



Eugene "Gene" H. Smith

July 21, 1928 - November 12, 2019

Eugene H. Smith, 91, of Kearney, passed away Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Brookstone Gardens in Kearney. Funeral Services will be on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home in Kearney. Rev. Don Schauda will officiate burial will be at 2:00 p.m. at the Gates Cemetery near Broken Bow, NE. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to services at the funeral home in Kearney. Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated later. Please visit <http://www.hlmkfuneral.com> to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

At 91 years of age, Eugene H. Smith passed away Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at Brookstone Gardens in Kearney, Nebraska. "Gene" was an exemplary family man – husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather – and a good neighbor. His mother-in-law, Elda Gates Huffman, once described him as a "natural-born stockman." Gene liked working with cattle and horses, and most preferred work that could be done from horseback. He never really considered himself a "cowboy" but Gene had the skills. If a cowboy was what you needed, he'd do until one came along.

Gene was born in rural Custer County on July 21, 1928, to Claude and Faye Smith. The family, which came to include Gene's brother, Lee, first resided in the Dry Valley community, south of Sargent. In 1940, they moved to a place west of town, in the Walworth area. Gene graduated from Sargent High School in 1946. In 1952, he married Eyvonne Huffman, originally from Milburn. To that union were born two sons, Troy and Dean, and a daughter, Linda.

Gene served two years in the U.S. Army and worked for a time on a Loup County ranch, but for the majority of his working life, he was employed by the state of Nebraska as a brand inspector. For over 30 years he performed cattle brand inspections and ownership verification at locations including Benkelman, North Platte, Broken Bow, Lexington, Alliance and Grand Island. Beginning in 1963, Gene was assigned to Kearney which became an inspector training center. During the years he was inspector-in-charge and a trainer, Gene super

vised 31 beginning brand inspectors.

During the mid-1960s, Gene and Eyvonne also purchased the Walworth-area land his parents had leased since 1940. Gene and Eyvonne later acquired some grassland northwest of Kearney and additional acreage in Custer County. Having some "grass" allowed Gene to pursue modest cattle and horse breeding enterprises. When he retired from Nebraska Brand Committee employment, he devoted more time to his livestock and his long-time sideline of training horses to saddle, but also to drive in harness. For as long as he was physically able, he also performed day-work for area cattle producers needing help from someone still possessing cowboy skills.

Gene is survived by his wife, Eyvonne, and children: Troy (LeeAnn) Smith of Sargent, Dean (Yvonne) Smith of Kearney, and Linda (Pat) Jones of Cambridge. Survivors also include nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents; brother; and grandson, Aaron Jones.

Cemetery

Gates Cemetery

Broken Bow, NE, 68822

Events

NOV 16 **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A, Kearney, NE, US, 68847

NOV 16 **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A, Kearney, NE, US, 68847

NOV 16 **Graveside Service** 02:00PM

Gates Cemetery
Broken Bow, NE, US, 68822

Comments



“ So sorry to hear about Gene. He will be missed. Our family sends your our love and prayers. We just found out today as Lonnie called Larry looking for a number for Eyvonne.

Beverly Morse - November 24, 2019 at 06:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" H. Smith.



November 14, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ We are blessed to have known Gene. We shared many horse stories, sunshine and basketball with Sam! Gene will be missed, a very kind soul. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Thankful for the time we had together.

Roger, Jackie and Sam Bissell

Jackie Bissell - November 14, 2019 at 08:32 AM



“ Gene was a wonderful family man and friend. Prayers are with his family!!

Deb Schake

Deb Schake - November 15, 2019 at 12:42 PM



“ Jackie Bissell lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" H. Smith



Jackie Bissell - November 14, 2019 at 08:23 AM