

## Donald Harding Hight

Don Hight was born on November 3, 1920, the fifth of 10 children to Charles and Edith Hight. He grew up in the White River area. After graduating from high school, he entered the U.S. Army and served as a paratrooper in Europe during WWII. He then began ranching south of Murdo, where he and his wife, Adeline, made their home. They had two children, Dan and Cheryl. The family raised longhorn cattle, horses, and buffalo. Don was well-known in the rodeo circle for all the rank bucking horses and nasty bucking bulls that came off the Hight Ranch.

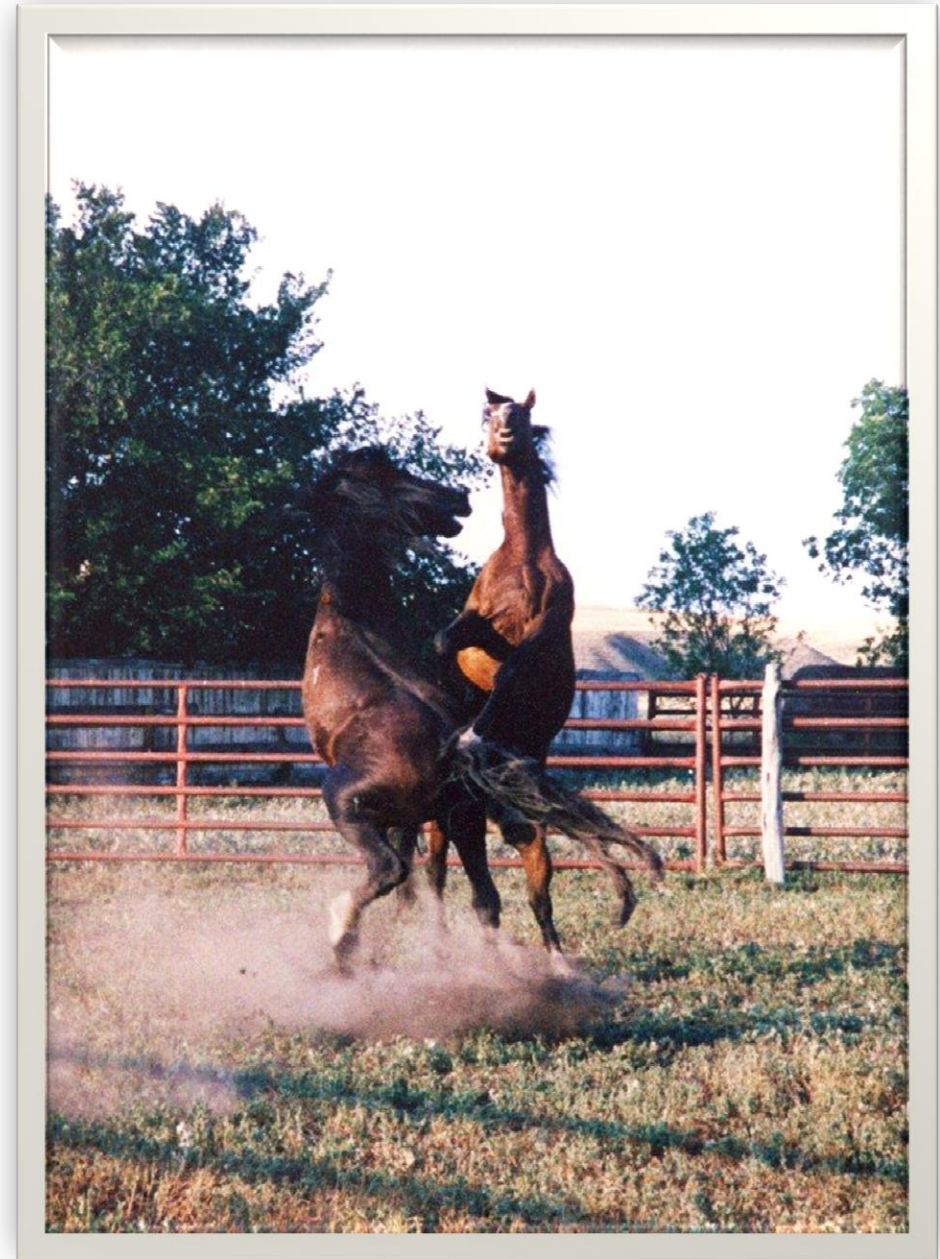
In 1962, Don captured the world's attention by trailing over 1800 head of cattle from Westover to Winner, a distance of 70 miles. Shortly after, Don and Adeline flew to California, where Don was featured in an episode of the Rawhide TV series.

