By Russ Pankonin

The Wauneta Breeze

Wauneta Co-op Oil won’t be the same with the loss of long-time employee and icon Harold “Peco” Anderson.

Anderson, 72, passed away Saturday, Jan. 26 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He suffered lung failure brought on by a reoccurrence of lung cancer.

Anderson spent 40 years as a devoted employee of Wauneta Co-op Oil, starting out by working in the tire shop for his brother, Ted, who was manager for many years.

When Ted Anderson retired, shop manager Rich Greeley took over as general manager and Peco took over as the shop manager. He served in that capacity, along with assisting Greeley with operations until Greeley retired.

Anderson took over as manager and served in that role for nearly 20 years before stepping down.

“He never really retired,” his wife, Doretta, said this week. The co-op was his life. He even went down and helped set up the co-op’s annual tire sale earlier this month.

“He always called his customers his patrons,” she said. He worked for them, she added.

“Peco” will be best remembered for his way of treating his patrons. “Yup. Yup. Yup,” he’d say, with his finger waving in the air by the bill of his cap.

He’d even throw in a “you betcha” every once in a while—a phrase brother Ted was most known for.

Rhona O’Neil, who is Rich Greeley’s daughter and has worked at Co-op Oil for the past 15 years, said Anderson will be really missed.

She said her folks were good friends with the Andersons and they always did things together. As a result, she said she spent a lot of time at the Andersons. “He was a special guy.”

In addition to being devoted to his patrons, he was also a devoted Husker fan and a devoted fan of his grandsons.

In addition to his wife, immediate survivors include son Hugh and his wife, Nancy.

A full obituary appears inside.