

1961 Little Britches Saddle Bronc Riding World Champion

QUINN - Jerry Willuweit, 66, Quinn, died Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010, at Rapid City Regional Hospice House. Jerald William Willuweit was born Aug. 7, 1943, at the Wall Hospital, the son of Bert and Nell (Connelly) Willuweit. He attended Big White School just a quarter of a mile from home for his elementary education. Growing up he was actively involved in 4-H and Little Britches Rodeo in which he won the Saddle Bronc Finals in 1961. He was in the final graduating class of Quinn High School in 1961. While in school he enjoyed playing basketball for the Quinn Triplets. As a child he idolized his uncles, the Connelly boys. It is from them that his love of horses and rodeo materialized. He loved trailing cows, breaking horses, and playing cards with some of the best cowboys known to South Dakota and the world. Jerry attended Black Hills State University and South Dakota State University. One highlight of his college rodeo career was winning the 1968 Great Plains Regional College Rodeo All-Around in Spearfish. Throughout life Jerry was a rancher. He was proud to own the "Sinykin Place" with its colorful history. He raised longhorn cattle which he thought were the toughest and the best cows around. His ranch was reminiscent of days gone by. Jerry was united in marriage to Emma Lou Baumann in 1971. Emma's four children Cindy, Dottie, George and Dale remained a special part of Jerry's life. Jerry married Susan Edholm on Sept. 25, 1980. Jami Lea and Will James blessed this marriage. Jerry started his kids out on a horse early. It was important to him to be able to rope and ride. Being a cowboy wasn't a choice with Jerry as he thought everyone was a little bit cowboy! He was willing to teach anyone who wanted to learn. Jerry's passion in life was rodeo. From riding bulls and broncs as a young man to steer roping in his later years every aspect of the sport thrilled him. He especially loved rodeo for the many friends he made along the way. With his oversized silver belly tipped to one side and one pant leg tucked in his boot Jerry could be seen sitting behind the chutes at almost any rodeo. He was a lifetime member of the PRCA. Jerry loved people and no matter where he was, he had a friend or would just make a new one. He always had a story to tell and enjoyed sharing them with anybody who would listen. Jerry is survived by daughter, Jami Moon and husband JT of Creighton; son, Will Willuweit and wife Mariya of Wall; two granddaughters, Lucy and Emmy Moon; one brother, Jim Willuweit of Creighton; one sister, Connie Keil and her husband Dennis of Black Hawk and Quinn; an uncle, Lawrence Connelly of Wall; an aunt, Mame Connelly of Scottsbluff, Neb.; and numerous other cousins, and friends. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, and his special friend Teri Charnholm. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, with a vigil service and time of sharing at 7 p.m., all at the Wall High School. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, at the Wall High School, with Father Leo Hausmann officiating. Interment will be at the Quinn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established. Arrangements are with the Rush Funeral Chapel of Wall. An online guestbook is available at www.rushfuneralhome.com.

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