

Remember when Jim . . .



*. . . saw so many visitors he
wore the lining out on his casket?*

After holding his own funeral in June of 1951 while still alive, Jim Gernhart quickly became Burlington's most famous resident. Tourists who came through town always stopped by his home and asked to see the casket he planned to be buried in. Gernhart got in and out of the casket so many times for photo opportunities he wore the lining out several times and it had to be replaced. Jim claimed he "would never be caught dead in Burlington," but that forecast didn't work out, as he passed away in his hometown community in 1980. He is buried, however, in Goodland, Kan.