



Bruce Waxler Shimmin was third in a family of eleven children, 5 boys and 6 girls, born to Robert A. and Verna May (Priest) Shimmin on the family homestead in Hooker County, Nebraska, October 9, 1915. His family farmed in the Sandhills of Nebraska, and it was the tradition for the boys to only complete 8th grade so that they could work on the farm. (He always joked that they thought he needed another year of school, so he repeated 8th grade. Actually, it was felt that he was too young to work full-time on the farm at that time.)

He and Elma Zickefoose were married by a Justice of the Peace in North Platte, Nebraska, on June 6, 1937. They had three sons, Dennis, Riley, and David.

In the early 60s, Bruce took the opportunity to move to Montana, and traveled by train from Mullen, NE, to Livingston, MT, and made the deal to purchase their place in Paradise Valley. He and Elma moved to Paradise Valley in 1967, and were joined by Riley and Carolyn that summer.

They raised Brown Swiss dairy cows, Black Angus beef cattle, (plus hogs and chickens for awhile). Bruce and Elma were also very active with the irrigation and hay operation, and delighted in raising a large garden, which they enjoyed sharing and preserving. Always included in their garden were potatoes and sweet corn, and in the landscaping were flowers, including gladiolas, roses, peonies, dahlias, and lilies, along with choke cherries and other trees. They often enjoyed trips in the fall to pick or purchase Flathead cherries with a group of their friends; and to frequent family reunions.

Bruce actually "retired" from irrigating and gardening only a few years ago; as long as he was able, he helped change sprinklers and work in his garden.

He was very interested in current events, and enjoyed discussions, if he was able to hear them. He also liked to know what was going on with the weather.

Bruce attended the Livingston Congregational Church and Paradise Valley Community Church. He was a committed, born-again Christian, and faithfully attended church and happily contributed to missions programs and youth work. He had a deep knowledge and belief in the Bible (preferably the King James Version!) in spite of his feeling that he was lacking in education.

In addition to his parents, Bruce was preceded in death by his wife, Elma, in 2000; son David in 1966; son Dennis in 1998; four brothers and three sisters; three brothers-in-law, and one sister-in-law.

He is survived by his son Riley (Carolyn) of the Paradise Valley; daughter-in-law Rita Shimmin, Ogallala, Nebraska; grandchildren, Kory (Rachelle) Shimmin, Wilsall and Pray, and Kristy (Jack) Fish, Livingston. He is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, Brady, Gabi, and Ellyce Shimmin, and Jacob, Emma, Rossi, Grace, and Silas Fish; three sisters, Jessie Eskew, Caldwell, Idaho, Mary (Dick) Andrews, Broomfield, Colorado, and Rose (Don) Dobbins, Ft. Morgan, Colorado; and sisters-in-law Evelyn Shimmin, Ft. Morgan, Colorado, Susan Shimmin, Cloquet, Minnesota, and Lila Shimmin, North Platte, Nebraska.