



Robert "Robbie" Schones, 5

May 5, 1990 - Oct. 7, 1995

Harlan - Robert "Robbie" Joseph Schones was born May 5, 1990 at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center in Salida, CO. Robbie was a patient at Children's Hospital in Omaha, NE where he had undergone recent heart surgery. He died Oct. 7, 1995 at Children's Hospital at age five years, five months and two days.

In May of 1994 Robbie moved from Salida, CO with his mom, aunt and cousin to Irwin, IA. Shortly thereafter Robbie and his mother moved to Harlan. Robbie loved to do many things but his favorite was playing with his "Power Rangers". Robbie also liked Barney. He knew all of his songs and always sang with Barney and his friends. Robbie was a big fan of Billy Ray Cyrus. He could spot his CD's in the store from several aisles away and could tell you about every song on it. He also loved to country line dance. Even his heart condition could not slow the "Little Cowboy". Back in Colorado, Robbie had a special friend, Herman. Herman was his horse and he loved to ride. Whenever he called his grandma in Colorado, he always wanted to know how Herman was doing.

Three very special events really meant a lot to Robbie. In Nov. 1993 the Make-A-Wish Foundation flew Robbie to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. He was so excited that he was going to fly in a big plane. Once he saw a pilot walk by, he jumped out of his seat and asked "Are you my driver?" The pilot said, "Well, where are you going?" Robbie replied, "I'm going to see Mickey Mouse." "Then I am your driver,"

said his pilot as he took some time and talked to Robbie. Robbie loved fishing and another special time in Robbie's life was when his great grandpa drove all the way out from Colorado to take him fishing. Yet probably the most special event in Robbie's life happened this past Sept. Robbie wanted to drive in a Demo Derby and once he turned eighteen he was going to buy a purple and orange demo car and paint the number 5 on the door. On Sept. 10, 1995 Robbie's family took him to the demolition derby in Denison. To the astonishment of Robbie and his family, there was a purple and orange car with the number 5 painted on the door. After the races, Robbie and his mom went down to the pits to see if they could meet the driver of the car. As they walked up to the car and approached the driver's side, Robbie noticed something peculiar above the door. He spelled aloud, "R-O-B-B-I-E, Hey! That's my name." The driver came over and asked, "Is that your name too? My name is Robbie." After LaVera explained Robbie's condition to the driver, he offered to take Robbie for a ride around the track. Robbie loved the ride. After they were done, the driver took off his helmet and gave it to Robbie and told him to keep it. Robbie wore that helmet every day since.

Robbie was excited about everything and went out of his way to help others. Every day he picked his mother a flower. Other people always came first, especially his best buddy, Markis. One day, Robbie was sitting on the patio with his mom and they saw their elderly neighbor out sweeping leaves off he sidewalk. Robbie turned to his mom and said, "I'll be right back." A few moments later, he came out of their apartment with his mom's broom and told the older man, "I'll finish, you go and rest."

Robbie is survived by his mother, LaVera Schones, his aunt, LaVonne Schones, and cousin Markis all of Harlan; his grandparents, Jack and Karen Plewes of Salida, CO; Carl Hicks of Delta, CO and great grandparents, Carl and Mildred Fischer of Buena Vista, CO; other relatives and many friends including his adopted grandmother, Karen Scheffler of Harlan.

Funeral services were held Oct. 10, 1995 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan with Pastor Jon Benson officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Joey Fischer, Christopher Stevens, Ricky Stevens, Brent Stevens, Michael Fischer, Markis Schones and Joshua Jacobsen. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery in Salida, CO Oct. 14, 1995. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.