Donald Ray Hembre
1932–2016
By Bob Hembre

Donald Ray Hembre, age 83, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2016. He was the oldest of four children of Invald Oscar Hembre and Margit Serine Fond, born on Easter of 1932, in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. At age 15 the family moved from Barron to Madison and Don graduated from West High in 1950. He attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota for two years where he met his wife-to-be, Carol Halsor. They transferred to the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology in 1954 and 1955.

Don began his career in petroleum geology working for Standard Oil of California in Los Angeles. After 6 years his family (wife and then three children) moved to Colorado where they have lived for 54 years. Initially working with Franco Western Oil in Denver, and later worked with Amoco and Midwest Oil before founding his own company, Lewis & Clark Exploration in 1974.

Lewis & Clark’s expertise focused on prospects in the Rocky Mountain West region. Don enjoyed active involvement in the AAPG and RMAG throughout his career.

Don loved the outdoors and sports of all kinds. He played baseball and football into his college years, and enjoyed skiing, playing tennis and golf until he was 80. He and Carol loved to travel with the family, play bridge with friends, and were active in their neighborhood, church, and community.

Don is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carol, and their four children (spouses) and 8 grandchildren: Robert T. (Patricia L.) and children Kristin, Erik (Leah), Lisa, and Michael of Johnson City, Tennessee; David E. (Jill M. McGowan) and son Theo of Falmouth, Maine; Kristine E. and daughter Elise of Frisco, Colorado; and Susan L. (Robert McKeen) and children Bryanne and Connor of Campbell, California.