



Alton Choate

May 24, 1913 - March 24, 2011

TORRINGTON, WY . . . Memorial services for ALTON W. 'BILL' CHOATE, 97, will be held at 10:00a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Colyer Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Scott Mathis officiating. Bill died on March 24, 2011 and cremation has taken place. Those who wish may direct memorial contributions in Bill's memory to either the Hawk Springs Volunteer Fire Department or the Hawk Springs Community Building. Colyer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements and friends are invited to send condolences to the family at www.colyerfuneralhome.com Bill was born on May 24, 1913 in Fairfield, Nebraska the son of Melvin and Grace (Onstott) Choate. The family came to Goshen County, Wyoming when Bill was only 2 years old and homesteaded at Hawk Springs. Bill grew up and lived his entire life in Wyoming. He married Byrel Harden in July of 1934 and the couple lived on various ranches until settling on the ranch at Hawk Springs in 1956. Bill's love was ranching and horses. Shortly after his marriage, his new young wife insisted that Bill give up riding bucking horses, and so he did . . . he switched to roping . . . calves at first and later team steer roping. Always known as the "cowboy's cowboy", Bill was roping on his 90th birthday! He lived a good and simple life. Happy Trails to you Bill! Over the years, Bill visited Australia twice to see his son and grandchildren. He lost his wife, Byrel, in 1997 and in October of 2004 Bill left the ranch and moved to Evergreen Court in Torrington. He entered the Goshen Care Center in 2010. He is survived by one son, C.Ray Choate of Adelaide Australia; grandson, David and his wife

Vicki and their daughters, Alice and Hannah all of Melbourne, Australia; a granddaughter, Julia and her husband Drew Browning and their sons Nicholas and Henry also of Melbourne. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, and four sisters, Ruth, Mildred, Alice and Ethel. Son Ray writes, "Living, as my family and I do, 'on the other side of the world', we have always appreciated and been thankful that Dad's/Granddad's final years were made easier and happier thanks to the generosity of friends and neighbors, especially Trudi and Waldon Smith and Hugh and Rosie Dowers. They were always there with friendship and support."