S. Oneida St., 3rd Floor Suite B, Denver, CO 80224 or The Denver Hospice, 501 S. Cherry St., Suite 700, Denver, CO 80246.

Arrangements were made by Knodel Funeral Home and Newcomer Family Funeral Home.

Nannie Blanche Draper

July 6, 1919 - Aug. 8, 2008
Nannie Blanche Draper, 89, died Friday, Aug. 8, 2008, at Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman, Neb.

She was born July 6, 1919, in Davie County, N. C., the daughter of Samuel Wesley and Lola Elizabeth (Cook) Ellis.

Blanche moved with her family from North Carolina to Nebraska in 1920 by train, and lived on a farm northwest of Benkelman with her family. She attended country school near her home.

On Oct. 4, 1946, Blanche was united in marriage to Raymond Donald Draper at St. Francis, Kan. They settled on a small farm southwest of Benkelman. To this union seven children were born, three sons and four daughters.

Blanche spent most of her life on the farm, raising her children, doing farm chores, working in her flower garden and doing her Ellis and Draper genealogy.

After Raymond's death in 1991, Blanche stayed on the farm for two more years before moving into her home in Benkelman. After living two years in town, her health began to decline. She then retired to the Hester Memorial Home, where she enjoyed spending time with the other residents.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Samuel and Lola Ellis; her husband, Raymond Draper; three brothers; one sister; eight

brothers-in-law; five sisters-in-law; three grandsons, Jason Draper, Joey Turner and Kevin Brown and one great-granddaughter, Cassandra Eckhoff.

Survivors include her children, Wesley Draper of Benkelman, Clyde Draper of Crawford, Neb.; Frankie Draper of Benkelman, Elizabeth Semler and husband, Clifford, of St. Francis, Donna Draper of Bird City, Alma Draper of Benkelman, Barbara Brown and husband, Mark, of St. Francis; 17 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; two sisters; one brother; two brothers-in-law; three sisters-in-law; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at Forch Funeral Chapel in Benkelman with Reverend Brian Fong officiating.

Casket bearers were Wesley Draper, Frank Draper, Clifford Semler, Mark Brown, Brent Whittington and Cody Semler.

Honorary casket bearers were all of Blanche's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Interment followed at the Benkelman Cemetery in Benkelman Cemetery.

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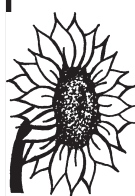


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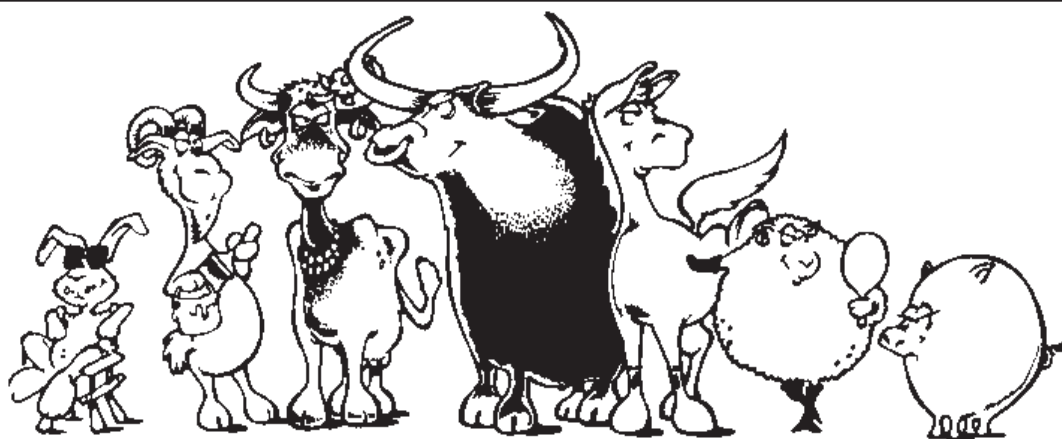
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