



## Merlyn Wayne Hobson

February 6, 1925 - March 24, 2014

### MERLYN WAYNE HOBSON

1925 - 2014 In 1881, John and Johanna Johnson emigrated from Denmark to the United States, settling in Smith County, Kansas. Thirty-five years later they moved to Colorado with their daughter, Anna who had married Ernest Hobson, the son of English parents. Ernest and Anna bought land southeast of Yuma on the edge of the sandhills; the Johnsons bought land east of town along Highway 34. Ernest and Anna had three children. Norma became an English teacher and published writer, leaving a wonderful series of essays about growing up on that farm. Elmo, the oldest sibling, graduated from high school, then persuaded his Grandpa Johnson to sell him the Highway 34 farm on favorable terms. The kid proved to be a good farmer, hit bumper crops three years in a row, and completely repaid the loan to his grandfather, much to the disgust of the old Dane.

Since he was the late baby of the family, it was years later that Wayne bought the sandhills farm from Ernest and began farming with a DC Case tractor of course, no turning brakes or hydraulics and ten-foot implements. Wayne took over Elmo's farm when the elder brother moved to Boulder, and then he moved up from the Case to two John Deere two-bangers – he would say they were the finest tractors ever made. Wayne was known about town as the quiet man in the Big Mac overalls, the man who could drive the straightest row in the county and who was in church every Sunday, his two children sporting long, dangling perfect attendance pins. He served on the church board and on

the board of directors of the Equity Coop Oil Company when it was located on Main Street. Wayne was not a social man, although he and Wilma played cards once a month over many, many years with a group of friends known simply as the Supper Club. This was a time when the men all wore coats and ties for an evening of pinochle. Wayne's life just barely touched the era of farming with horses, ran through the Great Depression and a world war, and he began farming before there were commercial fertilizers, struggling to squeeze a living from a small sandhills farm. Then he saw the region, and his farm, transformed by irrigation. He sold the farm in 1971 and took a job as parts manager at L & L Implement, where he worked longer hours than on the farm. Wayne and Wilma eventually retired to Fort Collins. Wayne Hobson passed away on March 24. There is no doubt that he would have counted among his greatest pleasures looking out over a good field of milo, watching the cattle graze in the sandlove grass after a summer rain, hosting Saturday night supper for the Reverend Nieves's and later the Reverend Harvey's every week without fail, and whiling away the retirement hours in the woodshop. His spirit still floats in the air here in that shop as we close it down, as it must float over that poor sandhills farm. To feel it, however, one must be very still, because he was a very quiet man. Wayne was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Wilma, and by his brother and sister. He is survived by son, Barry, of Estes Park; daughter, Peggy and husband, Chuck of Fort Collins; granddaughters, Brooke and husband, Ken Colaizzi of Littleton and Brittany and husband, Eric Stinson of Parker; and the very precious great-grandchildren, Domenic and Sabrina. He is also survived by nieces and nephews. Contributions can be made to the Merlyn Wayne Hobson Memorial Fund in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524. A Private Graveside Service will be held.

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Such a fine and beautiful obituary is extremely rare. As a fellow & now dislocated southeast Yuma sandhiller, I remember the essence of Wayne Hobson exactly as described, caring, competent and never seeking glory. May God forever rest and keep his soul. Duane Brown*

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**Duane Brown** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I remember Wayne working in the parts department at my dad's Shorty store L & L. I remember in the summer working with him now and then in the parts-he was a good teacher and very patient! He was one of dad's favorite employees and dad thought a lot of Wayne! don't think any of us knew him by Merlyn and appreciated his dedication. My condolences to all of you. May he rest in peace.*

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**Debra Meis Antonio** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *FROM THE OLD L&L CREW,RHONDA KUNTZ,DUANE CRISWELL,BRUCE RHODES,ED BARRY,TOBY MURPHY, TO THE HOBSON FAMILY, SHARING IN YOUR LOSS OF WAYNE BUT WITH THE FONDEST OF MEMORIES. A VERY SPECIAL MAN,DEDICATED TO THE UPMOST PROFESSIONALISM FROM FARMING TO MANAGING THE JD PARTS DEPARTMENT IN YUMA,TO ONE ON THE FINEST WOOD MAKERS AROUND. LEAST WE NOT FORGET, WAYNE WAS A DEDICATED FAMILY MAN,HUSBAND,FATHER,AND GRANDPA, BUT TO THE JD FAMILY IN YUMA A GREAT FRIEND. WILL MISS YOU WAYNE.*

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**TOBY MURPHY** - March 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I will never forget Wayne and the dynamic individual he was to all of us. If there could be a photo in the dictionary describing a "DECENT HUMAN BEING," Wayne's picture would best describe that phrase. He was a no-nonsense, straight shooting guy. I especially loved his care and concern for what we were doing as a family and in our own professions. Wayne always took the time to listen, because I believe he really cared about others. To watch Wayne play with my children his Great Grandchildren was beyond priceless. He was a very patient man and very loving, and an excellent role model to his Great Grandchildren. My kids will forever benefit by having such a loving Great Grandfather! I know Wayne enjoyed baseball and now hope the Rockies win the World Series, just for Wayne. We love you and miss you. May you rest in peace. Love, Ken Colaizzi

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**Ken Colaizzi** - March 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

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**Ken Colaizzi** - March 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Pa- I will always remember playing ping-pong with you and blowing bubbles on your front lawn in Yuma. You will always be in our hearts.

Brittany Stinson - March 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ So sorry for your losses. What incredible memories you all must have of him. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Love, Julie, Peyton, Sydney, and Beau Wilken

Julie Wilken - March 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ The family of Mr. Hobson are in my prayers at this very sad time. The beautifully written and touching obituary gave me an opportunity to learn more about Brooke's beloved grandfather. Thinking of you, Clarine Brooke's secretary

Clarine Kuntz - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Thank you for such wonderful memories, Pa. Everytime I hear "Huttie and the Bluefish," I will think of you. I love you and I will miss you, always.

Brooke Colaizzi - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ We love you and miss you Great-Grandpa! Thank you for always playing cars with us!

Domenic and Sabrina - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ I will always remember playing at Uncle Wayne's and Aunt Wilma's farm. I was always scared of their dog Chicka, throwing rocks in the well, and going to see the tractors. Later staying in their beautiful homes in Yuma and learning to play pool in their basement.

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**Neal & Angela Hisam** - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Lots of memories of both your Dad and Mom. Going out to eat and playing pool once a week after doing your Mom's hair. Wilma and I only beat the guys in pool maybe once or twice but had so much fun. Love to you all. Love, Aunt Nadine

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**Nadine Hisam** - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM