

Lois LaVonne Simon, 87, of Burwell died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, at Community Memorial Health Center.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 27, 2013 at the First Christian Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery. Pastor JB Sikes and Pastor Greg Barnes will officiate. Visitation will be Thursday from 5 – 8 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell.

Lois was born to James Vernon and Nanna Christina Johnson-Donner on August 12, 1926. They lived on the Cedar River north of Ericson. When she wasn't helping with the cattle or haying, she was fishing, swimming, or riding horses.

In 1944 Lois graduated from Ericson High School. She married Rex R. Simon April 23, 1947. They lived near Ericson until the spring of 1954, when Rex started working for Missouri Valley Construction. They lived in a mobile home and moved when the job moved. In 1957, they bought 160 acres east of Burwell from Dale Pepper. Rex continued to work road construction part of the year, while Lois stayed to run things on the ranch. In 1971, they moved to the Donner ranch northeast of Burwell, NE. Then in Feb. 1999, they bought a home in Burwell. Their grandson Jeremy and Andrea Simon now own the ranch.

Lois was a member of the First Christian Church and the Workers Society of Burwell. She was a member of the Midvale Social Club. She loved riding horses and could do about anything there was to do with a horse. After her children were all grown and gone from home, she joined the Garfield County Frontier Gals at the age of 68. She rode with them for three or four years at rodeos and fairs around the Burwell area. In her later years you would find her either doing crosswords or crocheting.

Survivors include her three daughters: Janet and her husband, Dan Jones, of Ord, NE; Verna and her husband, Brian Ikehara, of Elm Springs, Arkansas; and Christine Simon of Ord, NE; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; one brother, Carrol and Wilma Donner of Sun City, AZ; two sisters, Eunice Meuret, of Lakewood, CO and Erlyn Mattley and Dale of Downs, KS.

Her parents; her husband, Rex; a sister-in-law, Sarah Craven-Donner; a brother-in-law, Charles Meuret; and a granddaughter, Wendy Ikehara, preceded Lois in death.

Memorials are suggested to the First Christian Church of Burwell and the Community Memorial Health Center.