

HARRY BUCKEL ~ 1929-2024

Harry Richard Buckel was born on October 1, 1929, in Imperial Valley, California. He passed away on May 24, 2024 at his ranch in Descanso, at the age of 94½ years old. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Joan, and their two sons, Marvin (Nancy) of Descanso and Danny (Cheryl) of Lakeside. He is also survived by 3 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 5 step-great grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Harry was the last surviving child of Dewey and Myrtle Buckel of Rocky Home Dairy in Lakeside.

Dewey and Myrtle moved their family and dairy herd to Lakeside in 1937 and established Rocky Home Dairy, which was located on Winter Gardens Boulevard. Rocky Home Dairy was in operation by the family until 1985 when it was sold. During their ownership, they transitioned from milking cows and processing milk, to sales, which included 4 wholesale delivery trucks, 23 home delivery trucks and 6 drive-thru dairy stores throughout San Diego County.

Harry met Joan while she was a member in his 4-H club. They continued their involvement in this field for the rest of their life together. In the beginning, they were 4-H leaders. Then they became very involved with their sons, supporting them through 4-H and FFA. When their boys became adults, they continued being supporters of the community youth by being involved in agriculture programs, purchasing livestock at the Eastern San Diego County Fair and donating them back for Share the Plow and Scholarship Funds. Additionally, in his retirement years, Harry took up the hobby of creating Yard-Art out of horseshoes, broken tool implements, and various machinery parts. Some of these creations were donated to the fundraising efforts for the fair, along with miscellaneous items from Rocky Home Dairy.

During his life, Harry always wanted to contribute to his community and support his profession. He did this by being involved in various clubs, boards, and associations such as the American Dairy Association, 4-H Club, as well as a Rotary member. He was one of the original board members on the Lakeside Fire company, which later became the Lakeside Area Local Fire District. He also served on the Riverview Water Board. He was a Lifetime member of the Lakeside Historical Society and Descanso Town Hall. He served as President of the Lakeside Sportsman Club. He was also a member of the Pine Valley Mountain Riders, Lakeside Frontier Riders, and Campo Border Riders.

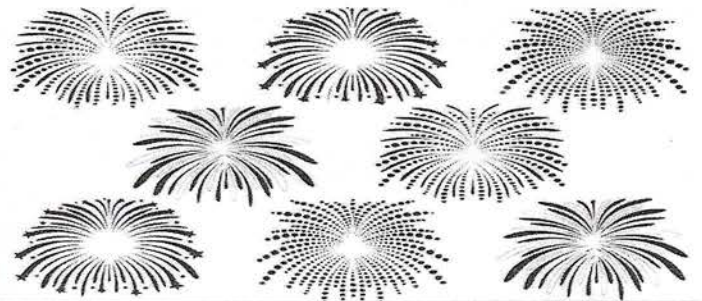
Harry and Joan enjoyed many different activities during their long life together. They participated in competition trap shooting events until shoulder issues required them to switch to hunting adventures in Alaska and Colorado. They also enjoyed traveling in their RV to visit family and friends throughout the United States. Another activity they enjoyed together was many years on horseback, riding various trails throughout San Diego County. They finished their years in the saddle by switching to riding mules and packing into the Sierras.

Anyone who met Harry walked away with a smile on their face because of his contagious demeanor. He always shared a joke that would usually leave the listener out of breath with a good belly laugh. He loved to entertain family and friends with his natural musical ability on his harmonica. He would hear a catchy tune and work it out on his mouthpiece. In his younger years he played a mandolin. It was the only stringed instrument he could play because he was missing two of his fingers, that were lost in an accident when he was a child.

Though Harry may no longer be with us, the impact he made on our lives will forever remain in our hearts. He will never be forgotten, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, and in remembrance of Harry Buckel's life, the family asks that charitable donations be made to the Lakeside Historical Society.

Our Heartfelt Condolences
To member Janice McMillan, for the loss of her sister
To members Richard & Stacy Hensle, for the loss of Richard's father



4th of July FIREWORKS