

Jerry H. Bieker, 61

Defiance — Jerome Henry Bieker, son of Otto F. and Bernadine Munchrath Bieker, was born in Earling on Jan. 25, 1918. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's church in Earling. He attended school and grew to adulthood in Earling and graduated from St. Joseph's high school. He died Sunday, Nov. 11, 1979 at age 61 years.

On July 9, 1945, he married Alice C. Masek at St. Joseph's church in Omaha, Nebr. Ten children were born to this union. They made their home in Earling until their first child was born. They then moved to Defiance and this has been their home since that time. In April of 1946, Jerry and his father purchased the Defiance Telephone Co. and Jerry served as President and General Manager. In 1949, he acquired the Insurance Agency from Sam Steers. He began to serve on city government soon after he moved to Defiance as a councilman. He was then elected mayor and served 13 years consecutively and was currently serving as town clerk. Jerry organized and played in the Earl Russell Orchestra and managed the group for over 12 years. The nine-piece band is still operating throughout Midwestern Iowa. He was a long time member of St. Peter's church in Defiance.

In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by a sister, Louella. Survivors include his wife, Alice, of Defiance; two sons - Jerald and James, both of Defiance; eight daughters - Norma Jean (Mrs Frank Pycha III), Marcy (Mrs Michael Robinette), Kathy (Mrs Bill Wilson), Denise and Judy Bieker, of Omaha, Jodie (Mrs Ron Wingert) of Panama, Mary Alice Bieker of San Antonio, Tex. and Shari Bieker of Defiance; and eight grandchildren; by two brothers - Bernard A. Bieker of Rogers, Ark. and Clement Bieker of Miami, Okla.; two sisters - Jenny (Mrs Paul Spanton) and Leone (Mrs Robert Leighton), both of Minneapolis, Minn.; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Peter's church in Defiance, on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 1979, with Msgr. John McIlhlon as celebrant and Rev. James Brown, Rev. Fred Reischl, and Rev. James Freeman as concelebrants. Burial was in St. Peter's cemetery, Defiance, with Don Kloewer, George Stolz, Jerry