

**The Life Story of —**

**DONALD W. GESSERT, 54**

Donald William Gessert, son of Frank and Catherine Michaliski Gessert, was born July 21, 1920 on a farm west of Harlan. He died at Myrtue Memorial hospital on Sept. 12, 1974, at age 54 years, one month and 21 days. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Michael's church in Harlan. He attended country school and grew to adulthood while living on his parent's farm west of Harlan. On November 27, 1941 he married Regina Mary Patten at St. Boniface church in Westphalia. 15 children were born to this union. After their marriage, Mr and Mrs Gessert made their home in Portsmouth and Westphalia before moving to Harlan in 1949. Mr Gessert was a member of St. Michael's church for most of his life and he was employed for over 28 years by Shelby County.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers - Arnold and Ralph Gessert. He is survived by his wife, Regina; seven daughters - JoAnn (Mrs Lonnie Rose) of Carson, Rozann (Mrs Lyle Lauritsen) of Harlan, Diane (Mrs Terry Derby) of Avoca, Kathy Gessert of Harlan, Marcia (Mrs Tom Albertson) of Harlan, and Beverly and Donna Jean Gessert, both living at home; by eight sons - Ralph of Harlan, Donald of Elk Horn, Darold of Harlan, Wayne of Omaha, Nebr., Dale of Ellettsville, Ind., and Randall, Darwin and Dean living at home; by eight sisters - Mrs Margaret McLaughlin of Walnut, Regina (Mrs John Waltz) of Canby, Minn., Cecelia (Mrs Hubert Zimmerman) of Omaha, Nebr., Elvera (Mrs Fred Pauley) of Portsmouth, Leona (Mrs Jake Waltz) of Canby, Minn.; Bernadine (Mrs Glenn Hughes) of West Akron, So. Dak., Virginia (Mrs Nick Waltz) of Canby, Minn. and Catherine (Mrs Lee Rockwell) of Logan, and by one brother - Frank Gessert of Portsmouth, by 17 grandchildren; by his nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 14, 1974 at St. Michael's church in Harlan with Rev. Anthony J. Palmer as celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery with Lonnie Rose, Terry, Derby, Tony Milier, Lyle Lauritsen, Michael Pauley, and Gerald Andersen serving as pallbearers. The Pauley Home for Funerals of Harlan was in charge of funeral arrangements.

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