



Irvin L. Thompson

Irvin, the sixth of eleven children, was born on the family homestead near Marcus to Edwin and Anna (Brevik) Thompson. He attended Barada School through the eighth grade but was not allowed to attend high school. Consequently he valued education and made sure all his children graduated high school. His family moved to Forrest City, Iowa, where he began working on various farms. In 1936, the George T. Adams Rodeo Company came to town. Irvin rode broncs at one of their performances and was hired on the spot. When the company left town, Irvin went with them for the next two years, traveling throughout the southeast and eastern United States. They went from Florida, where Irvin said, "I didn't

like them damn alligators" to northern Minnesota and Canada, "where there were too many mosquitoes" in their travels. They were to perform in Madison Square Garden but sat up outside away from it because, "the place was a damn, dirty, smelly pit." In between summer travels, he wintered in Menard, TX, with his friend, Calvin Segausser "The Pecos Kid" and family. The last of the thirties and early forties found him back in South Dakota rodeoing on weekends, working on ranches, skinning cat for Wally Knight, and starting his own herd of cows.

On August 13, 1945, he married Marian Howie at Sturgis. Irvin worked on South Dakota ranches near Thunder Butte, Faith, Green Grass, Isabel, and Timber Lake before moving back to the home place at Marcus in 1967. Marian and the four children born to them, Adele, Alton "Bub", Vicky, and Earl, moved to each spot and called it home.

While raising their family, Irvin was a 4-H club leader, Farm Bureau president, County Farm Bureau president, president of the Timber Lake Saddle Club, director of the Dewey County 4-H Rodeo, and member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Timber Lake, where he was on the Building Committee. Irvin was active in the Faith Stock Show spending many unpaid hours as the ring steward of the horse show. He was a South Dakota Brand Inspector and did the back tagging at Faith Livestock for the South Dakota Livestock Sanitary Board. He worked for many years as an assistant to Dr. Wayne Sletten, traveling the countryside vaccinating cattle from Parade to Reva. He loved this because he met and visited with so many wonderful people. Nothing made him madder than "some so-and-so that wouldn't visit." Irvin and Marian loved dancing and were known for their dancing ability. He assisted many young South Dakotans get started riding bulls, broncs, and breaking horses. One young man he helped was the legendary Casey Tibbs who used Irvin's bronc saddle and equipment before he had his own. As Jim Traversie said, "Irvin had a steel trap memory" and he told wonderful stories of early day South Dakota ranching and rodeos. Young and old would gather round to hear his stories and gain some horse knowledge. Irvin was believed to be the last surviving South Dakota member of the old original Turtle Association, previously known as the RCA, Rodeo Cowboys Association, and now called the PRCA or Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Irvin L. Thompson, 98, rode his bronc through the gates of Heaven on January 14, 2014, at the Philip Nursing Home.

Proud to have shared his life are his children, Adele (Denver) Enright of Timber Lake, Alton "Bub" (D'Anne) Thompson of Marcus, Vicky (Harold) Waterland of Marcus, and daughter-in-law, Corinna Thompson of Faith; one brother, Francis "Bud" Thompson, Kent, WA; two sisters, Ruth Barlow, Reno, NV, and Rosalie Maxwell, Bakersfield, CA. Also surviving him are nine grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Marian; his youngest son, Earl; his parents and in-laws; four brothers; three sisters; five brother-in-laws; four sister-in-laws; one niece; and one nephew.

A memorial has been established to the Marcus Hall.

In Loving Memory



Irvin L. Thompson

1915 ~ 2014

***A Cowboy's Prayer
By Badger Clark***

*Oh Lord, I've never lived
where churches grow.
I've loved creation better as it stood
That day You finished it, so long ago
And looked upon Your work
and called it good.
I know that others find You in the light
That's sifted down through
tinted window panes,
And yet I seem to feel You near tonight
In this dim, quiet starlight on the plains.*

*I thank You, Lord, that I'm placed so well,
That You have made my freedom so complete;
That I'm no slave to whistle, clock or bell,
Nor weak-eyed prisoner of wall and street.
Just let me live my life as I've begun
And give me work that's open to the sky;
Make me a pardner of the wind and sun,
And I won't ask a life that's soft or high.*

*Let me be easy on the man that's down;
Let me be square and generous with all.
I'm careless sometimes, Lord, when I'm in town,
But never let 'em say I'm mean or small!
Make me as big and open as the plains,
As honest as the hawse between my knees,
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains,
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze!*

*Forgive me, Lord, if sometimes I forget,
You know about the reasons that are hid,
You understand the things that gall and fret,
You know me better than my mother did.
Just keep an eye on all that's done and said
And right me sometimes when I turn aside,
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead
That stretches upward toward the Great Divide.*



***In Loving Memory
Irvin L. Thompson***

<i>Born</i>	<i>Died</i>
November, 11, 1915	January 14, 2014
Marcus, South Dakota	Philip, South Dakota

Funeral Services
Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
Faith Community Center

Clergyman
Pastor Harold Delbridge

<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Soloist</i>
Kay King	John Miller

Special Musical Selections
"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"
"Strawberry Roan"

Pallbearers
Larry Rosander ~ Chad King ~ Joe Rose
Bob Hansen ~ Darwin Hellekson ~ Gary Simon

Honorary Pallbearers
All Close Friends, Family and Neighbors

Interment
White Owl Cemetery

*The Family Extends An Invitation To Join Them In Fellowship
And Refreshments In The Gym Immediately Following Services.*