

Obituaries

Gary Eldon Brown

June 25, 1945 - Nov. 8, 2005



Brown

Gary Eldon Brown was born June 25, 1945, in Wray, Colo., and died at the age of 60 years on Nov. 8, 2005. He was the son of Maxine and Eldon "Bus" Brown. Gary and his sister Shirley and brother Jerry were the third generation to live on the family farm south of Haigler, Neb.

The family later moved to Wellington, Colo., where Gary graduated from high school in 1963. He was known by classmates as "Charlie Brown the Class Clown" because of his good nature and joking manner. Not only did he enjoy a good laugh, but also had a good time playing sports. In fact, he set the Colorado state track record for the 1 mile during his senior year.

On June 26, 1965, Gary married Helen Schnug. In 1969 they moved back to the Haigler area where Gary worked for several farmers and ranchers before buying his own farm. Later he joined the St. Francis Equity Coop where he worked for 21 years. Gary was a hard worker and put his heart and soul into the task at hand.

During their 40-year marriage he and Helen had five daughters: Christy, Connie, Colleen, Cherilynn and Caryn. Gary was a big softy when it came to his girls, sending flowers or doing something special for them when not expected. Years later he would also enjoy time spoiling his grandkids.

Gary was a man who loved spending time with family. Many memories are left of holiday dinners and Sunday afternoons of fried chicken and football, followed by a long nap.

Gary's favorite past times were farming, hunting and socializing with friends. The family's memories of Gary are of a man they all loved very much; they laughed with, worked beside and will fondly remember forever.

Gary is preceded in death by his parents, Bus and Maxinne Brown and his infant daughter Cherilynn.

He leaves to mourn, his wife Helen of 40 years; daughters: Christy and husband, Geary Rocca of Chandler, Ariz.; Connie Brown of St. Francis, Colleen Brown and special friend, Christopher Mathewson of Chandler, Ariz.; Caryn and Adam Torrance of Wray, Colo.; grandchildren: Darin Brown, Mallory and Taylor O'Leary, Austin and Kaitlyn Torrance; sister Shirley Schuh and husband, John of Fort Collins, Colo.; brother Jerry and wife, Verna Brown of Bridgeport, Neb.; many uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 14 at Zion Lutheran Church, Haigler, with Pastor Chris Farmer officiating.

Casket bearers were John Brunswig, Steve Workman, Tom Stevens, Roger Faulkender, Roger

Samler, Dwight Faylor, Shawn Blanka and Dave Meyer.

Interment was in the Haigler Cemetery.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Ella K. Barry

Sept. 20, 1918 - Nov. 6, 2005

Ella K. Barry was born Sept. 20, 1918, to Frank and Blanche Syme Barry on the family farm in Lawn Ridge Township, 11 miles south of St. Francis. Ella lived on the farm for 70 years.

Her brother, Elmer, died in 1982; her brother, Mark, died in 1989, and her sister, Alice, died in 2003. After the death of her brother, Mark, in 1989, Ella and her sister, Alice, left the farm and lived in the home in St. Francis. The farm was in the Barry name for 90 years.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 14 at the St. Francis Catholic Church. The Celebrant was Father Roger Meitl.

Casket bears were John Kite, Roger Douthit, Walter Douthit, Dave Robertson, Melvin Confer and Sam Miller.

Interment was in the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery, Wheeler.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Alvin George Holzwarth

Sept. 8, 1920 - Nov. 12, 2005

Alvin George Holzwarth was born Sept. 8, 1920, to George and Julia Orth Holzwarth in the family's sod house west of Saint Francis. He was the eighth child of 11 and was baptized in the Evangelical Church located just a short distance from the family home. He attended the Smith Country School for eight years.

On March 8, 1946, he was united in marriage to Marie Weeden. They were blessed with one son, Delroy Lee.

After Alvin's parents retired, he and Marie lived on the farm. Alvin was a farmer all his life - he was happy just driving his tractor with his dog riding beside him. He was always an optimist, when one crop year failed he always thought next year would be better. He liked to garden and delighted in picking the first tomato each year. Alvin enjoyed the simple life, from farm sales to his animals, to country living.

He loved people, especially little kids. Alvin was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He was a long-time member of the Cherry Creek election board, spending long days working elections. He attended the Evangelical Church with his family all his growing up years. When the Zion Evangelical Church was moved to town he and Marie joined. He pushed wheelbarrows of cement to build the foundation of this church. The church has always been an important part of their lives.

In the year 2000, Alvin suffered a stroke which left him physically and speech impaired, but his mind was always good. He never complained and went on to live life the best he could. He and Marie were looking forward to celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in March 2006.

Alvin didn't express his feelings verbally but he was very proud of his son Delroy and liked to tell people all about his son's school restaurant. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren were very special to him and their visits meant a lot.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Lillie Schurickt, Bertha DeGood and Mona Soehner; brothers, Leonard and Haddon Holzwarth, one niece, one nephew, and six great nieces and nephews.

