

Obituaries

William Carl Neitzel

July 30, 1942 - March 2, 2003

William Carl Neitzel or Billy was born in St. Francis, Kan., July 30, 1942, to Alice Walter Neitzel and Glen Neitzel. Bill was baptized Aug. 30, 1942, at the Cheyenne Valley Lutheran Church and confirmed March 25, 1956, at Zion Lutheran Church.

Bill attended Prairie View 23 county school and graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1960. After a short time at Kansas State University, he returned to his beloved farm. Bill was in the Army Reserve and did his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

To Bill the family and farm was one and the same. He raised his kids, Todd, Tricia, Tadd, Tim and Tara to be self sufficient, honest, independent and hard working. His kids never understood why that if they wrecked a car, not a word was said, but if they forgot an oil change or damaged equipment the wrath was great! The favorite punishment was sweeping the Quonset.

Bill enjoyed visiting with people and telling stories. His laugh was infectious. He spent hours working on his computer studying the weather, farm issues and doing book work. He never wanted to be anything but a farmer. As a youngster he followed his dad around the farm learning as he went. His least favorite memory was riding an old D John Deere tractor when he was not big enough to work the clutch.

Bill lived for the farm. He enjoyed trying innovative farming practices. He was a skilled creative mechanic and welder and taught his boys these skills. Bill was a hard worker and expected the same from his family.

Family trips usually involved looking at a piece of equipment or attending a farm show or sale. He taught his kids driving skills early, first in the field and then on the road so they could drive while he snoozed. Bill especially enjoyed shopping at a farm sale, flea market or shopping mall. He studied his selections and enjoyed getting a "good deal."

He loved giving gifts and spent hours hunting just the right toy for his grandkids. For Christmas he gave his son-in-law an electric guitar because he said he "really" wanted one. Bill never had hobbies but he was proud of his 69 Dodge Charger and had hoped to restore a 61 Chevy. He had a special affection for his hired man, Blake Krien.

Bill died at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, on March 2, 2003, after a six-week battle following heart surgery.

Along with his wife Karen he is survived by his children Todd Neitzel and wife, Tracy, Tricia Ramsey and husband, Brad, Tadd Neitzel, Tim Neitzel and Tara Neitzel; grandchildren, Alex Ramsey, Regan Ramsey and Colton Neitzel. Bill also leaves his dad, Glen Neitzel; sisters, Barbara Atha, and Karen Sutter and her husband, Walt; his two nephews, Carl Pearson and Bryan Sutter and a niece Gwen Saylor.

Bill Neitzel was a big man; he had a big laugh, a big voice, a big passion for his farm, big dreams and a big love for his family. His passing will leave a big void in their hearts.

Funeral services were held on March 6 at the Peace Lutheran Church with Pastor David Rossbach and Marcine Farmer PMA officiating.

Casket bearers were Gary

Yonkey, Tom Bandel, Bill Cole, Leslie Doggett, Laverne Boll, Randy Andrist, Junior Knorr, Kenny Bracelin.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

David Ramsey

April 24, 1943 - Feb. 24, 2003

David Ramsey was born on April 24, 1943, in Mount Hope, W.V. He was born to John and Lilet Mae Ramsey and was the second oldest of six brothers.

Dave joined the Army at a young age. In 1976, he married Donna Schauer and had his first and only child, Shawn. During his tenure in the military he spent time in Germany, Korea and served three tours in Vietnam. While serving in the Army, Dave received awards which included: two bronze stars, a National Defense Service medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, a Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, a Combat Infantryman Badge, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and two Purple Hearts. After serving in the Army for over 20 years, Dave retired at Fort Carson, Colo., in 1985.

Several years after retiring health problems arose. After battling these health problems for many years, Dave died Feb. 24, 2003, at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dave is survived by his wife, Donna; son, Shawn; daughter-in-law, Sara; brothers, Brent, Curtis, Lewis, Monty and Steve; mother-in-law, Alice Schauer; sister-in-law, Carol Trembly and family; and brother-in-law, Ed Schauer.

Everyone who knew Dave remembers his great sense of humor, compassion for people, love for reading, and his dedication to the Denver Broncos. He will truly be missed.

A memorial service was held at Disabled American Veterans in Colorado Springs with graveside services at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, Colo.

Dola Burgess

May 9, 1923 - March 6, 2003

Dola Burgess was born on May 9, 1923, to George and Minnie Murray in Sterling, Colo. After Dola's birth they relocated to Bird City, Kan., and soon after, they moved to St. Francis where Dola spent most of her life.

She attended school in St. Francis until she was old enough to be a waitress. As times were hard and she

quit school to help with expenses. While her mother was sewing at the courthouse, she was introduced to Everett Novel, through Everett's mother. Everett started courting her and they were soon married in 1943. To this union Walt Novel was born. This marriage was soon to end.

