

ALBERT CHESTER BURGESS

1880-1964

Researched and compiled by Faye Bell (SLC) 2012

A.C. (Albert Chester) Burgess, known to all as Bert Burgess was born 30 Jan 1880 in [U](#)Michigan [Battle Creek] to Fred H and Ellen Burgess—his father was Canadian born and his mother born in England. In 1900 Bert was single and living with his parents in Marathon, MI. At home in 1900 U.S. census were Albert C, Ethel, Guy, Edna and Lionel Burgess. By 1903, he had been back and forth to Texas from Nebraska twice and he made the decision to stay in Nebraska where he met and married Margaret Belle Guilfoil, his employer's daughter. The couple lived at Mother Lake, Cherry, NE in 1910 as per the U.S. Census. They had two sons: Russell Albert and Lucien F born, respectively, 1905 and 1907. In 1917, the WW I draft registration indicates, Bert Burgess was a rancher and had a wife Margaret Belle (always known as Belle). His birthdate was also recorded from the draft registration of WW I. The description says he was tall and medium build. Between 1920 and 1930 when the Burgesses lived in Hyattville (U.S. census) owning their own home, they were listed as lodgers at the home of Anna W Allen. Other boarders included Lucy Booth and Charles Clark (also, familiar names in the Big Horn Basin.

By 1940, Bert Burgess was elected Deputy sheriff for Washakie County making \$1800/yr and working (at age 60 years) 52 weeks per year. Later he served as town marshall for Ten Sleep and town councilman. One great triumph for Bert Burgess is that he was respected by all who knew him as one of the best cowboys *ever*. That he never twirled a rope, but he sent it directly to its destination in a perfect loop. He was nominated for the cowboy Hall of Fame, but it is unknown if he was granted that title. He passed away Mar 20, 1964 (SS death index), an unforgettable figure in the town of Ten Sleep.

Memories: Bert Burgess, tall and slim, garbed in the Old West tradition of loose saddle-pants and a black satin vest, arm bands, and a Star on the said vest. He was a picture never to be forgotten. He always wore his white Stetson and he walked with a spring in his step even at the age of 80. He patrolled the Ten Sleep streets with dignity and served with integrity. Fb

Saturday, March 21, 1964

Funeral Is Set In Ten Sleep For A. C. Burgess

Funeral services for A. C. Burgess, 84, who died Thursday in Washakie Memorial hospital, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Ten Sleep Masonic hall.

The Masonic lodge will conduct the services and burial will be in the Ten Sleep cemetery.

A long-time resident of the Big Horn basin, Mr. Burgess was born Jan. 30, 1880, in Battle Creek, Mich. His family moved when he was 2 years old to Stanford, Tex., where he grew to manhood. He worked on a cattle ranch there. He moved to Hyannis, Neb., in 1902 and married Margaret Belle Guilfoil there Sept. 20, 1903.

After selling his ranch in Nebraska, he bought a ranch at Hyattville and moved his family there in 1914. In 1924, he was elected sheriff of Big Horn county. He later moved to Ten Sleep where he served as Washakie county deputy sheriff, Ten Sleep town marshal, and town councilman.

He was a member and past master of the Ten Sleep Lodge 46, AF and AM.

He is survived by his widow; one son, Lucien Burgess, Casper; four grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. One son, Albert Russell, preceded him in death.

¹¹ "Battle Creek" was found in the biography of Bert Burgess in the "PAINTROCK TALES" publ. by Hyattville History Committee, 2008, p. 136.