

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?pid=168327048>

**Croese, Steven Davis** - 60, of Paulden, AZ, died on Saturday, November 30, 2013, outside of Bayard, NM. He was killed on the job in a train accident along with a colleague and his girlfriend, Ann Thompson. Steve was born July 22, 1953, in Cottonwood, AZ, to Robert "Bob" and Erma (Sleep) Croese of Sedona. Raised in Sedona, he attended Flagstaff High School where he played football (#83) and baseball. There he also met his first wife, Diane Ogilvie, with whom he had two daughters. He attended some courses at Northern Arizona University and lived and worked in Flagstaff for many years. A self-professed wanderer, he lived many places in his adult life including Cottonwood, Prescott, and Tucson, AZ, Tomales, CA, Golden, CO, and Carlsbad and Silver City, NM. Steve loved physical, outdoor work and excelled at athletics, even being scouted for professional baseball when he was young. Pursuing many paths in his life, he found a lasting profession in the railroad industry, working as a brakeman, engineer, and conductor. He had worked for Southwestern Railroad and its affiliates intermittently for many years and was instrumental in kicking off their Verde Canyon Railroad in Clarkdale. He was a rare combination of artist, athlete, laborer, and artisan, creative, hard-working, and intelligent. He was an artist, songwriter, musician, poet, and craftsman. His functional and aesthetic art of recycled metal and foraged animal bone reflected his artistic and craft skills as well as his belief in environmental conservation. Steve was preceded in death by his mother, Erma. He is survived by his father, Robert "Bob" of Cottonwood, AZ, brother Robert of Santa Rosa, CA, daughters Kelly and Kristen (David Fiacco) Ogilvie of Anchorage, AK, grandchildren Emily and Aidan Ogilvie-Fiacco and Piper Ogilvie of Anchorage, AK, granddaughter Keira Murphey of Evanston, IL, nephews Scott of Sacramento, CA, and Darren of Sausalito, CA, and countless friends and relatives whose lives he touched. Steve was cremated per his wishes. A celebration of Steve's life will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at Red Rock State Park, 4050 Red Rock Loop Rd, Sedona, AZ, from 1 to 4 pm. Indicate you are with the "Croese Memorial" at the park entrance and bring stories about Steve, food to share, and instruments to play. Terrazas Funeral Chapels, Santa Clara, NM. –