

THE COWBOY

DID IT HAPPEN WHEN HE WAS BORN,
OR WAS IT YEARS OF BECOMING,
DAYS SPENT RIDING HORSES WITH HIS DAD,
OVER HILLS, COVERED WITH PINES AND GUMBO.
SHALE AND GUMBO ROLLING
DOWN THE HILLSIDE,
AS HIS HORSE GINGERLY PICKED ITS WAY DOWN,
THE CRY OF THE COYOTES IN THE EVENING AIR,
REMINDING HIM IT WAS TIME TO RUN
HIS HORSE TOWARDS HOME.
WAS IT WATCHING THE SUN PAINT
THE EVENING SKY
AS IT SLIPPED BELOW THE HORIZON,
WHILE HE SAT BESIDE THE LAKE,
WAITING FOR THE FISH TO BITE.
HIS HORSE GRAZING ON LUSH SWEET CLOVER,
NOT FAR FROM HIS DYING CAMP FIRE.
HE AND HIS BROTHERS GREW UP TOGETHER,
RODE TOGETHER
BUT HE WAS DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW...
THE HORSE BECAME A PART OF HIM
THE LONELY HILLS WHERE THE CATTLE GRAZED,
BECAME THE PLACE HE LONGED TO BE.
WHERE HE FELT AT HOME,
AND WATCHED,
AS EACH SEASON BLENDED WITH THE NEXT.

BY TWILA PHIPPS MCWILLIAMS

In Memory Of Curtis Phipps

Family Receive Friends

Friday, November 7, 2025 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
VFW Hall ~ Jordan, Montana

Funeral Service

Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
VFW Hall ~ Jordan, Montana

Presiding ~ President Justin Dixon
Conducting ~ President Dillon Rose
Pianist ~ Brooke Farr
Chorister ~ Aurora Patten
Opening Hymn ~ "How Great Thou Art"
Opening Prayer ~ Tony Phipps
Life Tribute ~ Clyde Phipps
Remarks ~ Brad Schmitz
Closing Hymn ~ "Abide With Me"
Closing Prayer ~ Kyle Phipps

Pallbearers

Charles Phipps, Merl Phipps, Tony Phipps,
Kyle Phipps, Clyde Phipps, Justin Phipps,
Cal Phipps & Chad Phipps

Honorary Pallbearers ~ All Grandchildren

Interment

Pioneer Cemetery ~ Jordan, Montana
Dedication of Grave - Charles Phipps

Following the graveside service,
a luncheon will be held at the VFW Hall.
Everyone is invited.

Arrangements By
Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CURTIS ARTHUR PHIPPS

DECEMBER 8, 1934 - OCTOBER 30, 2025

Curtis Arthur Phipps graduated from this world and returned to be with his Heavenly Father on October 30, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Brusett, Montana.

Curtis was born December 8, 1934 at the family home in Brusett to Charles and Elsie (Loomis) Phipps. He joined 3 older siblings – Roy, Evelyn and Frank. Afterwards, Mary, David, Robert, and Clinton were born, completing their family.

The Phipps family had a history of raising cattle, farming and haying. Curtis loved the agricultural life and stayed on the family ranch all of his life. He attended Blackfoot School until the Pine Grove School was built during his 8th grade year. After finishing 8th grade, he continued working on the ranch and taking on side jobs fencing, operating the sawmill, and some carpentry work. He could do anything he set his mind to. At a dance at the Fairview Hall, he met the love of his life, Flossie Hellyer. They were married August 21, 1957 in Sand Point, Idaho. During their years together, they created a strong family legacy of 11 children, 42 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Curtis was an example of hard work and instilled that same work ethic in his children. He was physically strong but also gentle, giving and willing to lend a helping hand. He spent his work time riding horses in his beloved Missouri Breaks, raising cows, fencing, running a sawmill, trapping and cutting firewood. He was willing to ride the horse that no one else wanted to, and would turn it into a good saddle horse.

During recreational time, he could be found fishing, hunting, and gardening. His favorite times were spent playing baseball, horseshoes and cribbage with his children and grandchildren.

He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served faithfully in many capacities. His favorite volunteer position was at the Billings Temple. He and Flossie drove there nearly every week for 14 years. In addition, he also served on the Pine Grove School Board and the Fairview Hall Board.

Curtis was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Elsie, his parents-in-law Lawrence and Sarah Hellyer, his siblings and their spouses Roy, Evelyn Chamberlin, Frank, David and Nell, Robert and Margie, Clinton and Prentice, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Leora and Shorty Mercer, Lois Gregerson, Betty Smotherman, Ellen Hellyer and his grandsons Tyrell Phipps and Koulter Garner.

He is survived by his loving wife Flossie of 68 years, his children Brinda (Steve) Pluhar of Cohagen, Montana, Twila McWilliams of Jordan, Montana, Charles (Mary Ann) of Glendive, Montana, Merl of Jordan, Montana, Tony (Debbie) of Jordan, Montana, Kyle (Lynie) of Sheridan, Wyoming, Clyde (Lori) of Jordan, Montana, Cinda (Arell) Patten of Littleton, Colorado, Justin (Rachel) of Lacey, Washington, Cal (Kelsey) of Jordan, Montana, Chad (BeKa) of Miles City, Montana, his sister Mary (Bob) Cowin, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Curtis Chamberlin, Rhoda Phillips, Larry and Jackie Hellyer, Virgil and Carol Hellyer, his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Garfield County Fair Board, c/o Jeana Bliss, 495 Twin Buttes Road, Sand Springs, MT 59077.

