

John P. "Persh" Punteney

March 8, 1918 - May 21, 2011

John Pershing "Persh" Punteney, 93, died May 21, 2011, at the Sublette Center in Pinedale.

Born March 8, 1918, in Thermopolis, Persh lived his entire life in Wyoming, spending the last 50 years in the Big Piney area. His parents were Vede Punteney and Clarabelle Price Punteney of Thermopolis.

Persh grew up in Upper Cottonwood Creek west of Thermopolis where the family homesteaded at the turn of the century. He graduated from Hot Springs County High School in 1937. He worked on the family ranch and in 1943 married Donna Mae Short of Thermopolis. They had six children. After the ranch was sold, Persh served five years as foreman at the Basin Ranch on Owl Creek. In 1954, he moved his family to Kirby and became a truck driver.

Persh started working in the Big Piney area in 1959. He bought a fleet of water trucks in 1967 from Jay Roden of Casper and started Persh's Water Service. In 1971, he married Lois Glasgow of Big Piney and together they raised her four children following the tragic death of their father in an oil field accident. On May 11, Persh and Lois celebrated their 40th anniversary.

Persh was a talented farrier in his early years, an avid arrowhead and antique gun collector, and a dedicated observer of wildlife and an excellent gardener in his own backyard. In his later years, Persh and Lois traveled widely.

He is survived by his wife Lois of Big Piney; former wife Donna Mae Punteney of Thermopolis; sons, Landis Punteney of Vancouver, Wash., and Ronald Punteney of Glenrothes, Scotland; daughter, Kay Punteney Bettencourt of Priest River, Idaho; stepsons, Wayne Glasgow of White Hills, Ariz., Kim Glasgow of Glenrock and Gary Glasgow of Big Piney; stepdaughter, Kareen Schnabel of Casper; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two nieces.

Persh was preceded in death by his sons, George Pershing "Jeep" Punteney and Donald Punteney, both of Marbleton; infant son, Michael Punteney; daughter, Jean Punteney Pistorius of Miles City, Mont.; and one granddaughter.

Services were held Thursday, May 26 at the Community Congregational Church in Big Piney with the Rev. Dick Kalber officiating and Jay Roden performing the eulogy. An informal wake was held that evening at the Cowboy Bar in Pinedale.

