

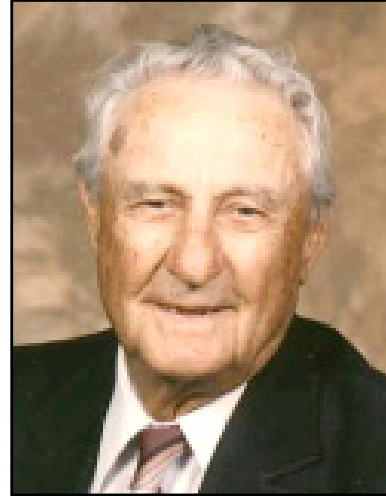
Robert 'Bob' O. McKone

August 16, 1913 - January 2, 2012

Former Thermopolis/Moorcroft resident, Robert "Bob" O. McKone, 98, died Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, at the Weston County Manor in Newcastle.

Bob was born Aug. 16, 1913, to Sylvester Mac and Hazel Entwistel McKone in Laramie. He lived in Medicine Bow until the family moved to Basin when he was a young boy. He graduated at age 16 from Basin High School in 1930.

He went to work for the Mercer Ranch in Hyattville. In 1938, he married Stella Pauline Mercer and in 1939 they moved to Thermopolis to run the Gardner Ranch on Bridger Creek. After many years of ranching, he moved to Thermopolis and operated the Sinclair Bulk Plant for several years before buying the Skelly Service Station in 1958. Bob retired in 1978. He then moved around during his retirement years before living at the Pioneer Home in Thermopolis at age 95 and then the Weston County Manor in Newcastle until his death.



Bob belonged to many Masonic organizations and was a 50-year member of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Wyoming, Malta Lodge No. 17 and Mt. Hermon Chapter No. 12 at Thermopolis. In 2007, he received his Masonic 60-year pin in Upton. He belonged to the Mt. Lebanon Commandery, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Sheridan, Orient of Wyoming, the Bah-Gue-Wana Shrine Club of Thermopolis and Kalif Temple of Sheridan. He was also a member of the Korein Mounted Patrol in the 1980s. He also belonged to many civic organizations, including the Thermopolis Lions Club and was past president of the Thermopolis Rotary Club.

Bob loved rodeo and participated in the sport for many years. He belonged to the original PRCA Rodeo organization called the Turtles and participated in the National Old Timer's Rodeo Association, now called the Senior Pro Rodeo Association. He supported and helped produce many rodeos in the Thermopolis area, including the Shriners Youth Rodeo for many years. He loved to watch his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as they participated in the sport of rodeo.

After Bob quit rodeoing, he took up golf and continued in that sport into his 90s. His last game of golf was when he was 95. Even though he was legally blind, he reached fame while in his 80s on Paul Harvey after he made 10 holes-in-one with four being earned in one month in St. George, Utah, where he spent his winters.

Bob is survived by two daughters, Pat (Bill) Spratt of Lost Cabin and Bonnie (Joe) Carmin of Moorcroft; three grandsons; one granddaughter; and eight great-grandchildren.

A Masonic graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6 at the Mount View Cemetery in Basin.

Memorials in Bob's name can be sent to Shriners Hospitals for Children, c/o Recorder's Office Kalif Shrine Center, P.O. Box K, Sheridan, WY 82801.

Atwood Family Funeral Directors, Inc.
is in charge of arrangements.