



Walter Wilbur Holmes

July 1, 1920 - July 14, 2011

Longtime Thermopolis resident Walter Wilbur Holmes, 91, died July 14, 2011, at Worland Healthcare Center in Worland.

Walt was born on July 1, 1920, in South Haven, Mich., a son of Elwin Robert and Ethel Lyle (Galbreath) Holmes. He attended schools in South Haven, where he graduated from South Haven Senior High School in 1937. Walt then attended Michigan State College in East Lansing, where he graduated with a degree in dairy husbandry and horticulture.

From 1940 to 1942, he worked at the college developing wild blueberries to be grown as domestic varieties for commercial use.

In the fall of 1942, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps as a demolition expert and was sent directly to the Pacific theater of World War II. He was wounded while serving in New Guinea, and it took more than three months to get him evacuated back to the U.S.

He was discharged in 1945, returned to Michigan briefly, and then moved to Casper, where he cooked in a café for several years.

While living in Casper he met Ella Rose Engle Morrison. They were married in Casper on Aug. 8, 1946. The couple then lived in Casper, where he worked as a brakeman for the railroad for a year. The couple then owned and operated the Mountain View Café for several years.

In the 1950s, they moved to South Pass, where they operated a café and gas station for a number of years. His wife died in 1964.

Walt moved to Thermopolis in 1967, where he cooked for Perry's Café and met Gladys Lance. They were married on June 20, 1968. He later worked at a dry cleaners, at Husky Oil, then did carpet laying and tile installation for Owl Lumber Co.

Walt is survived by Gladys' children, Robert Lance of Worland, Elgan (Marleeta) Lance of Casper, Ronald (Cathy) Lance of Riverton and Dixie (Ralph Newell) Lake, Linda Groves, Sharon Basse and Vicky (Steve) Boyer, all of Thermopolis, and Connie (David) Fisher of Chipley, Fla.; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and several family members in Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Gladys on Aug. 28, 2010; and several brothers.

Cremation has take place and a private family memorial service will be held in the near future.

Veile Mortuary of Worland was in charge of the disposition.

