



Emory Jess Starkey

January 20, 1924 - July 14, 2011

Emory Jess Starkey, 87, died Thursday, July 14, 2011, at the Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center, where he had resided the past five years.

Jess was born Jan. 20, 1924, in Napoleon, N.D., the son of Emory S. and Martha (Wearth) Starkey. At the age of 12, he left home. Living with his grandparents, he did odd jobs until joining the U.S. Navy. Following the service, he was an over-the-road produce driver, traveling from coast to coast. He then worked on local ranches in the Saratoga area.

On Oct. 31, 1959, Jess married Viola Pippin in Saratoga. Later, the family moved to Fremont County, farming and ranching on the Six Iron Ranch. Retiring in 1996, Jess and his wife moved to Shoshoni.

Jess enjoyed listening to and watching sports, and viewing old Western movies. He loved animals and "peppy country music," and liked reading Louis L'Amour. He spoke fluent German.

Survivors include three sons, Ed of Buffalo, Gary of Thermopolis and Danny of Shoshoni; daughter, Linda Smith of Saratoga; sister, Olivia Bertsch of Polson, Mont.; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2004.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 20 at the Shoshoni Fire Hall in Shoshoni. Burial was at Lakeview Cemetery.

Mortimore Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.