He leaves to hold dear his memory his wife, Marie; son, Delroy and wife, Kathy; grandchildren, Mylee and Jon Bell of Amarillo, Texas, Darin and Suzanne Clapper of Waynoka, Okla., Kama and Phillip Brune of Joplin, Mo., Shamryn Holzwarth of Haysville and Joshua Holzwarth of Scottsdale, Ariz; great-grandchildren, Ashley Clapper, Justie Bell, Hannah Tubbs, Ethan Brune, Casey and Cody Asche, and Christopher and Nickolas Brune; sisters, Amelia Banister, Viola Jones, Helen Sykes and Lucile and her husband, Albert Zimelman; brother, Ted and his wife, Margaret Holzwarth; brother-in-law, Gaylen and Dorothy Weeden; sisters-in-law, Margaret Gorklinsky and Audrey Mooney, and brother-in-law, Coy and Neva DeGood, along with many nieces and nephews who were all very special to him.

There is also a host of friends who meant so much to him, especially his pool hall friends who were so good to him, and his friends at "the office." And his friend, Harold, without whom Alvin couldn't have kept his beloved farm going.

Funeral services were held Nov. 12, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Leonard Ochsner, Raymond Zimelman, Manson Jones, Harold Madsen, Bobby McDanel, Jack L. Weinstein, Dave Roberson, Delmont Price, Marlin Rueb.

Casket bearers were Joshua Holzwarth, Lanny DeGood, George Banister, Darin Clapper, Rick Zimelman, Kent Banister.

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

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Across the years I walked with you in deep great wheat and pastures too.

And now your time on earth is through.

Edith Irene Ross Moore

March 9, 1909 - Aug. 21, 2005

Edith Moore of Avon Park, Fla., died Aug. 21, 2005, in Avon Park. She was born on March 9, 1909, in Hotchkiss, Colo., to Seth and Kate (Milligan) Ross.

She remembered coming to Kansas by covered wagon in June of 1916. It took 21 days for them to

arrive at their destination in Wheeler.

Edith moved to Avon Park in 1994, and was a member of the Avon Park First United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard; sons, Willard, Ross, Delmer and Donald and their wives.

She is survived by her daughter, Colleen Kimball of Avon Park, and seven grandchildren and their families.

She will be missed by her family and her many friends at Reflections on Silver Lake and at her church as well as all of her family and friends in the St. Francis area.

A memorial service was held at the Avon Park First United Methodist Church on Friday, Nov. 5, and a graveside service was held at the St. Francis Cemetery on Friday, Nov. 18. Her remains were buried in the family plot next to her husband, Leonard.

Mildred Marie Sperry

Jan. 15, 1917 - Nov. 15, 2005

Mildred Marie (Griffith) Sperry was born on Jan. 15, 1917, in Densmore, (Norton County), Kan., to Ross David and Mary (Thomas) Griffith. She died Nov. 15, 2005, in Olathe at the age of 88 years and 10 months.

The oldest of four children, she was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, one brother and by her husband of 62 years, Carl Sperry, on Nov. 18, 1999.

Mildred was raised on a farm in Norton County until age 9 when her family moved to Portland, Ore., for two years, then returned to Edmond where she graduated from high school in 1935.

She was active in high school playing trumpet in the band and was a member of the Girl's Reserves.

After graduation, she taught school in Graham County then was united in marriage to Carl Harrison Sperry on June 5, 1937, at the United Brethren Parsonage in Edmond.

The newlyweds traveled to Caldwell, Idaho, for the summer where Carl had a job on his uncle's ranch, but returned to Edmond in the fall when teaching jobs became available for both of them. Mildred taught an additional four years in Edmond Grade School until she and Carl moved to Hays in 1941 to attend college.

When Carl was drafted into the Army during World War II, they moved to Wichita in 1942 where Mildred attended Wichita Business College and worked as a bookkeeper for Perpetual Building and Loan Company then later in the ac-

counting department of Beech Aircraft Corporation.

After Carl's transfer to the west coast with the Army Corps of Engineers, she accompanied him and took a job with Kaiser Shipyards in Portland, Ore., until his overseas deployment to the Philippines. After that, Mildred returned to Wichita and worked as an office assistant at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Corporation until 1946.

When the war ended, Carl and Mildred went to Hays where he completed his bachelor's degree at Fort Hays State University then moved to St. Francis in 1948.

For the next 54 years, Mildred was an active homemaker and member of the St. Francis community. She was a member of the First Christian Church and Homemaker's Circle, a Past Worthy Matron and D.A. of Doric Chapter 404 Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Chapter U of P.E.O., Sorosis Club, Garden Club and AARP. She was also extensively involved in the activities of her three children, serving as den mother for Cub Scouts, the Parent/Teachers Association and taught Sunday school for many years at the First Christian Church.

Mildred enjoyed traveling with her family, entertaining friends in her home, and working outdoors planting many varieties of flowers in her yard for everyone passing by to enjoy.

