

The Life Story of —

JOHN J. HERKENRATH, 94

John Joseph Herkenrath, son of Peter and Mary Ohlinger Herkenrath, was born March 28, 1878 in Portsmouth, Iowa. He grew to adulthood and attended school in Portsmouth and he has lived his entire life in this community. He died at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan on June 11, 1972, having attained the age of 94 years, 2 months and 14 days.

On April 27, 1909 he was married to Dollie Whaley at St. Mary's Church in Portsmouth and they were privileged to have observed their 63rd wedding anniversary this year. To this union four daughters and two sons were born: Mrs Bernice Rogers of Omaha, Nebraska; Bernard Herkenrath of Modesto, California; Phil Herkenrath of Portsmouth, Iowa; Aurelia (Mrs Charles Spears) of San Jose, California; Valera (Mrs Max Gillette) of Sunnyvale, California; and Bonnie (Mrs Eugene "Dane" Peterson) of Harlan, Iowa. Mr Herkenrath operated the General Store in Portsmouth for many years and he was also Postmaster during this time. He has held many civic offices - serving as town treasurer, on the town council, the Portsmouth Independent school board and for over 50 years he was the fire chief of the Portsmouth Volunteer Fire Department. He has also been President of the State Bank of Portsmouth for over 56 years. He was baptized at St. Boniface Church in Westphalia and confirmed at St. Marys Church in Portsmouth and he has been a member of the Church all his life. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Earling Council No. 1741 in Earling, Iowa and of the Chalice Club of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Drum General Assembly No. 1045 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Preceding him in death were four brothers - Matt, William, Peter, and A. J. "Pal" Herkenrath and five sisters - Mrs Anna Bendon, Mrs Angela Thomas, Gertrude, Marie, and Monica Herkenrath.

In addition to his wife and children, Mr Herkenrath is survived by 23 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, other relatives and a great many friends.

A mass of the Resurrection was celebrated June 14, 1972 at St. Marys Church in Portsmouth, with the Rev. Edward R. Kelly as celebrant. Burial was at St. Marys cemetery in Portsmouth with Leo Monahan, Gerald Waltz, Jerry Lapke, Ben Arkfeld, Robert Grote, John Sawin serving as honorary bearers. Casket bearers were his grandsons - Philip Herkenrath, Jr., James Spears, Terry Rogers, Richard Herkenrath, John Rogers, and Jack Spears. 1972