



Earl N Cross

February 13, 1937 - November 5, 2020

Earl Neil Cross passed away on Thursday, November 5, 2020. He was born on February 13, 1937 in Lingle, Wyoming, the youngest of five children born to Calvin and Elsie Cross. He grew up on a small farm and his love of family and farming carried with him throughout his life.

Earl married Grace Harris on September 8, 1957. He is survived by Gracie, their four children: Joel (Loretta), Jay (Mary Jane), Dawn (Ray) Melton, and Tracy (Jim) Keener, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Not to be excluded are his many “adopted” children, many nieces, cousins and friends.

Earl was curious, intelligent, daring and fun. (In addition to being obstinate and opiniated.) He was a man of great faith. He loved work. He held a variety of jobs when he was in school, including thinning beets, gas station attendant, and cattle hand. During college, he worked in the research labs at the University of Wyoming and drove a milk truck. After receiving his degree in Agronomy from UW in January of 1959, he was the Assistant Superintendent of the University of Wyoming Experimental Farm in Torrington, Wyoming, before becoming an SCS Soil Conservationist in Lingle, Wheatland, Newcastle and Greybull from 1961 – 1971.

He and Grace bought a farm in Basin in 1968. Earl raised hay, sugar beets, barley and corn, had a feedlot, and then became a co-owner of a fertilizer business. He and Grace returned to Lingle in 1979 where he was the owner-operator of a fertilizer and chemical retail plant until 1981.

Earl returned to the University of Wyoming in 1981 and received his second bachelor's degree in education in 1982. He was a Vo-Ag teacher in Glendo for two years. Earl returned to work at the Soil Conservation Service in 1987, working at the Torrington, Wheatland, and Farson offices. He retired in 1997 after adding many more people to his "adopted family." In addition to the above jobs, Earl was the Municipal Court Judge, police officer, school bus driver, transportation specialist at DSI, clothing salesman (never shy to let you know it did not look good!) and grocery courtesy clerk aka story teller (some of them were even true). He somehow found time to serve his Church, drive a team of horses on wagon trains, share his love of music, drink coffee and tell lies at the farmer's table at the Stagecoach Café, cheer on athletes at high school football and basketball games, and track and field, and countless other endeavors.

But his most important work was as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle and teacher. Earl was a youth leader in several churches, and active in FFA and 4-H. He loved people, and he and Grace's table was open to everyone. They hosted many gatherings at "Cross Park" over the years. He and his harmonica provided entertainment to several generations.

His quick wit and many "Earlisms" will be sorely missed. No one loved sweet corn more than Earl. We will all think of him every time we shuck an ear of corn.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Cemetery

30th Avenue
Torrington, WY 82240

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Valley View Cemetery
30th Avenue
Torrington, WY 82240

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ Grace and Family, Just today I learned of Earl's passing. He was a great conservationist and I am proud to have known and worked with him. He will be missed by many.

Sue Jones - February 02, 2021 at 02:41 PM

TJ

“ Our sympathies to all. Quite a life he lived.
Dave and Tracy Johnson



Tracy Johnson - November 11, 2020 at 07:12 PM

BW

“ Mark and I will miss him dearly. Earl approved of Mark before we were married, telling me not to let him get away. We were always welcome anytime to Wyoming. Tough go from Texas, but I always wanted to drive on to visit Pa and Gracie. Lunch in Cheyenne, coffee and pie in Lakewood. Anniversary party shucking sweet corn for one who hasn't shucked that much corn, it was such a pleasure to be in the presence of Earl and Gracie. I hope one day, I will see him again and enjoy his company and exchange witticisms. No pepper on my cantaloupe, I promise Earl!

Beverly Wood - November 09, 2020 at 11:05 PM

SS

“ *Sumner Shockley lit a candle in memory of Earl N Cross*



Sumner Shockley - November 09, 2020 at 02:50 PM

TB

“ *Tracy Brown lit a candle in memory of Earl N Cross*



tracy brown - November 09, 2020 at 02:20 PM

RW

“ *My sympathy for the Cross family! He was my friend! Rest In Peace Earl!!*

Russell Walter - November 09, 2020 at 01:05 PM

AA

“ *Grace and Family,
So sad when Dick called and shared with me about the passing of Earl. I have lots of memories and good times with him in my younger years and learned a lot of things from him that I still use everyday. My thoughts are with all of you at this time.
Alfred Anderson*

Alfred Anderson - November 08, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ *Tammy Wells lit a candle in memory of Earl N Cross*



Tammy Wells - November 08, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ *I will always remember, and miss, Earl's great sense of humor and his great big wonderful laugh. So very sorry for your (our) loss.*
Robert and Nina Ward

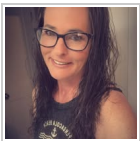
Nina Ward - November 08, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ *Traci Ackerman lit a candle in memory of Earl N Cross*



Traci Ackerman - November 08, 2020 at 10:40 AM



“ *Julene Cook lit a candle in memory of Earl N Cross*



Julene Cook - November 08, 2020 at 09:21 AM

DH

“ Oh Grace, I am so sorry to hear of Earl's passing. I will never forget him. He was such a light to any dark day. He always, always brought a smile to my face. I am just so sad to hear this news. I loved his smile and humor. He was like a 2nd dad to me. Sending my condolences.

Denise Hill

Denise Hill - November 07, 2020 at 07:11 PM

MW

“ Grace and Family: Sending you my love at this time to let you know how much Earl has meant to us. So many memories and fun times. Asking God to give you comfort and peace. Love, Cousin, Marion and Family

Marion Harris Weickum - November 05, 2020 at 01:49 PM

TR

“ Theil Ryan lit a candle in memory of Earl N Cross



Theil Ryan - November 05, 2020 at 01:41 PM