

John J. Arkfeld, 91

Panama — John Joseph Arkfeld, son of Henry and Magdeline Blum Arkfeld was born April 21, 1890 on a farm north of Panama. He was baptized, received his First Communion and confirmation at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama and attended the public school in Panama. He grew to adulthood helping on the family farm.

On July 3, 1916, he married Mary Keane at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama. Seven children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed west of Panama until 1940. He then was employed as a harness maker for the U.S. Army in Ind. during World War II and later as a guard for an atomic bomb plant in Richland, Wash. He then returned to Panama and worked as a painter for many years. After Mrs Arkfeld died on July 9, 1966, he continued to make his home in Panama until 1975, when he became a resident of the Indian Hills Nursing Home in Co. Bluffs. This has been his home since that time.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama as well as an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus, Earling Council No. 1741. During his retirement, he enjoyed teaching children to roller skate. He was even able to roller skate past his 85th birthday. He died at Mercy hospital, Co. Bluffs on Sunday, Jan. 17, 1982, at the age of 91 years.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by one son Francis and two daughters, Sr. Madeline Arkfeld and Ann Louise Arkfeld; one great granddaughter Debbie Arkfeld; seven brothers, George, twins Peter and Mike, Ben, Frank,

Edwin and Joe; two sisters Sr. M. Madeline O.S.B. and Mary Arkfeld.

He is survived by three sons, Thomas of Victorville, Calif; Henry of Panama and John "Jack" of Omaha; one daughter, Judy (Mrs Floyd) Knott of Harlan; 20 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren; two sisters Lena (Mrs Nicholas) Redding of Oklahoma City, Okla. and Anna (Mrs Louis) Mages of Logan; nieces; nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1982 with Rev. David Fenelon as celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery with Bob Knott, Michael Arkfeld, Mike Mohr, Daniel Arkfeld, Tom P. Keane and Donald Ozbun serving as casketbearers.