

Hazel Irene Smith, 84, of Burwell, Nebraska died April 9, 2014 at the Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 14, 2014 at the United Methodist Church in Burwell. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery. Pastor Dennis Davenport and Pastor Alan Petersen will officiate. Visitation will be Sunday from 5 -7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to Nebraska's Big Rodeo.

Hazel was born April 28, 1929 in Burwell, Nebraska to John and Ethel (Poor) Dehart. While Hazel was growing up her family lived north of Burwell in a sod house and then a rock house until moved to their place on Windy Hill Road. Hazel attended Banner and District 15 schools. Hazel stayed with and cared for her grandma Dehart. Hazel worked as a cook in Scotia, Grand Island and the Palmer hospital where she also worked as a nurse's aid. She then worked in Grand Island at the Fairmont Factory until moving back to Burwell where she worked in different cafes.

She met Perry Eugene Smith, and they were later married on April 28, 1954 in Burwell. They lived northeast of Burwell where they ranched until moving into Burwell in November of 2007.

Hazel enjoyed going to her grandkids different games and activities and Nebraska's Big Rodeo.

Hazel is survived by her husband Perry Smith of Burwell, Nebraska. 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 two great-grandchildren and three on the way. Two brothers, Richard Dehart and Ted Dehart of Burwell, Nebraska and two sister-in-laws, Aza Dehart of Ord, Nebraska and Lillian Smith of Burwell, Nebraska.

Hazel was preceded in death by her parents, three children, Franklin Charles, Bernard Fay and Mickel Joe, one brother, Jimmie Dehart and two sisters, Pauline Kinney and Lucille Boyer.