

# Obituaries

## Ervin DeRoy Rogers

April 19, 1928 - Jan. 29, 2013

Ervin DeRoy Rogers 84, of St. Francis, Kan., was born on April 19, 1928, on a farm in rural Cheyenne County, Kan. He died on Tuesday Jan. 29, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Goodland, Kan.

Ervin spent his life farming and ranching in Cheyenne and Sherman Counties, KS. When Ervin began farming, agriculture was in a time of transition. Tractors were a new technology, and farming practices were evolving. Open cab tractors and pull type combines were what Ervin began farming with, and as farming implements and practices evolved so did Ervin. He was always quick to help a neighbor in need, be it plowing a field or working calves.

On February 3, 1946 Ervin married Edith Roberson. Family was important to Ervin. He enjoyed spending time with his children, his grandchildren, and later his great grandchildren. Ervin was

always generous with a box of candies that was never far from his reach. He enjoyed socializing with his family and his friends.

Ervin was preceded in death by parents Glenn and Minna Rogers, brothers Dale, Floyd, Martin and Roy; and sister Edna Ostrand-er.

Ervin is survived by his wife Edith, daughters Sandra Pershall (Gary) Yukon Ok.; Ervienna Lynn Bigwood (Gary) Toronto Canada, son Rick Rogers (Linda) St. Francis Kansas.

Grandchildren Sara Craig (Brandon) Oologah, Oklahoma; Greg Pershall (fiancee Somer Presley) Moore, Oklahoma; Shawn Rogers New York City, Dallas Michelle



Rogers

Friedli (Larry) Hope, Kansas; Bobby Bigwood (Tiffany Wall) Winnipeg Manitoba Canada; Shannon Sieman (Mike) of Winnipeg Manitoba Canada. Great Grandchildren Caylin and Payton Craig; Sydney, Amelia and Hadley Friedli; Alex Pershall; Logan Presley; Brayden, Tye, Bryn, Sunny and Leif Sieman and Kara Wall.

Brother Harland Rogers (Jo Ford) St. Francis, Kansas and sister Vera Fortmeyer Wichita, Kansas.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 PM CST on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis, Kansas.

Interment in St. Francis cemetery, pastor Rev. Warren L. Cico officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cheyenne County Hospital, United Methodist Church, or Hospice.

## Leo Ward Wiley

Sept. 30, 1924 - Feb. 7, 2013

Leo Ward Wiley died on Feb. 7, 2013, at the age of 88. He was born on Sept. 30, 1924, to Ernest and Agnes (Klie) Wiley.

Ward grew up on the family farm near Hale, Colo., with brothers, Ray and Royce. He attended Browning Grade School and graduated from Armel High School in 1942.

As a man, Ward loved the land. He was enriched by all the beauty and Majesty that God gave him to enjoy. He was a devoted farmer and rancher and took pride in his life's work.

As a husband, he adored his beautiful bride of 68 years. Ward started dating the love of his life, Vaudie Jones, in their junior year of high school. Their first date was to the junior prom banquet and then to a movie in Wray.

Ward and Vaudie were married Jan. 14, 1945, at the Methodist Church in St. Francis, Kan.

As a father, he knew how lucky

he was to have three loving daughters, Patricia, Susan and Sally.

In 1984, Ward and Vaudie moved to Burlington, Colo., and he continued to farm and ranch until retiring in 1996. They enjoyed volunteering at the Colorado Welcome Center and traveling. Some of his greatest joys came from visiting with friends and neighbors, usually over a cup of coffee, playing pinocle and, of course, getting to spend time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ward and Vaudie delighted in attending their 4-H and FFA activities, sporting events, music programs and plays.

Ward was a proud member of the St. Francis Masonic Lodge 404 and was honored to receive his 65-year certificate from the Grand Lodge of Kansas.

Ward and Vaudie moved to Wheatridge in Goodland in 2010 and then to Greeley in July of 2012.

Ward was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and son-in-law, Steve Knodel.

He is survived by his wife, Vaudie, daughters, Patricia Meyer and husband, Les, of Greeley, Sally Parker and husband, Brett of Burlington, and Susan Knodel of Idalia; sisters-in-law, Dolores Wiley of St. Francis, and JoAnne Wiley of Burlington; six grandchildren six and a half great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis with Pastor Warren Cico officiating. Casket bearers were Reed Parker, Gale Wiley, Robin Wiley, Charles Bandel, Jeff Raile, Dave Smith, Kent Wiley and Keith Wiley. Burial was in the Armel Cemetery, Armel, Colo.

