



## Ferd Cook

May 22, 1923 - November 30, 2019

Our father, FERD COOK, 96, left his earthly life and entered his heavenly one on November 30, 2019 at the Goshen Healthcare Community where he had been living since July of 2016. Funeral service will be held at 2pm Friday, December 6, 2019 at the First Congregational Church with Reverend Matt Gordon officiating. Cremation will take place following services. Memorials may be given to the First Congregational Church or the Lingle Fire and Rescue. Visitation will be Thursday from 3pm to 5pm at the funeral home and the casket will be open prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are by the Colyer Funeral Home and condolences may be sent to [www.colyerfuneralhome.com](http://www.colyerfuneralhome.com).

Ferd was born May 22, 1923 in Frankfurt/Oder in a refugee camp where they had been waiting for an opportunity to board a ship to America. Along with his parents, Alexander Koch and Maria (Yekel) Koch, his grandparents Jacob and Anna (Weitzel) Koch, an uncle Emanuel Yekel, and aunt Katharine Yekel, boarded the USS Seydlitz in Bremen, Germany in October of 1923. They arrived in Portland, Maine on the first day of November, 1923. From there they traveled by train to Scottsbluff, Nebraska to meet up with Yekel relatives who had arrived in Nebraska before them. Ferd grew up and attended school in Minatare, Nebraska until he was twelve years old. During that time his sisters Frieda, Erma and Kathryn and brother Theodore were born. In 1935 his father packed up the family and moved his shoe and harness shop to Torrington,

WY. Ferd attended school through the eighth grade before he left home and rode his bike to Mitchell, Nebraska where he stayed with his uncle Alex and aunt Katherine Sterkel's family. The Sterkel's drove him to Batesland, South Dakota and he spent his teen years with his grandparents, Jacob and Anna Yekel. He worked in the North Platte River valley during the growing season and returned to his grandparents in the winter. Ferd had many friends among the Pine Ridge Sioux and he had a generous heart with them. During the potato picking season of 1941, he met his future wife in a potato field in Goshen County. She was picking and he was loading and hauling the potatoes. According to Ferd his marriage proposal was made by throwing a potato at Frieda Henkel and missing her but hitting her mother. Consequently a rapid marriage took place on December 9, 1941. During the early years of their marriage they worked for Charlie Jones in the Huntley community. On January 31, 1943 their first son, Ronald Leroy was born in Torrington. When Ron was still a baby, they moved back to Batesland. Ferd rented dry land wheat farms and he tried his hand at farming on his own. Daughter, Patricia Kathleen was born on June 20, 1944 and another son, Robert Allen was born on November 23, 1945. By this time his wife wanted to return to the North Platte Valley to be nearer to her Henkel family. Thus began a lifetime of working sugar factories, car repair shops, welding shops, hauling sugar beets and wheat. He worked for John Walter, Alex Sterkel, and Joseph Speckner. Mr. Speckner eventually realizing that Ferd had a huge desire to own his own piece of property, vouched for him to local lenders and helped him get set up renting the Henry Wagner farm west of Lingle. It was 1958, his kids were old enough to help him and his wife Frieda work the farm. He eventually bought the Wagner place and was one happy farmer. Our father was a good farmer, weed free crops and ditch banks, straight rows and good harvests. His wife Frieda passed in May of 2002. After Frieda was gone, he enjoyed many wonderful friends at the Lingle Senior Center. In July of 2016 he entered the care center and spent the rest of his days wishing for the old days, wanting to go home to the farm, but also knowing he couldn't do that.

Ferd is survived by his children Ronald (Helga) of Torrington, Wyoming, Robert (Betty) of Lingle, Wyoming and Patricia (Dick) Fullmer of Gering, Nebraska; six grandsons Steven Fullmer, Michael Fullmer, Ed Fullmer, Rick Cook, Chris Cook and Rob Cook; two granddaughters Katja Cook and Julene Cook; eleven great grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; sisters Frieda Kettler of Loveland, Colorado and Kathryn Hart of Torrington; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 6. 2:00 PM (MT)

First Congregational Church  
2102 East E  
Torrington, WY 82240  
(307) 532-5595

# Tribute Wall

PF

“ Pat & Craig Fullmer lit a candle in memory of Ferd Cook



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Pat & Craig Fullmer - December 05, 2019 at 12:02 PM

SA

“ Thank you Ron, Pat, and Bob for writing about your father. All I could say to myself was "Wow" as I was reading it. His life was very important and needed to be told to those of us who knew him forever and didn't realize all of his fascinating life experiences. He did a lot of living and growing up before he was a teenager. Most of us only manage to ride bikes around the block. Thank you, Natalie, for spelling "Rooshians". As I was growing up, it took time for me to define that word. Those immigrants were amazing and a great gift to our country.

Yes, throwing that potato and missing would make Uncle Ferd family quickly. It took me awhile as I was growing up to realize that the family Uncle Ferd married into was very boisterous which left many of us observers at family events. When I got to speak to Uncle Ferd alone, I found he had a lot to say. His advice and thoughts were a welcome treat and I would seek him out when possible. I wish I would have had more of those conversations and I loved his laugh. I am thinking of you as you are missing him.

Sharon Adam

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Sharon Adam - December 04, 2019 at 09:21 PM

PA

*Thank you so much for your comments Sharon! As my oldest son told me, " Grandpa told him that being alone in a crowd of people was something he had to learn." Love to you! Pat*

Patricia - December 05, 2019 at 02:02 PM

RF

“ Ron Cook and family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Ferd Cook.



Ron Cook and family - December 04, 2019 at 12:20 PM

SH

“ Scherri Hacker lit a candle in memory of Ferd Cook



Scherri Hacker - December 04, 2019 at 12:41 AM

NF

“ I met Grandpa Cook as a new member of the Fullmer family, not too long after marrying Dick and Pat's oldest son Steve. We were all at a family event that i can't recall, but i DO remember what i first said to him. I walked up to my future Grandpa and said (forgive the spelling and butchering of the German tongue), "Du hast fogel shist und der kapf.". Grandpa roared back in laughter, corrected my grammar, and straightened me out. The translation of what i said? "You have bird sh\*t in your head.". Thus began a love affair between me and the only Grandpa i ever really knew. I would call him with German words i made up (for example, "vershtinkinzee" for the fragrance attached to the customer restrooms at Wal-Mart), and he would laugh and add a few real German words of his own. He loved me like family, would tolerate me calling him just to say hello and hear his voice, and he made me feel like i fit, which was a lot for an Irish girl awash in a sea of "Rooshians" in Goshen County. I loved him from the minute i saw him, and i always will. No one really knows what he did in my life, but he and i do, and so does Jesus. I will miss him FOREVER. Thank you, Grandpa Cook, FOR TELLING ME THAT YOU LOVED ME. I love you too. Godspeed Ferd Cook, until i can hug you again. Godspeed.

Natalie

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**Natalie Fullmer** - December 03, 2019 at 09:40 PM

CP

“ Carol Peterson lit a candle in memory of Ferd Cook



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**Carol Peterson** - December 03, 2019 at 05:49 PM