

Evelyn Mae Coenen, 78

Sept. 22, 1921 - Dec. 23, 1999

HARLAN - Evelyn Mae Coenen, daughter of Valentine and Martha (Schmitz) Schechinger, was born Sept. 22, 1921, on her family's farm in Lincoln Township near Westphalia. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church and attended school in St. Boniface Catholic Schools, both in Westphalia.



Oct. 14, 1943, she married Melvin Coenen at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. To this union six children were born. After their marriage, they farmed near Westphalia, Defiance, Dow City and Irwin before moving to a farm near Bayard in 1968. After retiring, they moved to Harlan in 1997 and this has been their home since that time. While in Bayard she and her husband operated a restaurant. She died Dec. 23, 1999, at the Myrtle Memorial Hospital in Harlan, at age 78 years, three months and one day.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Carrie Coenen; brothers, Valentine Jr. and Anthony Schechinger; and her sister, Ella Marie Nielsen. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Melvin Coenen of Harlan; her children, Dennis Coenen (Amy Jo) of Harlan; Gailain Coenen (Georgina) of Urbandale; Connie (Tom) Hansen of Harlan; Carol (Tom) Gaul of McCausland; Mike Coenen (Sheila) of Woodward; and Bob Coenen (Dede) of Bouton; 15 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; her sisters and brothers, Marie Ann Reding of Manilla; Jeanette (Raymond) Chipman of Harlan; Ellsworth Schechinger (Grace) and Melvin Schechinger, both from Manilla; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Dec. 27, 1999, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Howard Fitzgerald celebrant and Rev. Robert Gralapp concelebrant, assisted by Rev. Mr. Pat Davitt. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia, with Chris Gaul, Matthew Coenen, Sean Hansen, Lynn Coenen, Shayne Coenen and Jason Coenen casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.