



## Harley G Babcock

August 24, 1936 - February 19, 2014

Harley G. Babcock, 77, passed away on February 19, 2014 surrounded by his family.

He was born east of Long Pine, NE at his aunt's home to the late Harry A. and Margaret E. (Johnson) Babcock Sr. He attended the country school and graduated from Long Pine High School. Upon graduation he stayed on the family ranch before gaining employment as a telegraph lineman for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. Harley had laid eyes on the new school teacher at Long Pine and when she and the Methodist Youth Group were raking his Grandma Johnson's yard; to raise money for an up and coming trip, he took this opportunity to ride his Indian motorcycle up and down the alley to get her attention. Mary E. Mansbridge and Harley were later married on September 15, 1957 and shortly after made their home in Chadron and Crawford, NE, while he attended college and Mary taught school. In 1960 they welcomed their son, James "Jim" to the family. In 1962 they left the family ranch so that Harley could work for the Bureau of Reclamation in Ainsworth/Valentine, NE as a surveyor. Living in a trailer home made moving easier for the family. In 1964 they welcomed a daughter, Susan. The Bureau in 1965 transferred Harley to Northern California and here they stayed until 1967. In 1967 he went to work for Bonneville Power Administration, as an inspector, traveling to many locations for them. In 1975, the family moved to East Wenatchee. He retired at the young age of 51. He joined Mary with the antique business, helping her display at antique shows throughout the

northwest and setting up booths at Apple Annie's Antique Gallery, in Cashmere.

He was known as a 'Tinkerer and a Mr. Fix-it Man' he enjoyed making and doing things with his grandchildren. In his earlier years he enjoyed hunting and fishing. A bird watcher, Harley would replenish bird feeders around the house daily; he knew the names of the species that would visit and recognized their songs. He loved a good mystery novel or historical biography and kept a daily diary of his life.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary E, East Wenatchee, children, Jim (Ginger) Babcock, East Wenatchee, Susan "Susy" (John) Breneman, Colbert, WA; brother, Harry (Jo) Babcock, Bassett, NE; sister, Lorene Mercier, Grant, NE; grandchildren, April Babcock, Atlanta, GA, Braden Babcock, Spokane, Conner and Camryn Breneman of Colbert, WA.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, February 28, 2014, 2:00 PM at the Trinity Methodist Church, 850 N. James Ave., East Wenatchee. Daughter Susy is suggesting getting a bird feeder to feed the birds in his memory or cash donations can be made to the Boy Scouts of American, Troop #89, 2350 10th NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802. You are invited to view his online guest book at: [www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com](http://www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com) . Arrangements are by Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee, WA.

# Tribute Wall

HL

“ I'm thinking of you Mary and know what you are going through, my husband Duane went to Heaven on 10-15-2012, I will be praying for you everyday. God Bless from Hazel Marvin Langer from Long Pine. Hazel Langer 605 S. Park, Gettysburg, SD 57442. please write me.

---

**Hazel Langer** - March 21, 2014 at 11:10 AM

JS

“ there are so many times that I remember with Harley. I remember being on the ranch and having Harley make me an Indian tomahawk, teaching me how to skin an animal and stretch the hide to be used later as rope of strings. I remember being in the haystack with him and having him help me to build the top on a haystack. He also shared his horse George with me. The other memories I have involve my dad with Harley. Both were gun enthusiasts and shot together often. I was usually with them. Dad had taught me to be deliberate with sighting and shooting but Harley had a new 6 shooter and he wanted me to "keep the can rollin" It was a new way of shooting and very exciting for me. He also was an admirer of Dad's luger which Jim had brought home from Germany. I know that Dad really missed Harley when he moved and came only for vacations but they made the most of the time they had to shoot or shoot the breeze.

One Christmas we were all invited to the ranch for dinner. Jim was about 1 and a half years old and as the adults talked he grabbed the table cloth and pulled. Margaret's favorite jelly bowl went overboard and Dad reached to rescue it. Harley called him a great outfielder as the jelly was saved and did not even make a mess

---

**Jo Stec** - March 03, 2014 at 05:51 PM



“ Thank you to everyone for your warm words of encouragement and support as we say goodbye to this wonderful man I call Dad. I know he would have been elated to see all who have paid respect to him and would have been especially proud of three men in his life - my brother, nephew, and husband, who did a perfect job sharing about Dad at his service.

Everything our friends and relatives said and did seemed to come at the times when we needed it most. Every thought, prayer, Facebook "like", quick story of remembrance, and the tremendous outpour of love makes us realize how fortunate and blessed we are.

Please continue to let us know when you feed your birds or when you enjoy a bite of chocolate in honor of this man.

