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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

03/31/2014 - Ray Underwood



A graveside service for Ray Underwood, age 96, of Alliance, NE, will be Monday, March 31, 2014 at 11:00 AM at the Alliance Cemetery with Jeanie Sedivy officiating.

A luncheon will follow at the United Methodist Church in Alliance.

Visitation will be Sunday, March 30, 2014 from 4-7 PM at the Bates-Gould Funeral Home.

A memorial has been established, donations may be given to Prairie Haven Hospice, 1118 Flack Avenue, Alliance, NE 69301 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be left at www.batesgould.com.

Ray Underwood, 96, died Thursday, March 27, 2014 at Highland Park Care Center in Alliance, NE.

Ray was born on September 26, 1917 to Alex and Lillian (Hunt) Underwood in Alliance, NE. He was the last surviving sibling and the second youngest of nine children. From an early age Ray showed that he would be an asset because of his work ethic and often told about how he was a hard worker.

He married Irene Vogel September 26, 1938, on his birthday and they shared 56 years of marriage together. To this union a son and twin sons were born. Ray and Irene ranched and farmed 16 miles southwest of Alliance until they decided to move 11 miles outside of Crawford where they enjoyed owning and operating Pine Canyon and Rock Museum. Here they displayed their many treasures of rocks.

Ray married Marie Hill in June of 1996 after the death of Irene in January of 1995. Marie and Ray lived at the Museum by Crawford until 2011 when Marie went to live at a nursing home in Hot Springs, SD.

When Ray told a funny story or heard a funny story his whole body laughed and you couldn't help but laugh along with him. He lived his life exactly how he wanted to; spending time with his boys in the country, family trips "rock hunting" to places others would never venture, spending hours polishing old rocks into beautiful treasures, and building petrified wood miniature buildings.

His parents, eight siblings, first wife Irene, stepson Alan, and numerous cousins precede him in death.

Immediate survivors:

Wife: Marie

Sons: Ted (Shirley) Underwood, Garry (Jo Ellen) Underwood, Jerry (Connie) Underwood of Alliance
Step-Son: Richard (Beverly) Hill

Grandchildren: Lisa (Chad) Hauger, Dana (Aaron) Fintel, Dawn (Nick) Salitros, Kyle Underwood, Kathy Underwood, Jay (Mindy) Underwood, Tom Underwood (fiancé Anna Yant), Crystal (Brian) Buskirk
Great-Grandchildren: Whitney and Kellon Hall, Kel Underwood, Christopher and Charlie Salitros, and a great-grandson due in May

Numerous nieces and nephews

Bates-Gould Funeral Home in Alliance is in charge of arrangements for Ray Underwood.