

George Marelius Wilder was born January 12, 1915 in Williston to Donald Truman and Eva Helena (Marelius) Wilder. He began his schooling at Twin Lake School and graduated from Williston High School with the Class of 1936.

For a time he did farm work, worked with the WPA, was a truck driver for Standard Oil Co, and was on a survey crew working with Willard Webster.

On September 28, 1942 George enlisted in the Army Air Corp. During World War II he trained in radio school at Scott Field, IL, joined a crew at a glider test base at Wright Field, transferred to Muroc Air Base (now Edwards) and was discharged at Santa Anna Air base in California on February 4, 1946.

He married Cordelia (Deal) Markuson in Sidney, MT on November 10, 1945.

Upon returning from the war he worked at the Post Office for eight years until 1954 when he started Model Drive In Cleaners with his brother, Jerry. They later began Northwest Supply Co. in the early 1960's. For several years he owned, and operated with his sister, Shirley Sommars, the Rustle-Inn Cabins where Hardees is now located. He retired from the cleaning business in May of 1976. During his supposed retirement he painted houses and had a snowblowing business for many years.

He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church and the American Legion.

George was quite musical. As a young man he was a member of a dance band, the "Swingsters." He was an original member of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, under the direction of Virgil Syverson. In addition to playing the bugle with the Corps, he was also gifted with the piano, organ and accordion.

He also liked to garden and would help Cordelia with the canning. In the late 1990's George took up quilt-making, and made quilts for all his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings and friends.

George is survived by his four daughters and their children: Lola (George "Laddie") Walling of Montrose, CO and their boys, Joe and Tom Walling; Devona Moorhead of Williston and her son, Mike Moorhead and fiancée, Tammy Ruf, and daughter, Teri (Matthew) Mitson; Lanette (Glen) Singer of Dickinson and their daughters, Paula (Rex) Mosley, Jeanine (Chris Kopczynski) Singer, and Amy (Aaron) Garman; Marlyce (Jerome) Sieler of Williston and her daughters, Crystal (Dean) Lester and Erin Privratsky; his "fifth" daughter, Debbie (Larry) Brudwick of Williston; his great-grandchildren, Isabel and Phoebe Garman, Miah Mitson, Finn Kopczynski, Emma Lester, Preston Mosley, Tristin and Shealin Howard; and his adopted granddaughter, Sammy Brudwick. Also surviving are the "twins", his brother, Shannon "Kiddo" Wilder of Williston and sister, Shirley (Robert) Sommars of Pueblo, CO; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Cordelia in 1994; an infant son, Robert; parents; brothers, James, Jerry, and Donald Wilder; and his son-in-law, Lee Moorhead.

## In Memory of GEORGE M. WILDER



January 12, 1915 - December 11, 2005