In later years, Mildred and Carl were regular visitors to the Senior

Citizen's Center in St. Francis each week enjoying lunch with their many friends.

Mildred moved to Olathe in 2002 to be closer to family members, but always remembered her days in St. Francis as the best years of her life.

Mildred is survived by her three children and their families: Charles K. Sperry and his wife, Leda, of Pensacola, Fla.; Deborah Ludwig and her husband, Steve, of Olathe and Dr. Robert Sperry and his wife, Carol, of Richmond, Va. Her seven grandchildren include: Donna L. Sperry of Richmond, Brice, Zachary, Greg and Emily Ludwig of Olathe; and Steven, Elizabeth and Mark Sperry of Richmond. Mildred is also survived by two honorary granddaughters, Diana Watson and family of Tega Cay, S.C. and Aiyana Ehrman and family of Marietta, Pa. Her four honorary great-grandchildren include Cameron and Brendan Watson and Kent and Genevieve Ehrman.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the First Christian Church in St. Francis with Pastor Tony Christians officiating.

Casket bearers were grandchildren Donna Sperry, Elizabeth Sperry, Mark Sperry, Steven Sperry, Zachary Ludwig, Gregory Ludwig, Bryce Ludwig, Emily Ludwig.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery with Eastern Star Graveside Service.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home.

Seventh graders win

The Rawlins County Buffs junior high basketball boys came to St. Francis on Thursday, Nov. 17 to compete with the Indians.

St. Francis split the games with Rawlins County giving the seventh graders their first basketball win of their junior high career. St. Francis posted 21 points to 13 for Rawlins County. The eighth grade were defeated 38-26.

Seventh grade
St. Francis 21, Atwood 13

St. Francis scored 10 points in the final quarter to guarantee the victory for the home team. Two players, Brendan Finley and Garrett Figgins each accounted for six points for the win.

"The kids are showing daily improvement," Coach Kent Kechter said. "It was nice for them to get a win to reinforce their confidence. Rawlins County and us are pretty evenly matched."

"We executed much better at times and got the win."

SF 06 02 03 10 21
RC 00 07 06 00 13

Scoring: Finley 6, Figgins 6, Brooks Hobcock 4, Brett Lampe 3, Trevor Reed 2.

Eighth grade
Rawlins County 38, St. Francis 26

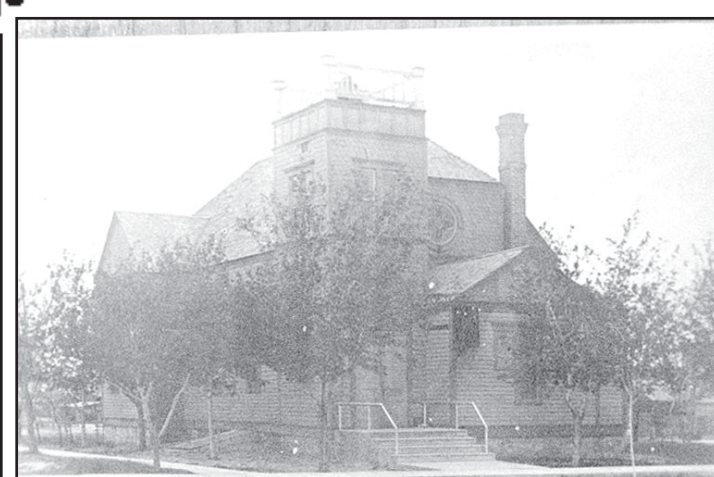
"This was a disappointing loss for us," Coach Jeff Beims said. "Of the four games we've played, we gave three of them away. Turnovers hurt us again. We cut down on the number of turnovers overall, but when it came to crunch time it seems we just shut our brains off, and started throwing the ball all over the gym."

"Until we can figure out how to take care of the ball for an entire game, we will continue to lose games we should win."

SF 08 04 10 04 26
RC 15 07 06 10 38

Scoring: Trent Raile 18, Drew Zwegardt 4, Terrence Lamb 2, Matt Raile 2.

PAST REFLECTIONS



First Methodist Church in St. Francis

Photo courtesy of Tobe Zwegardt

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St. Francis EQUITY



Jade DeGood
Grade: Senior
Parents:
Janice DeGood
Lanny DeGood

Student of the Month

Jade, a senior at St. Francis Community High school, is the November Student of the Month. She is involved in volleyball, track, basketball, band/vocal, pom co-captain and football cheerleader captain.

Jade has also been involved in dancing for 14 years and is the dance teacher for the Senior Troop. She is a Pizza Hut employee.

After graduating from St. Francis Community High School, Jade would like to attend CSU in Fort Collins and possibly pursue a career in visual communications or mathematics.

Ten years from now Jade plans to have graduated with a master's degree, be successful in her job and maybe be thinking of starting a family.

Jade's favorite quote is: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bow lines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." —Mark Twain

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