



Herbert Rutherford

January 26, 1913 - January 29, 2011

Mentally sharp until the end, Herbert “Herb” Rutherford died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by family in Helena, MT three days after his 98th birthday.

Born in Barnes County, ND on January 26, 1913 to Herbert and Ida (Laudert) Rutherford, Herb was the fifth of nine children. He was raised on the family farm in ND and attended school in Page. As a young student, one of Herb’s tasks was to fix the family Model T every night to ensure he and his siblings could get to school the following day.

As a young man, Herb’s love of adventure led him to travel the U.S., spend time on cattle roundups in Wyoming and play drums with the family dance band throughout ND.

When he settled down to raise a family in ND, Herb embraced farming wholeheartedly. He worked many 18-hour days, as he said everyone did, and became known as an innovative and well-respected farmer. He continued to mentor young farmers in ND until shortly before his death.

Another of Herb’s great loves was playing cards. Pinochle, Smear, Whist or Cribbage were standard entertainment after most family dinners and at every family gathering.

Although Herb loved to travel, farm, and play cards, his greatest love was his family. Herb was especially proud of and devoted to his children and their families. He faithfully attended weddings and special family events throughout the western U.S. until his 90's, and was a man who could be counted on to share his insight and wisdom.

Herb often said he was lucky to be loved by two women in his life. His first wife, Gladys (Langer), the mother of his six children, died in 1968. His second wife, Myrtle (Hagseth) Legler, died in 2010 and added three step-children to his family.

Herb is survived by his children, Virginia Benedict of CA, Shirley (Claud) Tugmon of WA, Donna (Dick) Northey of MT, Kathy Rutherford of OR, Ray (Bonnie) Rutherford of MT, and Harley (Jeannie Huntley) Rutherford of MT; step-children, Marlyn (Helen) Legler of ND and Corrine (Tony) Haugen of MN; as well as one brother, 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, seven of his siblings, step-son Ronnie Legler, and grandson Mike Northey.

Family will be receiving friends 1:00 p.m. Monday, January 31 with the funeral service scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Monday, January 31 at Oliver Nathan Chapel, 251 Central Ave. S. Valley City, ND. Interment will be in the spring at a later date.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 31. 2:00 PM (CT)

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel
251 Central Ave. S.
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall



“ Our thoughts and prayers go to the family. Has been years since I have seen Herb but my dad Norbert and I just talked about him the other day. Great man!!!
Tom and Caye Kosir

January 31, 2011 at 06:09 PM



“ Herb was a good man. He will be dearly missed. Herb helped us get started in farming and he will be forever appreciated for that. Herb loved to talk farming back in the day and I loved to listen. His memory was as sharp as a tack until the end. Rest in peace Herb.
Aaron Larson

January 31, 2011 at 12:52 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Grandpa Herb was always so wonderful and welcoming to me and my family. He will be remembered fondly today and always.
Lynne Roe

January 31, 2011 at 12:16 PM



“ To all the family, My family enjoyed having you as our neighbors for many years. I remember riding to school in winter on a stone boat and your dad driving a team of horses bracing the wind on our way to country school
Your dad was also a good dancer.
You have made many memories and hold them close to your heart. I am unable to make the trip today but will hold you in my prayers.
Lois (Japel) Berndt

January 31, 2011 at 09:47 AM



“ *I was sorry to hear of Herb's death. I will keep each of you in my thoughts and prayers.*

Tom Berg TCHS '71##imported-begin##Tom Berg##imported-end##

January 31, 2011 at 09:25 AM



“ *Uncle Herb, you had such a gift of welcoming people into your home & heart. You always found a common interest to share and made me feel a part of your own family. Thank you for that, and for all the treasured memories when we spent time at your farm. You will be sadly missed. Your niece, Carol##imported-begin##Carol Jansen##imported-end##*

January 30, 2011 at 10:49 AM