

Roland "Radar" Meeves, 71

Dec. 9, 1935 - Nov. 1, 2007

ASPINWALL — Roland Keith, "Radar", son of John E. and Goldie C. M. (Stammer) Meeves, was born Dec. 9, 1935, in Manning. He grew up on the family farm just north of Aspinwall and attended Aspinwall School through the eighth grade. He then attended Manning High School, graduating with the Class of 1953. He farmed with his father after graduation. During these years, Roland was a member of the National Guard of Iowa.

Dec. 10, 1960, Roland married Laurene Carol Claussen of Schleswig. They farmed four miles north of Aspinwall until 1975 when they moved to the family farm after Roland's parents moved to Manning. Roland and Laurene were the parents of five children. He was an active member of the Crawford County Pork Producers, taking part in many promotions and holding different offices. He served on the Crawford County fair board for 12 years. From 1988 through 2000, Roland was very involved with stock car racing in both Denison and Harlan, and at times in Alta. He built and operated a "speed board" which displayed the lap and speed of the lead car for fans and drivers. He was known as "Radar" on the racing circuit. He worked at Plastico Ltd. in Manning while farming in the early 1990s. In 1993, due to health problems, he left Plastico and gave up farming and started working at the Denison branch of Mauer Welding and Supply. He also worked part time at the Aspinwall Co-op. At this time he also started a woodworking hobby that expanded through the years. He specialized in doing intricate scroll saw pictures. He and Laurene participated in many craft shows over the last years, demonstrating scroll sawing. He was diagnosed with cancer early in 2007 and despite surgery and other treatment his health declined. With the help of Crawford County Hospice and his family, he was able to remain at home as he became weaker and died there Nov. 1, 2007, at age 71 years, 10 months and 23 days.

Preceding Roland in death are his parents and twin siblings, Merlin Dean and Joan Beth, in infancy in 1934. He is survived by his wife, Laurene Meeves of Aspinwall; five children, Bruce Meeves (Patty) of Virginia Beach, VA; Keith Meeves and special friend, Melanie Elter, of Mandan, ND; Rhonda (John) Sandison of East Harwich, MA; Edward Meeves of Norfolk, VA; and Steven Meeves (Anita) of Hockley, TX; eight grandchildren, Amber Meeves and Taylor Jones; Madison Meeves and Kayla Elter; James and Skyeler Sandison; and Tyler, Riley and Bailey Meeves; sister, Myra Wittrock of Manning; brother-in-law, Ronald Claussen (Marilyn) of Spirit Lake; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 20, 2007, at the Ohde Funeral Home in Manning, with Rev. Patrick Sparling of the Zion Lutheran Church in Manning officiating. Burial was in the Manning Cemetery. Casket bearers were Ron Willenborg, Alan Lorenzen, Larry Meeves, Steve Willenborg, Allan Ehlers, and Byron Meeves.