

ANDRUS - Long time area resident, Mr. Philip John Andrus, beloved husband of Mrs. Marlene Andrus of Bassano, Alberta, passed away on Saturday, March 6, 1999 at the age of 69 years.

He also leaves to cherish his memory six children: Phyllis (Steve) Hagberg, Ken (Ann) Andrus, Doug (Bernice) Andrus, all of Bassano, Alberta, Brenda Andrus of Strathmore, Shane Andrus of Burstall, Saskatchewan and Jeff (Michelle) Andrus of Bassano; five granddaughters: Kailey, Lucy, Nicole, Charlene, and Shelby; and one grandson Phillip John; three brothers: Gordon, David and Ralph; one sister, Ethel; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, William and Ethel (Millie) Andrus; by three sisters: Rose, Sarah, Alice, and one brother Jim.

Phillip John Andrus was born on April 2, 1929 in Hutton, Alberta. He was the second child of nine children born to William and Millie Andrus. He married Marlene Hickle on May 17, 1953, at the Hanna First United church, and together they raised their family. Phil enjoyed card games, watching the rodeo, and especially playing with his grandchildren. In the earlier years, when his two oldest boys were playing hockey, he delighted in being the coach of the team.

He took pride in hard work, and through the years learned several different trades. Phil was employed as a mine worker (Sheerness), gas plant operator, truck driver, farmer and rancher. Additionally, he operated his own backhoe and trenching business, and was influential in the early efforts to create natural gas co-ops in rural Alberta. He was noted for his ability to quickly learn new skills.

His years of farming and ranching brought him the greatest personal reward. He loved working his cattle herd with his favorite horse "Sugar-Bear."

A man of strong convictions, he held opinions on nearly every matter under the sun! Hard life experience was his teacher, and had taught him much wisdom.

Throughout his life he was a man who continuously overcame challenges, to make a life for his family. In his senior years, his inner strength and character was again demonstrated in his valiant battle with chronic lung and heart problems.

A Memorial Service was held at the Bassano Community Hall, Bassano, Alberta on Tuesday, March 9, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Shane Andrus officiating. As an expression of sympathy, those wishing to remember Mr. Phillip Andrus may do so with a gift to the Alberta Lung Association, P.O. Box 4500, Stn. S, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 9Z9. Cremation arrangements were entrusted to Saamis Memorial Funeral Chapel and Crematorium, "The Chapel in the Park," #1 Dunmore Road, S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 1Z5.

Brooks Bulletin March 10, 1999

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