



Bell, Woodruff “Woody” Arville

1935-2019

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on June 01, 2019

Woodruff “Woody” Arville Bell, sitting tall in the saddle, gracefully passed toward that great prairie in the sky in the pre-dawn hours of May 17, 2019.

Woody was born April 24, 1935, in Duncan, Okla., to Billy Woodruff Bell and Verda E. Myers. He spent his formative years in the small town of Chico, where he met Miss Ida Sue Huckleberry. After much courting with this young filly, he won her heart, and they exchanged vows in December of 1953. They later had two cowpokes of their own, Billy and Peggy.

Woody spent most of his early working days with the Rock Island Railroad. Later, after moving to Minco, Okla., he and Sue operated their own small convenience store/filling station, which was named “Sue’s Station.” At the same time, he operated a small engine repair shop (Briggs & Stratton were the best, according to him). He later worked for, and retired from, the Oklahoma Housing Authority. He was a jack-of-all-trades.

When Woody wasn’t working, he loved to hunt ‘n fish. He enjoyed hunting with his son and grandson, as well as fishing with his buddies, Dub, Ron, JB and anyone else he could coax into joining him. He became an affluent ham radio operator, where he used the fine art of Morse code that he learned while working on the railroad to talk to people all around the world and enjoyed participating in local Ham Fests. He was an ardent member of SASS organization and loved spending those times with Burly Bill, Catoosa Red, Echo Belle and Hummingbird.

He loved John Wayne movies and hated broccoli!

Woody was preceded in death by his parents; wife Sue; sister June and her husband, Clay; in-laws Lois Dailey; Neva Jury and her husband, Clarence; and Bill Breatchel.

He is survived by his children, Billy and Peggy; his sister, Joyce Reasoner; in-laws Blanche Breatchel and Elmer Dailey; six grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and two very special great-great-grandsons.

The family would like to give a special heartfelt nod to Se ora Juanita Valdez for her help in looking after Woody over the past several years and talking back at him when he deserved it. He was, in her words, “the pickiest and most stubborn man I ever cared for!”

And a special salute goes out to the nurses and staff at Mercy Hospital and Hospice, as well as Jessica, Arthur, Amanda, and “T” at Villagio Living Center.

Gallop softly into the sunset, Cowboy.

Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 8, at Chico Cemetery.