In February of 1947, she married Elmer O'Leary in Atwood. Into this marriage Elmer brought a son Gary. Elmer and Dola had three children, first a son, Francis O'Leary and then two daughters Darla and Linda. Elmer and Dola spent most of their years together on a farm northeast of Wheeler. Many nights were spent singing and playing the guitar. Since television came later, it was a pleasant way to spend an evening. Dola also enjoyed reading to the kids and gardening. On the day of President Kennedy's assassination they sold their farm and bought the Streamline Motel and Cafe. Dola and Elmer divorced after 20 years of marriage.

After a few years, she was to meet Don Burgess and they were married in the fall of 1970. Dola's marriage to Don lasted but a short time.

Dola became a member of the Church of Christ. She loved the church and felt like she had finally found her calling. Later Dola was to move to the Good Samaritan Village which was her final home. Whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks didn't know Dola. At the Village, she found the hobby of playing her favorite game of solitaire on the computer and she found out that there is no cheating on the computer. She was also good at crocheting, knitting and gardening.

After fighting many medical problems, she died on March 6, 2003.

Dola is preceded in death by her parents, her brother Irish and stepson Gary O'Leary.

She is survived by her four children: Walt Novel, of Washington State; Francis O'Leary and Darla Walz of St. Francis and Linda Boger of Denver, Colo. She had eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held March 11 at the Church of Christ in St. Francis with Reverend Norman Morrow officiating.

Casket bearers were Dale Weeks, Sean Straub, Dave Roberson, Lonnie Willis, Ron Krien and Darrel Johnson.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.



KATELYN JONES gets ready to give her demonstration at the County 4-H days held Saturday at the St. Francis High School.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

St Francis Herald Forecast Mar 12th - Mar 18th

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
67/39	68/42	72/45	74/45	70/42	70/43	65/45

Normal High 53 Sunrise 7:04 to 6:54am
Normal Low 25 Sunset 6:51 to 6:57pm

The Spring equinox is right around the corner. Notice that by March 17 the length of day will be twelve hours. The normal daytime temperatures are nudging up by 2 to 3 degrees a week now. Temperatures this week will be well above normal, reaching the middle 70s over the weekend. It is also going to be dry. No significant rain is expected until next week. Is there going to be any more snow this year? Undoubtedly there will be a chance for a little more snow. After all, this is only March and we will not be out of the woods until May. But until then, this is a wonderful week to inhale the smells of Spring and enjoying the warmth that it brings.

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Wed., March 19
Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M.
210 W. 1st • 332-2104

Thur., March 20
Atwood - A.M.
Colby - P.M.
CSMC, 175 S. Range
462-3332
CMC, 100 E. College Dr.
462-7511

Fri., March 21
Atwood - All Day

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2002 Chevrolet Tahoe
4x4, charcoal gray, 3rd seat, cloth bench seat, CD player, 13,000 miles.



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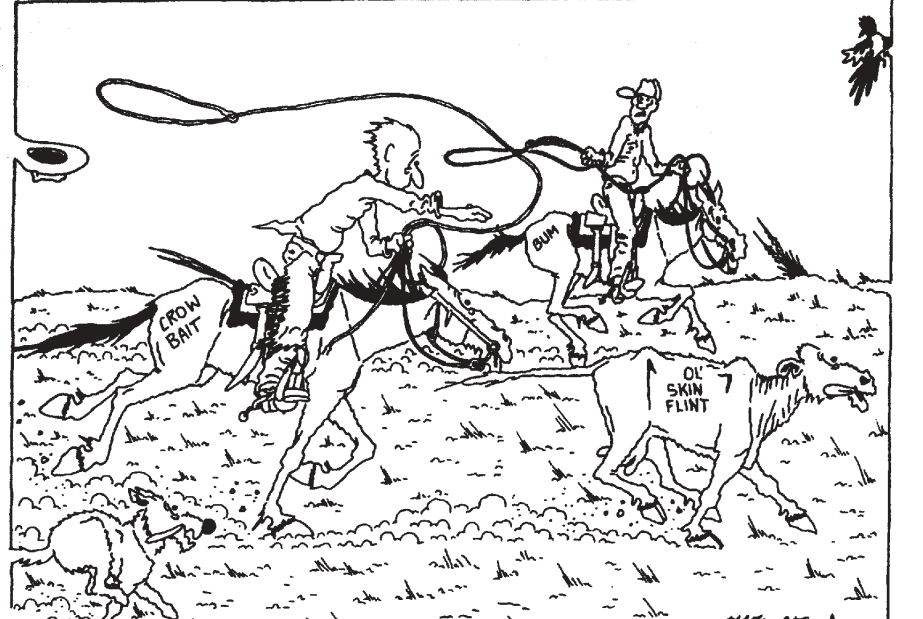
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