

Leonard Wood

Leonard Wood was born on a ranch near Parshall on April 18, 1920. He was the tenth of thirteen children born to Herb and Lillian Wood. Leonard attended school at the one room Columbine School House. He was a veteran of World War II having served in Europe with the Army Signal Corps. During the war Leonard met Bud Owsley, who suggested that Leonard write to his sister Hazel. Leonard did write and after discharge from the army, he married Hazel on May 5, 1946. The new couple returned to Parshall and operated the family ranch, first selling cream, then later raising hereford beef cattle. He was widely known for his ability to fix almost any type of machinery and he thoroughly enjoyed helping the neighbors and their broken equipment. Leonard got great pleasure from welcoming new people into the community. Many people's fondest memories will be of great food and conversation around Leonard's and Hazel's kitchen table. Leonard used his military education by serving as the repairman for the local Williams Fork Telephone Company. He also served his community for 12 years as a member of the West Grand School Board. Leonard and Hazel had the most fun of their lives when learning to square dance with Gilbert and Rose Cox, Jack and Lois Taussig, Clint and Ruth Shoffner, and Al and Dorothy Jarrell.

Leonard's emphysema was caused by cigarette smoking and although he quit smoking, the disease forced him to retire from ranching and square dancing. However, it did not quench his friendly nature or inventiveness, and he expressed his artistic side by building many one-of-a-kind creations such as western coffee tables, horseshoe art, and windmills. Leonard particularly liked windmills because, as a Christian, they helped him visualize God. He said that God and the wind are both invisible, yet just as a turning windmill shows the wind is present, everything in life shows God is present. Leonard had accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior so his spirit now lives in Heaven. The family's wish is that you too accept Jesus so that you may join Leonard sometime in the future.