

The Cowboy's Prayer

O Lord, I've never lived where churches grow
I've loved Creation better where it stood.

That day you finished it so long ago
and looked upon your work and called it good.

Just let me live my life as I've begun
And give me work that's open to the sky.
Make me a partner of the wind and sun
And I wouldn't ask a life that's soft and high.

Make me as big and as open as the plains,
As honest as the horse between my knees,
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rain,
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze.

Just keep an eye on all that's done and said,
Just right me sometimes when I turn aside.
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead.
That stretches upward toward the Great Divide.

*You are further invited to share this day with Willard's
Family in a time of fellowship, to be held in the
Chinook Village, 2801 - 13th Avenue SE,
following the funeral service.*

In Loving Memory of

Willard Alexander Dumont

Willard was born on December 18th, 1918
at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan and passed away
on August 28th, 2012 at Medicine Hat, Alberta
at the age of 93 years.

Funeral Services Held At
Saamis Memorial Funeral Chapel
on Saturday, September 1st, 2012
at 2:00 p.m.
with Captain Ron MacDonald officiating.

Musical Selections

The Old Rugged Cross
How Great Thou Art
The Lord Is My Shepherd
Happy Trails

A Private Interment will take place in the
Family Plot at Maple Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers

Calvin Pettyjohn • Alex Pettyjohn
Aaron Kopp • Brad Kopp
Cody Girling • Cameron Lole-Girling

Honourary Pallbearers

All those who knew and loved Willard

Willard was born in 1918 on his father's homestead along Fish Creek in the Cypress Hills. He was the third of 9 children born to parents William & Vitaline (Deguerre) Dumont. A favourite of his Grandparents, Henri & Melanie (Fayant) Dumont, he spent a lot of time living with them at their homestead located on the north side of the Macleod Bench just west of Fort Walsh. When Willard was 13 he yearned to see the range that his grandfather hunted & over which his father worked as a cowboy, so he headed out on horseback. During this time he secured his first job working on the Q Ranch in southeast Alberta. This was the beginning of Willard's career as a cowboy & ranch-hand on many of the ranches of the Cypress Hills & Milk River area, including the Heydlauff, Gilchrist, Pollock, Naismith, Nuttall, Boyd, Brower & Ross Ranches (to name a few). Willard joined the army in April of 1940 & was stationed with the South Saskatchewan Regiment. After training in Weyburn, Camp Shilo, & a brief stay in Toronto, he shipped-out to war in December 1940. After a 9-day crossing of the Atlantic, he arrived in Scotland on Christmas Day. He rose to the rank of Sergeant & spent much of the war training troops in England. He also served in Holland. While at the Canadian Training School in Washington, Sussex, England, Willard met his wife Vera Curling. They were married on Feb. 5th, 1944. After the war, Willard returned to Canada, arriving in Maple Creek with nothing but the pack on his back. After a week he joined his brother Jack working at the shale pit in Redcliff, AB. Willard's first home in Redcliff was a 2-room sheep camp wagon. In March of 1946, almost 6 months after Willard's discharge from the army, Vera arrived in Canada along with many other English war-brides coming to start a new life. By 1948 Willard yearned to return to country life. That spring they moved to the Wild Horse area where Willard worked with his father on contract fencing in the summer & ran a trap-line in the winter. In the fall of 1949 he took a job with Ross Ranches. He continued to work for Ross Ranches over the course of the next 18 years, including 11 years as the foreman of the LA Ranch. During this time Willard & Vera had 2 daughters; Debra (1953) & Donna (1956). In 1967 they purchased their own ranch, the 4-T, in the Eagle Butte Valley adjacent to Cypress Hills Provincial Park. The couple sold the 4-T in 1974 & moved to Medicine Hat, AB. For nearly 15 years afterwards Willard worked with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires at Suffield, AB. He left the Corps in the late 1980's. In 1979 Willard & Vera sold their house in Medicine Hat & purchased an acreage along the Trans-Canada Highway in Dunmore, AB. Here Willard built his retirement business, "The Woodshed." From this shop he built & sold hip-roofed barn garden-sheds as well as furniture. He also pursued his interest as a wheelwright, rebuilding buggies from little more than their original hardware. He started to construct Red River Carts as well, one of which he donated to Fort Walsh National Historic Site in 1995. While in Dunmore, Willard & Vera opened their home to Cody & Cameron Girling for daycare while their parents Don & Mona Girling were at work. Willard & Vera were soon adopted by the Girling family as surrogate Grandparents, & in like manner the Girlings were adopted as an extension of the Dumont family. In December of 1998 Willard & Vera sold the place at Dunmore & moved back to Medicine Hat; first into a large house on Shannon Drive & then into a condo at Fairway Village in 2003. Finally they moved into Chinook Village in 2012 where Willard passed away peacefully on Aug. 28th. Willard was particularly proud of his community service, having volunteered his time & energy to numerous organizations over the years. His community work included serving as the President of the Elkwater Roping Club, President of the Elkwater Community Hall, Vice-President of the Elkwater Curling Club, President of the Unifarm, Chairman of the Lebannon School, Secretary/Treasurer of the Medicine Lodge Stock Assoc., Township Captain & Reeve of Cypress County, & Honourary President of the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Association.

Honouring the Life of Willard Alexander Dumont



*Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather,
Great-Grandfather, Brother,
Uncle and Friend*

"THE CHAPEL IN THE PARK"

SAAMIS MEMORIAL FUNERAL CHAPEL & CREMATORIUM

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