



Lester Darco

April 22, 1925 - May 4, 2014

Lester Darco, known by many as “Cowboy”, age 89, of Gary, MN, died Sunday, May 4, 2014, at Bemidji Medical Center, Bemidji, MN. Lester Herman Darco, the 6th of 8 children was born April 22, 1925, to Dan H. and Nettie (Terway) Darco. He grew up on a farm near Beaulieu, MN, and attended school in Mahnomen. Following his schooling, Lester entered the United States Army. Upon being discharged, he returned to the Mahnomen area. In August of 1945, Lester was united in marriage to Felicia Trautner and they began a family. The couple later divorced and Lester remained in the Mahnomen area. In the early 1990’s, he married Clara “Jeanie” Bennet and they lived west of Mahnomen. Over the years, Lester sold Christmas trees, owned and operated Darco’s Body Shop, and trained and sold horses. His love for horses began as a young boy. His entire life he was involved with horses. In addition to training and selling horses, Lester also judged at many horse shows and could often be found at the sales barn. He has many ribbons himself for showing horses and started the Mahnomen Saddle Club. Lester had a true love for horses and wasn’t dressed until he had his cowboy hat and boots. He, along with Pat Goodwin, can also be credited with naming the Sno-deo, many years ago. Like his father, he had a knack for telling stories and giving people nicknames. He loved his family and had great faith. Lester is survived by five daughters: Claudette (Bill) Tiley, Fort Collins, CO, Jill (Buck) Johnson, Minden, NV, Debbie (Pete) Blattenbauer, Red Feather Lakes, CO, Kay Darco, Fort Collins, CO, Dana (Randy) Berggren, Moorhead, MN; three

step-sons: Rick Lebsack, Scott Lebsack, & Terry Witt; nine grandchildren; six great grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Carol Darco, Fort Collins, CO; brother, Everett (Gloria) Darco, Mahnomon, MN; sister, Alverta Bell, Dallas, TX; sister-in-law, JoAnn Darco, Dent, MN; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Jeanie; daughter, Stacie Darco, sons, Lester Jr. and Dennis Darco; sisters, Ruby LaVoy and Hazel Garland; brothers, Jay, Kenneth and infant John Darco and a grandson, Travis Marsh. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Beaulieu, MN. Visitation will be held at the church one hour prior to the funeral service. Interment will be held at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Beaulieu.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ I am sorry for your loss. I am the youngest sibling of Jerry, Roni, Jenifer, Jeanne, and Candy Christensen. It was heart-warming to read about Les and his love of horses. I remember him at the horse shows, cowboy hat and riding tall with a smile on his face! With sympathy.... God's Blessings.

Celeste Forsell-Christensen - May 10, 2014 at 12:07 AM

CR

“ To the Family, We have lots of good memories of Les during our horse show days. My uncles were Ed Forsell and Bob Pederson. Family friends were Harold Natwick and Alfred Prestegard. Back in the 1960's we had lots of good times with Les. He was quite the horseman. He judged at alot of the horseshows. He was always dressed to the T. We all enjoyed knowing him and the fun times together. God's blessings to all of you. Candy (Christensen) Robertson.

Candy Robertson - May 09, 2014 at 07:29 PM

JM

“ Have not seen Lester in many years but will never forget him. He did like to tease and give you a nickname { mine was Mr. French ?? } Always wanted to learn just a bit of what he knew about horses. Prayers to his Family and may God bless the Darco Family.

jerry marsh - May 08, 2014 at 09:34 PM

JH

“ God Bless you Lester. You will be missed by many. We had many great memories with you and Maggie. You sold us many horses,Emily's and Austins first horses that they spent many hours on.We all will miss you. Joel,Angie,Austin,Emily Hamre Have a good ride cowboy....

Joel Hamre - May 08, 2014 at 04:41 PM

BB

“ Our prayers are with all of you, sorry for your loss.

Byron and Sheela Backen - May 08, 2014 at 12:41 PM

KB

“ To my sister, Dana, I am sorry for the loss of your Dad. The nicknames in the obituary is so true. You will always be "Little Wolf". I had mine as well. He loved you dearly! To the rest of the Darco Family...my sympathy to all. You will be missed Les by all those who knew you! With Love, Kim and family

Kim Bristlin - May 08, 2014 at 12:45 AM