

THE BURLINGTON RECORD
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No Funeral in '53



Jim Gernhart Inspects Gravestone

A recent story in the Rocky Mountain News stated that, "Old Jim Gernhart of Burlington didn't hold his third annual funeral this year, but since he figures to live 'at least 40 years more' there'll be plenty of time for rehearsals in the future". The News stated that Jim recently visited

his \$2500 polished granite gravestone in the Burlington cemetery. Jim stated that the statement was in error, for his stone is located in the Goodland cemetery.

Gernhart stated this week that he is still feeling fine, despite his 77 years. "I am taking vitamins. They're a life-saver, I'll live 40 years yet".

In response to one inquiry from an oldster in Texas, Gernhart told him by letter that he would guarantee him to live until he died, if he took the vitamins.

Two years ago Gernhart shocked the town, and the nation, with

his "funeral" services, held at the state armory and attended by a crowd estimated at 1,000, including news agencies which gave world-wide coverage. Last year a repeat performance was held at his home, but this year he skipped the services, and has not explained why as yet.

Gernhart still receives correspondence and small gifts from people all over the world. Pointing out that he is perhaps the town's biggest tourist attraction, he states that several people stop every week to visit with him, and take photographs.