Don, age 92, of Lemmon and formerly of Murdo, South Dakota, died at Five Counties Nursing Home in Lemmon on Sunday, February 10, 2013.

Surviving him are son, Dan Hight and his wife, Vanessa, and their children Cody, Hannah, and Bridger of White River; daughter, Cheryl and her husband, Barry Vig of Opal; their daughter, Georgia and her husband, Steve Dale and sons, Joe and Jeremy of Rapid City; their son, Justin Vig and his wife, Mellissa and children, Blake and Skylar of Faith; their daughter, Marti Jo and her husband, Bucky Derflinger and daughter, Jami of Opal; and their son, Ryan of Opal; also two sisters, Lorraine Fraser and Dorothy Hight.

Preceding him in death were his wife of 53 years, Adeline; his parents Charles and Edith Hight; four brothers, Harold, Harlan, Ray, and Roy; and three sisters, Maurine Hight, Irene Schramm, and Sally Littau.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadee.funerals.com](http://www.kinkadee.funerals.com).



*In Loving Memory Of*

*Don Hight*

*1920 ~ 2013*

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch  
in the church hall following the committal service.  
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



*The two of you still show us all, What love is all about,  
Love and laughter, tears of joy, You've made it last, there is no doubt.  
In '49, you pledged your vows, To wed her as your wife,  
Through thick and thin, and all the years, She'll be your friend for life.  
Side by side, still to this day, You've worked the land you love,  
And raised a "million" buffalo, But that wasn't enough.  
Longhorn cows and Brahma bulls, On every hilltop to be seen,  
Speckled whites and brindled blacks, Grandpa's dream became reality.  
His favorite sight of all, you know, Thundered by with pounding hooves,  
Wild manes and flowing tails, Bucking horses were his love.  
Shire cross with Thoroughbred, Paint and Appy blood,  
They've thrown the best down to the ground, Most times they've always won.  
Mr. Tibbs and High Dollar, too, Have made it in the books,  
The other ones...an endless list, They all had what it took.  
In '62 the world would know, About the drive that gave him fame,  
1800 head in five cold days, To Winner the buyers came.  
Hollywood and "Rawhide" heard, And flew him way out West,  
To play with Eastwood on the set, He did his very best.  
Cattle drives and buffalo drives, Grandpa's a legend to this day,  
Ranches in almost every state, Have bought the stock he's raised.  
This account in no way claims, To even try to tell,  
Of all the awesome things they've done, And seen and heard as well.  
Now you see why they're so great, I hope you understand,  
They've enriched our lives in every way, This woman and this man.*

*-Georgia, 1998*

*In Loving Memory Of*  
***Donald Harding Hight***

***Born***

November 3, 1920  
White River, South Dakota

***Died***

February 10, 2013  
Lemmon, South Dakota

***Funeral Service***

Wednesday, February 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m.  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Piedmont, South Dakota

***Officiating***

Pastor Howie Baird  
Pastor Harold Delbridge

***Special Music***

Wes Hotchkiss

***Musical Selections***

"How Great Thou Art"  
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

***Pallbearers***

Georgia Donn Dale, Justin Wayne Vig, Marti Jo Derflinger  
Ryan Charles Vig, Cody Joseph Hight, Hannah Raye Hight  
Bridger Daniel Hight, Jami Lynn Derflinger  
Blake Ryan Vig, Skylar Rae Vig

***Honorary Pallbearers***

Howard Beissinger, Jerry Olson, Ed Petranek, Harold Krogman  
Tenney Hight, Jim Newbold, Alvin Stromer, Tom Larson, Dennis Hanson

***Military Honors***

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

***Interment***

Black Hills National Cemetery