

John Finken

EARLING — John Stephen Finken, son of Michael and Susan (Koll) Finken, was born on a farm in Westphalia twp, Shelby county, on Oct. 1, 1889. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic church in Westphalia. He attended St. Boniface school and grew to adulthood on his parent's farm. In 1911 he moved to Earling, where he went into the grocery business. On May 12, 1914, he married Matilda Heese at St. Joseph's Catholic church in Earling. Five children were born to this union. After their marriage, Mr and Mrs Finken made their home in Earling. After her death in 1960, Mr Finken continued to make his home in Earling and was active in the grocery business until recent failing health. He died at Mercy hospital in Co. Bluffs, on Oct. 26, 1976, at age 87 years and 25 days. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church and the Earling Council No. 1741 Knights of Columbus. He also served on the Volunteer Fire Department and was honored this past spring by receiving the Businessman of the Years Award.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by a son, Cyril; a grandon, John R. Finken; and by five brothers - Matt, Nick, Mike, Tony and Joseph. He is survived by a daughter, Mariella (Mrs Lawrence Kramer) of Earling; three sons - Charles, John J. (Jack), and Robert, all of Earling; 14 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic church in Earling, on Friday, Oct. 29, 1976, with Rev. Jon Kautsky as celebrant. The final commendation was delivered by Rev. Basil Finken and graveside service by Rev. Arthur Ring. Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery with Mr Finken's grandsons - Alan Finken, Steve Finken, David Finken, Michael Finken, Richard Finken and Larry J. Kramer serving as pallbearers.