



IN MEMORIAM



Noel Rippee

August 16, 1936 – May 4, 2007

Graveside services for Lion Noel Rippee, 70, of Elida, were held on May 9, 2007, at the Rippee Ranch. He was born on August 16, 1936, in Elida to Iza and Chester Rippee and died peacefully at his home on his ranch northeast of Elida on May 4, 2007. He grew up on the family ranch and graduated from Elida High School in 1955. He went on to attend ENMU where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Arts. In 1959, he joined the Army Active Reserves and received his basic training at Ft. Ord, CA. He stopped off in Portales long enough to receive his college diploma before reporting for duty at Ft. Ustus, VA. After serving six months, he returned to the Elida area to make home his home and begin his career as a rancher. On December 23, 1967, he was married to Linda Smith in Elida.

While Lion Noel loved hunting and fishing, he also loved animals and had successfully tamed deer, wild turkeys, bobcats, antelope, crows, and raccoons, among others. He was a very talented musician and wrote a number of songs and could play numerous instruments. He was particularly accomplished on the fiddle and guitar and also played the piano well by ear. He was a member of the NM Cattle Growers Association and the Border Soil Conservation District.

Lion Noel was a long time member of the Floyd Lions Club and had served as Program Director for the annual Floyd Jamboree for the past several years.