



Percy Cross

January 5, 1922 – June 10, 2012

Percy Cross, 90, of Arthur, NE, passed away Sunday, June 10, 2012 at the Golden Ours Convalescence Home in Grant, NE.

He was born January 5, 1922 to HL and Caroline (Rettke) Cross on their homestead in Arthur County. Percy received his early education at Willow Valley School in District 7.

He graduated from Arthur High School in 1940. Through high school, Percy, nicknamed "Dizzy Dean" played baseball and served as the captain of his team. He always watched the World Series, his favorite team being the Atlanta Braves.



After high school, Percy worked for Fat Farr, who lived north of the Frank Lane place. He helped Mr. Farr with the cattle and haying, then after 2 years, Percy leased his own place and had cattle of his own.

Percy and LaVaughn Kaps started courting on St. Patrick's Day in 1933 (he was 11 and she was 10). They married in the home of Judge Fred Hartman on October 18, 1945. The newly married couple's first home was a small, one-room chicken house with a pot-belly stove. They lived there through the first winter and then moved to the Kaps Ranch to take over the Kaps' turkey business.

Since the turkey business was a disaster, Percy started trapping muskrats to help with the living expenses. They purchased the Russell Goslin place in 1947 and spent a year fixing it up before residing in the sod house, where they lived until 1973, which was when they purchased their new home with a PCA loan. The Cross's were PCA member for 59 years. Percy was a lifetime Arthur County rancher until he retired in 2004.

Percy loved to square dance and polka. His favorite card game was Pitch "Cut Throat". He was a lifetime member of Ogallala Elks Lodge #1760 for 49 years.

Survivors include his beloved wife, LaVaughn, their daughter Linda (David) Neal, York, NE; his brother Jean "Jake" (Lucille) Cross, Arthur, NE; 4 Grandchildren; 8 Great-Grandchildren, and 1 Great-Great Grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his brothers: George, Wilsie, Donald and Burt Cross.

Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at Draucker Funeral Home, Ogallala, NE. The Funeral Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. MST, Thursday, June 14, 2012 at the Arthur Baptist Church, Reverend Ben Keene officiating. Burial to follow in the Arthur Cemetery, Arthur NE.

A memorial has been established for the Arthur Baptist Church. Online condolences may be sent to webmaster@drauckerfh.com. Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.