In Memoriam: Leon “Booge” Thomas

WELCH—Life-long and well-respected Welch resident, Leon “Booge” Thomas, passed away at his home on Mar. 18, 2011, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was 72 years old.

Booge was born on Feb. 1, 1939, in Welch. His parents were W.C. “Buss” and Rosa (Brookshire) Thomas. Booge grew up and attended school in the Welch area, and he was a 1957 graduate of Welch High School. Booge was a life-long rancher and farmer and raised quarter horses and greyhounds. He was an avid horseman and coyote hunter. He was also well known for his custom hay baling. Booge was a member of Welch Baptist Church. On Sept. 21, 1994, he married Sandra Kaldenberg in Chetopa, Kan.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra, of the home; five daughters, Terri Shaffar, of Grove, Okla., Tracy Brannin, and husband Fred, of Oswego, Kan., Trudi Chaney, and husband Wayne Flynn, of Watonga, Okla., Treva Nading, and husband Jerry, of Owasso, Okla., and Cari Thomas, and Steven Peterson, of Welch; three step-children, Lori Lawyer, and husband John, of Indianola, Iowa, Donnie Keith Garner, and wife Tammy, of Bluejacket, Okla., and, Terri Fitzpatrick, and husband Mike, of Welch; two brothers, Paul Thomas, and wife Wanda, of Miami, Okla., and Jim Thomas, and wife Lynda, of Welch; two sisters, Lucille Ingram, of Welch, and JoAnne Ruark-Ackermann, of Del Rio, Tex; 32 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Booge was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Shirley Reisch Thomas; and one sister, Dorthy Smith.

A visitation for family and friends will be held Tue., evening, Mar. 22, 2011, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Thomas Funeral Home in Welch.
Funeral services will be held Wed. morning at 10:00 a.m. at the Welch Civic Center in Welch. Rev. C.G. Gillmore, assisted by Rev. Sam Garner, will officiate.

Booge will be laid to rest in the Welch Cemetery, west of Welch.

In lieu of flowers, Booge may be remembered with gifts to the Welch FFA and 4-H Ag Boosters, in care of the funeral home or the Welch High School.

Services are under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home in Welch.