



Willard J. Freeman

February 3, 1915 - October 30, 2011

Willard James Freeman

On Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011 at his home in Shasta Valley, Willard peacefully passed from this earth to be with his heavenly father.

Willard was born on Feb. 3, 1915 to Monte Cristo and Laura Pearl Freeman in Orangevale, Calif. He joined an older brother Merle and sister Ruby. Four years later, a pretty little baby girl Florence was welcomed to the family.

Willard and Florence were not only brother and sister but the best of pals.

Willard attended grammar school in Folsom, Citrus Heights, Escalon and Joseph Creek School, which was located on the Freeman family farm in Modoc County. His teacher boarded with the family, and the whole group rode to school on a horse and buggy through rain, sleet and snow. Willard went on to attend Modoc High School in Alturas, Calif., where he graduated in 1933.

In the spring of 1940, Willard relocated for the final time to "the ranch" at the end of what is now known as Freeman Road between Montague and Grenada in Shasta Valley. On Dec. 1, 1946, Willard wed his one true love Mary Louise Thomas. They were blessed with four children Monte Cristo, Thomas Barry, Emmit Kieth and Ellen Louise. Willard was a lifelong rancher and an active member in the Greenhorn Grange, holding many offices, including master. He recently received his 70-year membership certificate. He was also an active member in the Grenada Community Berean Church, serving as a deacon and an elder. Being a 4-H leader was also one of his pleasures.

Willard was preceded in death by his parents Monte and Pearl; his siblings

Merle, Ruby and Florence; and his eldest son Monte. Willard is survived by his loving wife of 65 years Mary; his children, Thomas, Kieth and Ellen; his grandchildren, Trent, Trudi, Willard and Patrick; as well as his "button on" grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Amber, Audry, Alec and Dillon. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and his wonderful church family. A celebration of Willard's life will be held at the Grenada Community Berean Church at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 4, 2011 with a reception following. Any memorial contributions may be made to the Grenada Community Berean Church, 512 Sixth St., Grenada, CA 96038, or to the Madrone Hospice House, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097. Girdner Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.