As I am reminded by my daughter, as with all loss, we need to be happy to have had him in our life and let that joy replace the sadness of his absence. I am slowly getting there. Also, a reminder of what my son said to me a recent time I was upset, "Grandpa would have laughed at that." Continue to laugh and smile as you think of him. Thank you...I love you all.

---

March 01, 2014 at 09:58 PM



“ Thinking of Aunt Mary, Jim, Susy and their families today. Uncle Harley would call me quite often on Sundays towards evening.....this last Sunday was my birthday & Uncle Harley didn't call me. It was different. He wanted to come back to Nebraska and see the ranch one more time. Know he is watching over the improvements at the 4-N ranch & we will talk again. Love you & miss you. Marilyn Brodbeck

---

**Marilyn Brodbeck** - February 28, 2014 at 11:03 PM

HM

“*Harley was a first-rate brother-in-law. My memories of him began in Nebraska where my sister, Mary, introduced me to him. He gave me a tour of his Dad's ranch and showed me how a true cowboy rode horses. That began a special relationship, not only as a brother-in-law but as good friends. All visits with them were so much fun, with his exceptional humor and love for the outdoors. Visits with them in Nebraska, California, Montana, Idaho, and to Washington were always special and included sightseeing tours of the areas and to the construction projects he was working on. I am thankful that Valerie got to know Harley and to appreciate the person he was. My prayers are for you, my "big sister" Mary and for Jim, Susy, and their families. Goodbye my "special brother" and my friend.*

---

**Herb and Valerie Mansbridge** - February 27, 2014 at 07:39 PM

KM

“*Candy and I have been friends with Harley and Mary for a long long time. Harley and I were best buddies and had a lot of fun kidding and aggravating each other, telling stories and each sharing our own memories of growing up on our own family ranch in two different parts of the country. We had so much in common that it was if we were brothers brought up together. We shared a love of U.S. history and love of our country. Candy and I always enjoyed getting together with Harley and Mary and we knew we all could count on each other in both good times and bad. Harley was one of the good guys and a true patriot. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the family. Harley, I'll catch up with you later. I love ya man!!*

*Ken and Candy Manke*

---

**Ken and Candy Manke** - February 25, 2014 at 07:37 PM

LW

“ Harley and I have been friends since high school, 1953, and I will miss his humor and our frequent phone conversations. He was an old 'sandhillier' at heart. Hard to get the sand out from between our toes.

*My best to Mary and all the family. Leonard*

---

**Leonard Weander** - February 24, 2014 at 10:48 AM

LP

“ We were all blessed by having Harley in our lives and in our family. His love and appreciation for all of you warmed by heart as he spoke of his life. My heart is with all of you. I shall miss him.

---

**Linda Priest** - February 24, 2014 at 05:17 AM

LR

“ My Uncle Harley was a character. He was funny, he was sarcastic, he was a devout American. I loved him so much and I am totally going to miss him. I always knew he was out there in Washington...now all I sense is an emptiness, a hole. Aunt Mary is still there, so the emptiness isn't complete cuz I love her so much, too. I'm missing you Uncle Harley, very much and I pray your family can make it through this very difficult time. Love ya, Unc!! Always have, always will! - Lori

---

**Lori Runyon** - February 23, 2014 at 02:25 PM

RK

“ Harley and Mary have been our friends and neighbors for over 30 yrs now. And it's been our pleasure to know them . Harley was always good for a laugh or two , had many great , interesting stories to tell. He was a hardworking family man , who was always talking of his kids accomplishments and their good deeds.He was devoted to Mary, her great cooking making sure we took note of her beautiful gardens each year.When his grandchildren came along he'd have the biggest smile on his face as we learned all about their comings and goings . He loved his family very much . Harley , you were a Stand-Up guy , what you saw is what you got and we appreciate that. i'm so glad we got to visit a few weeks ago and I let you know that you were in my most unforgettable characters book . Sincere sympathy to Mary , Jim & Family and Susie and Family . Roy & Connie

---

**Roy and Connie Kirby** - February 23, 2014 at 04:38 AM

RH

“ I met Harley while I was at barber school. We both liked some of the same things & we became friends. I could always count on Harley to give me his honest opinion ....whether on guns or my love life. If you ever asked Harley what he thought about something, you got it straight. I will miss him. My heartfelt condolences to Mary, Jim&Ginger,& the family.

---

**Rick Howell** - February 22, 2014 at 03:30 PM

GB

“ Our message is simply that we'll dearly miss our "right wing" buddy Harley and all that he gave us in friendship. We'll miss him and we'll never forget him. A true "original" who touched all of our lives with a sparkle in his eyes. God bless you Harley.

---

**George and Pat Bean** - February 22, 2014 at 11:34 AM