

Perry Eugene Smith, Sr., 92, of Burwell died December 4, 2015 at the Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 7, 2015 at the United Methodist Church in Burwell. Pastor Dennis Davenport and Pastor Alan Petersen will officiate. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 -7 on Sunday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to Nebraska's Big Rodeo.

Perry was born at Ericson, Nebraska on October 28, 1923 to Charley and Allie (Clark) Smith. He lived 2 miles west of Ericson. Perry moved with his family as a child to northeastern Garfield County. He attended Free Silver Grade School.

He would get his work done and then ride horses with other boys for miles to just play ball, where he was the catcher. He broke horses to help with farming for his dad and uncle Fay.

He met Hazel Irene Dehart, and they were married on April 28, 1954 in Burwell. They lived northeast of Burwell where they ranched until moving into Burwell in November of 2007.

Perry enjoyed rodeo, baseball, telling stories and all of his grandkids activities.

Perry is survived by three children, Ruby Smith of Springfield, Nebraska, Deb and John Pelster of Burwell, Nebraska and Sonny and Kelly Smith of Wallace, Nebraska. Six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A sister-in-law, Lillian Smith of Burwell. Brother-in-laws, Ted Dehart and Richard Dehart of Burwell and a sister-in-law, Aza Dehart of Ord.

Perry was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Hazel on April 9, 2014, three children, Franklin Charles, Bernard Fay and Mickel Joe, brothers, Jim, Lee and Fay and sisters, Nellie Goodrich, Pearl Freeman and Julia "Tiny" Horner as well and two infant siblings.