



Stanley Ross Simmons

May 30, 1929 - March 6, 2011

Surrounded by his family on March 6, 2011, S.R. Pete Simmons entered immortality with our Lord and Savior following a series of debilitating conditions his body could no longer endure. Pete's adventure began in Wichita, Kansas on May 30, 1929, Decoration Day. He was born to Henry and Mabel Stockham as the sixth child amongst eight offspring. The family eventually found themselves grounded in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Pete spent his childhood witnessing his father work as the grounds keeper for the Tulsa Oilers baseball team. With an 8th grade education to his name, Pete swiftly departed Tulsa, where he would soon find himself in Canada. Joining a "Wild West Show," Pete discovered his great love working with horses – a love that would stay with him his entire life. Additionally, Pete picked up the art of trick roping where he deftly dazzled audiences with an exhaustive combination of tricks. Keeping up with the art, inspired very much by the great American, Will Rogers, Pete would eventually dazzle audiences one last time as the oldest featured trick roper in the hit musical, "The Will Rogers Follies." Pete's first love, however, was always his lovely wife, Leslie May Lamunyon. They were joined in holy matrimony on December 20, 1952 in Enid, Oklahoma. Their love brought into this world four daughters who would become four amazing women. Shortly after their marriage, the allure of ranch life brought the family to northern Colorado in 1954. Thus began a chapter in his life that would foster a love of rodeo. This earned him status as a "Gold Card" member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Associate PRCA. While Pete competed in a wide

range of events, he soon began to focus on timed events, finding a specific passion for Single Steer Roping. His nascent skills soon matured and after competing in several Invitational Ropings, he qualified for the PRCA Single Steer Roping Finals of 1971 and 1972. Unable to shake his passion for show business, Pete and his four daughters were able to take a trick roping act on the road. "The Spinning Simmons and Their Ropes in Rhythm" were contracted often to perform at several rodeos and venues in Colorado and Wyoming from 1963 to 1965. Leslie got into the action by designing and making the dazzling costumes for the show, thus making it a true "family act". Before retiring from the Labor Union in 1991, Pete spent a life wearing many different hats...a pipe foreman, ranch hand, painter, ring and yard man, auctioneer, and a teacher who would pass on his wisdom to others. Outside of work, he was incessantly supporting his daughters in 4-H and high school rodeo. Sharing his passion for all things western, he invested time teaching leather craft to many youngsters in 4-H and was instrumental in starting the Larimer County High School Rodeo Club in 1971. He could often be found working the auction ring at the Larimer County Fair.

As a member of St. John's Lutheran Church since 1954, Pete shared his talent of fly fishing and tying flies with members of the congregation and contributed to the growth and character of his daughters by emphasizing that anything worth doing is worth doing well. In his final years, Pete's joy was made complete as grand children entered his life, filling his days with a whole new set of adventures. As the grandchildren matured into adults, Pete would see his line passed down to great grandchildren. As a Veteran of the Air Force, serving our country in the Korean War and stationed in Iwo Jima, Pete will be interred at Fort Logan National Cemetery with honors. Pete is survived by his wife of 58 years, Leslie May. Daughters include Laquitta Michael Blehm, Stanlyn Joe Johnston, Ladelle Jack West and Sheila Chip Barnhart. Grandchildren include Logan West, Levi West, Nathaniel Barnhart, Reggan Blehm, Kennan Blehm, Jachele West, Noah Barnhart and Devon Barnhart. To round it out, great grandchildren include Lucas Yoke, Tucker West, Asher

Barnhart and Hunter West to be born very soon. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Pathways Hospice, Cancer Building Fund PVH Foundation or charity of your choice. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. Interment with Military Honors will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO., Staging Area "B".

Tribute Wall

KS

“ Our condolences. Sorry we couldn't make the funeral. Its hard to loose a husband, father, and grandfather. But know that he is rejoicing in heaven that he doesn't have to put up with his body anymore. He will be deeply missed.

Kerry & Debbie Sheaman - March 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Hi Laquitta and Mike and Family, Sorry to read about the passing of your Dad, and Grandad. Even though I didn't know him personally, I enjoyed reading his story in the paper. He sounded like a real fun and caring man. He accomplished a lot in his lifetime. There can never be a replacement for our Dads so know he will be missed in many ways. God's Blessings and comfort be with you during this time and the years to come. Lots of Love, Becky and all.

Becky Waldo - March 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ We are sorry for your loss. We have many fond memories of Pete and the Simmons family.

Tony and Decee Shifflett - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Leslie and Family, So very sorry to hear of Pete's passing. Pete was one of the greatest people I've ever known. One of a kind people. I worked with Pete at the sale barn Farmer.Rancher Comm.co. He was such a hard worker a great asset to that place and he loves his family more than anything. He always knew you where ever you met him and a wonderful friend to all he knew, Rodeo was his sport of choice and he will always be remembered for his wonderful smile-you always wondered what he was up to. Just ONE GREAT PERSON - and he will be missed.May God bless you at this trying time. My prayers and deepest sympathy go out to you all. A friend,
Shirley,Jordan

Shirley Jordan - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Special Prayers are sent your way in this time of sorrow Pete will be greatly missed by our family.May the strength of God make you strong during this time of sorrow. Sorry we will not be able to attend in person Our Thought & Prayers are with you.

Andy & Dawn Lawrence - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Dear Simmons Family, My father Red Ashby called me today to tell me of Pete's passing and even though the years and miles have run a fast race between the our high school years, I hold in my heart fond memories of the time spent at your home with Stanlyn and all of you. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. As always your friend Micky L. Ashby and Family

Micky Ashby - March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM