

Harvey Edward Lancaster

(March 8, 1919 - March 21, 2016)

Harvey Edward Lancaster was born on March 8, 1919, to James and Lena Lancaster and grew up on a ranch near Oral, SD, with two brothers and six sisters.

On October 26, 1942, Harvey married Mae Denton in San Angelo, TX. Together they had 3 children, Ron, Gary and Janice. Harvey served in the U.S. Army Corps/Air Force during WWII from May 5, 1942, to December 1, 1945. He was honorably discharged with the rank of corporal.

Harvey was a very honest man who lived a full and honorable life. He was employed with Custer State Park from 1946 to 1982 as a game warden. Harvey and Mae lived in Custer State Park across from the Game Lodge where they raised their three children from 1942 until 1976 when they moved into Harvey's mother's house in Custer. While employed with CSP, he was involved with the production of many movies filmed in Custer State Park including: How the West Was Won, The Last Hunt, Chief Crazy Horse, A Man Called Horse, and Return of a Man Called Horse. He loved the time he spent with Custer State Park. To Harvey, it wasn't really a job because he enjoyed it so much.

After retirement from CSP he worked at Bear Country, USA for a brief period. Harvey was often seen around the land he grew up on in the Southern Hills poisoning rattle snakes and prairie dogs for ranchers. When not working, Harvey would spend a lot of his spare time fishing at the many lakes in Custer State Park and other lakes around the area. He would say that he loved to fish, and he fished to live. He also loved hunting, collecting agates, photographing wildlife, and gardening. Harvey died on March 21, 2016, at his home at the age of 97, with his two sons at his side.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mae Lancaster; Daughter, Janice Kooyman; two brothers; four sisters; Grandson, Gary Lancaster.

He is survived by his two sons Ron (Carol) Lancaster of Wittman, Arizona, Gary (Josie) Lancaster of Lewistown, Montana; two sister- Gladys Halls of Hot Springs, SD and Gracie Lancaster of Spearfish, SD. Harvey had 12 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, four great great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and lifelong friends.

Services will be held at Custer Lutheran Fellowship on Monday, March 28, at 10:30 a.m., within view of Stockade Lake where Harvey loved to fish. Committal services will be held following the service at Custer Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers are all of his grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many friends.