Arrangements were made by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

## Robert Leland Miller

March 10, 1926 - Jan. 30, 2013

Robert Leland Miller was born on a farm west of St. Francis on March 10, 1926, to Henry and Lena (Schlepp) Miller. Robert had one brother and three sisters: Lucille, Lorine, Burdette and Josephine.

He was married to Marjorie Walter in 1947. Their children are Ronald, Sharilynn, Lou Ann, Joy and Jon Marc.

After farming for six years, he

followed his calling into Christian ministry, while a member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. He was ordained in 1960 and served a number of churches in Nebraska.

Robert died Jan. 30, 2013, with his family at his side in Lincoln, Neb. His memorial service was held at Calvary United Methodist Church on Monday morning Feb. 4.

Rev. Marvin Zimbelman opened the service with a brief message, remembering how he and Robert grew up in the little country church, the Salem Evangelical Church.

Sandra Bandel, Robert's niece, read a message that had been sent to Lincoln, to be shared at their memorial service. "What a Friend We have in Jesus" a favorite hymn, was sung. Scripture was read by Marvin and His celebration was closed with a prayer.

Arrangements were made by Knodel Funeral Home.

At the same hour, a celebration of life was held at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. Close family members and friends had a private service; since many could not travel to Lincoln.

On the memorial table the Veterans book opened to the page with Robert's story as a paratrooper, along with the photo in his Army uniform, other items on display were family pictures.

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## Alvernon Sparky Nolan

July 3, 1923 - Jan. 28, 2013

Alvernon Harold (Sparky) Nolan died Jan. 28, 2013, in the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis. He was 89 years old.

Alvernon Harold was born on a farm 3 1/2 miles northwest of McCook, Neb., July 3, 1923, to Myrtle Rose (Traphagan) and Vernon (Vern) Nolan. In the fall of 1923, Vern bought the Ford garage in Herndon and moved his young family there where Sparky earned his nickname. Most people were familiar with the name Sparky.

Sparky attended Herndon grade school and high school where he graduated in 1941. He attended one year at Fort Hays State College in Hays.

Harold learned to hunt with Vern at a very early age and got to be a very good shot. Being the son of a car dealer, he learned to drive at an early age and got his first drivers license at the age of 13. Rose and Vern took their family with them where ever they traveled. So Sparky learned to enjoy traveling at a young age.

On Dec. 7 1942, Sparky and his friend Virgil Bobinmeyer enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Denver, Colo. They went through boot camp in Fairgut, Idaho just south of the Canadian border.

After boot camp, Virgil and Sparky were split up and Sparky transferred into the Navy Seabee's. He was stationed in a ships company at Perry, Va. and here he learned that is mother Rose died at the age of 45. Sparky was then transferred to the 28th Special Stevedor Battalion on Camp Orndard, Calif. And then went on to Hawaii.

His crew was a special crew. They unloaded the most dangerous and complicated cargos like bombs, torpedoes, TNT, tanks and

other heavy equipment.

From Hawaii the 28th loaded up and took off for the South Pacific. The 28th ended up in the Samar Islands in the Philippines.

Sparky's company D, ended up on the little island of Manni, Kanne, as the war progressed to Japan. They set up a floating ship repair out W.S. T. and landing craft. The 28th was then sent to Japan and they reached Yokohama. Here the 28th was split up and Sparky was transferred to the 34th Special Construction battalion. The 34th battalion set up shop at a submarine base and worked out of there. On Feb. 11, 1946, Harold was honorably discharged from the Navy at Shoemaker, Calif.

Sparky met his first wife, Charlotte Jeauanne Couse, in St. Francis. They were married on Aug. 8, 1946 in the backyard of Harold and Edna Couse. They made their home in St. Francis until Jeauanne contracted cancer and died Nov. 12, 1971. To this union, two children were born, Steven Michael and Susan Rose (Johnson).

On July 28, 1973, Alvernon Harold Nolan and Eileen Whitmore Cook were united in marriage at the First Christian Church. Pastor John Bartlett officiated. They had a small family wedding reception at Sparky's home in St. Francis. They lived in Wray, Colo. while Eilene was employed as a school counselor and Sparky continued to farm in Cheyenne county. When Eilene retired from teaching, they moved back to St. Francis. During slack farming times, they both enjoyed traveling with friends, going fishing in the mountains, and attending Sparky's 28th Seabee reunions.

He belonged to the First Christian Church and the following or-

ganizations; Lodge404 of the Free and Accepted Masons. Sparky had just received his 60 year pin in Sept. 2012. He was also a member of the Eastern Star where he was Worthy Patron twice. Sparky was a member of the Goodland Elks, V. F. W. and Hospice Group.

Sparky loved life. He wanted everyone to get along in this world. He was the kind of guy who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. Sparky was considerate to all and had many friends, It made no difference whether they were rich or poor. He loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Jeauanne in 1971, his parents Rose and Vern Nolan and Vern's second wife Elizabeth (Zimbelman) Nolan, a baby brother Arnold, his brother in law Elmer Tonish, Step-parents Lyle and Lila Whitmore, step-sister-in-law, Deloris Elijah, Step granddaughter Jenny Cook and a host of friends.

He leaves to mourn his children, Steve Michael Nolan and wife Lynette, Susan Rose Johnson, and husband Maurice, his second wife Eilene Nolan, step-sons Lyle Cook JR. Mike Cook, and step daughters Sherri Ledbetter and Kristi Dillehay. Sparky had a total of 28 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Christian Church in St. Francis, on Tuesday Feb. 12 with Pastor Jeff Landers officiating. Knodel funeral home conducted the memorial service. Memorials will go to the First Christian Church and the Cheyenne County Hospital.

# Cheylin seventh grader wins county spelling bee

Cheylin seventh grader, Alexandra Hazuka, came away winning the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee. Matthison Witzel, St. Francis seventh grader was in the final six.

This was the first time Cheylin has won the bee in 10 years. The last winner was Vanessa Antholz in 2003.

The spelling bee was held Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Cheylin schools in Bird City.

Students, fourth through eighth

grade, participated with the top three spellers in each. The last two words in the spelling bee were "incredible" and "diverge."

It was a tight competition, said Anita Pochop, who conducted the bee.

Those students participating from St. Francis were:

Fourth grade: Jasper Hunt, Keigan Taylor, Jade Ketzner and alternate, Brody Kaup.

Fifth grade: Kaitlyn Patton,

Hannah Zimbal, Audrey Meyer and alternate, Perla Yanez.

Sixth grade: Tayton Weeter, Connor Keller and Wyatt Hilt.

Seventh grade: Raegan Beims, Devin Patton and Matthison Witzel.

Eighth grade: Sophie White, Katie Schmid and McKayla Rogers.

Alexandra will travel to the state spelling bee in Hays on March 2.

## Elvera V. Neitzel

Aug. 17, 1928 - Feb. 7, 2013

Elvera V. Neitzel, long-time Cheyenne County resident, died Feb. 7, 2013, at Goodland, Kan. She was born on Aug. 17, 1928, on the family farm west of St. Francis, Kan., the daughter of Henry John and Christina Walz Richers.

She was educated in Cheyenne County schools, graduating from St. Francis high school in 1946. She was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran faith, last attending St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City.

In 1947, she married Harry J. Neitzel, Jr. This union was blessed with the birth of two children, Gary Allen and Glenda Rae.

The family engaged in farming south of Wheeler until 1993 when Harry died. Elvera continued managing the farm until 2010 when her health declined and she needed constant care.

Elvera was a good helpmate to Harry, a hard-working farm wife, and a loving mother to their children. She loved God, her family, her farm, flowers, butterflies, baking and the color purple.


She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry, father and mother, Henry and Christina Richers, sisters, Viola (Bert) Wright, Arlene Bruder, Adele (Martin) Locke, Norma (Chet) Pizel, brothers, Herman (Clara) Richers, Albert (Doris) Richers, and sister-in-law, Dody Richers.

She is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Ladell Neitzel and granddaughter, Andrea Neitzel; daughter and son-in-law, Glenda and Bill Carter; brother, Dr. Elmer Richers, brother-in-law, Don Bruder; sister-in-law, June Richers; brother and sister-in-law, Fred and Ruth Maxwell, and sister-in-law, Joyce Neitzel, several nieces and nephews, and special friend, Bethel Goltl.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Knodel Fu-

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