



Elvin Roy Hunsaker

December 12, 1947 - September 9, 2026

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Elvin Roy Hunsaker died in Cheyenne on September 9, 2026, at seventy-eight. He was born there on December 12, 1947, when a yard was a clock and a wind was a weekday neighbor. His father walked track. Elvin learned a spike before he learned a highway south. A rail, he said, is a kind of promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark.

Thirty-three years of his life went into a switch yard that punished hesitation. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Foremen called him because he would write up a cracked plate even when the extra was already called. He charged a fair hour and a smaller one when a church van needed a lift more than a sermon. He kept a notebook of machines, not clients. The notebook had grease on the edges.

He married Orpha Hunsaker in 1970. They raised two sons in a bungalow that needed a new mudroom every decade. After Orpha died in 2018 he still came out for a favorite cut, moving slower, swearing with more precision.

Friends remember a man who would jump a battery in a lot that looked like a glacier, who could sit through a long potluck without making the wind a personality, and who owned one good parka. He liked the plains early, before the heat. He died in Cheyenne, among hills he had never needed to explain. The yard still opens.

Services

A memorial in Cheyenne. A gift to a rail-yard assistance fund suits him.

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