



Irvin Lampman Kershner is no longer with us. He walked this earth for more than 96 years, but finally hung up his spurs on June 22, 2007. Through his life he sheared a lot of sheep, rode and broke a lot of horses, punched a lot of cows, and told a lot of stories. Irvin was born in Shell, WY on March 15, 1911 to George and Alice Kershner. He spent his younger years on the ranch on Horse Creek which was homesteaded by his grandfather Kershner. When he started school Irvin moved to Greybull along with his brother, Les, and lived with his Lampman grandparents, going home only on vacations.

One of Irvin's favorite stories was when he and Les decided to "fix" his dad's 22 rifle. Irvin put his hand over the barrel as Les pounded on a bolt. It went off and shot him through the hand, missing bone and tendons. Irvin got his first ride that day in the only car on Shell Creek to a doctor, who dipped a rag in iodine and pushed it through the hole. He said "gosh-o-fishhooks".

He married Gayle Darlene Doyle on July 1, 1938, and they began a new life together. After traveling throughout the western states along with his parents looking for land, they located and bought 1400 acres on Bozeman Hill in 1939. It had good grass and water. He ranched with his father until George and Alice retired in 1960. Irvin and Darlene made a living and raised a family the way so many of their generation did, by hard work and commitment. They raised two children, a daughter, April (Maggard), and a son, Kent. On Bozeman Hill there was snow to shovel in the winter, lambs to feed in the spring, hay to put in during the summer, and every once in a while a community dance to attend in the fall. They raised Angus cattle and then switched to sheep and at one time had 600 breeding ewes.

In 1973, they sold their ranch and retired to a 10-acre plot off Blackwood Road. For the last 34 years, Irvin occupied his life with horseshoe competition. He was voted into the Montana Horseshoe Hall of Fame in 1983 and traveled to the National Horseshoe Competition. Many trophies lined the wall of his den. Although Darlene traveled quite a lot, Irvin only took one major trip which he enjoyed immensely. They traveled to Africa and toured big game reserves. He came home with stories and great pictures. He had an interest in politics, economics and coffee with friends at 4Bs, McDonalds, or Hardees.

Irvin and Darlene were married for 66 years until Darlene passed away in 2004. He often said that they had had a perfect marriage for the last 33 years. The loyalty and devotion that Irvin and Darlene showed to each other has had its effect and blessing on their family they leave behind. Their home was a place of kindness and acceptance to all. Irvin wrote his memoirs so that his heirs would know what life was like in the badlands of Wyoming and on Bozeman Hill. These writings and the stories he told also remain with us. At the time of his death he was still driving and had a memory good enough to tell about Woodrow Wilson's campaign of 1916. He attended Christian Center for many years and Belgrade Community church in later ones. After the death of his wife, Irvin longed for their reunion together again. He recently said, "I just want to be with my wife and with Jesus." He now has that privilege.

Irvin is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Lester; granddaughter, Rachael; his son, Ken,; and wife, Darlene. Survivors include his daughter, April (Steve) Maggard of Belgrade; daughter-in-law, Maryann Kershner of Stockton Springs, Maine; grandchildren, Greg (Jane) Maggard of Belgrade; Neill (Kathy) Maggard of Belgrade; Dan Maggard of Belgrade; Dean (Olga) of Silver Springs, Georgia; Caleb (Erin) Kershner of Leesburg, Virginia; Serrell (Matt) Grubbs of Middleton, Maryland; Danae Kershner, Edith Kershner and Jinan Kershner all of Stockton Springs, Maine and 20 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held June 27, 10:00 a.m. at Belgrade Community Church. Interment will be June 28, at Shell Creek Cemetery, Shell, Wyoming.

Memorials may be made in his name to the Bozeman Cancer Center, Bozeman Deaconess Foundation, 931 Highland Blvd. Suite 3200, Bozeman 59715 or Belgrade Community Church, 119 S. Broadway, Belgrade, MT 59714. Funeral arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service.