

Ralph Lee Coates

July 24, 1934 ~ January 11, 2024

I met Ralph a few times and was very impressed with his knowledge. I dealt with his brother Calvin and nephew Craig in the piping business. I am pleased to get to know more of Ralph's life and accomplishments.

- James Bennion

So sorry that I couldn't make it to Ralph's funeral. It's sad when work gets in the way of really important things. I'm a cousin to Ralph. My family has always been close to the Coates family, we love them dearly. Ralph was one of my favorites, but honestly, the same could be said of all of Uncle Bill and Edna's children. Wallace mentioned the deer hunt and how that was such an amazing family gathering. As a boy, I honestly looked more forward to going down to Maple Canyon to meet up with uncles, aunts, and cousins, than I did Christmas. So many memories that I hope to hold on to forever. I remember Ralph bringing horses down for the hunt. As I was a young teenager, and hadn't ridden horses very much at all, Ralph offered to let my brother, Roger, and I ride the horses up The Middle Fork with him to meet the others out on top. I think I can speak for the both of us, when I say that we were a bit nervous, well, maybe a lot nervous, nevertheless we didn't want to pass up the experience of riding horses with Ralph. He led the way, it was dark and I wondered how the horses could find their way, we had flashlights but I don't think we were lighting the way very good, but it was Ralph who led us up the canyon. We had complete confidence in Ralph, he was smart, we knew it back then and he could do anything. I thought he had the coolest gun of all, it was a 30-30, the magazine didn't go out to the end of the barrel, like other 30-30s. It just looked cool. Being around the Taylors and the Coates families was always special, they made us feel good and there was just an all around good feeling that we enjoyed immensely. I'll miss him! A ton! It's so hard to see the good ones pass away I sometimes wonder if Heavenly Father will let us have old fashioned family deer hunts on the other side. I sure hope so! Good bye Ralph. God be with you till we meet again. Your cousin, Gary

- Gary Ostergaard