

Ferdinand Henry Gaul, 84

Feb. 20, 1916 - May 20, 2000

EARLING – Ferdinand Henry Gaul, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Schechinger) Gaul, was born Feb. 20, 1916, at Earling, and died at his home in Earling, May 20, 2000, at age 84 years and three months. Ferd attended school at St. Joseph's Catholic School. He was baptized and confirmed in Earling at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and was later a member of the Portsmouth Knights of Columbus.

He married Dorothy Marie Rau Dec. 28, 1943, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Thirteen children were born to this union, and they were proud to have shared over 56 years of marriage. They resided at their home in Earling, since 1965. Ferd farmed for a short time and then made his living as a mechanic throughout Shelby County. He also reupholstered furniture for many years and did contract tilling.

In addition to his parents, Ferd was preceded in death by four brothers, Isadore, Father Hilary, Gerald and Joseph; and one son, Daniel. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy of Earling; four sons, Ron (Paula) Gaul of Harlan; Larry (Maxine) Gaul; David Gaul, all of Earling; and Walter (Donna) Gaul of Dunlap; eight daughters, Shirley (Frank) Hauck of Omaha; Jean (Dan) Bieker; Carol (Jeff) Walton; Joan (Terry) Hulsebus; Marian (Dan) Greer, all of Harlan; Laurie Gilbert of Glidden; Lisa Fox of West Palm Beach, FL and Janis (Tim) Thompson of Omaha; daughter-in-law, Debbie Gaul of Dow City; 41 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; brothers, Sylvester Gaul (Betty) of Davenport; Father Cornelius Gaul of Earling; Francis Gaul (Clair) of Longview, WA; Peter Gaul (Mae) of Melbourne; Leo Gaul (Agnes) of Harlan; Charles Gaul (Irene) of Holt, MO; sister, Adelaide Croghan of Panama; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 23, 2000, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Father Michael Berner celebrant and Father Cornelius Gaul and Father Rich Ball concelebrants. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery with Ray Hendricks, Craig Bieker, Brian Bieker, Jason Gaul, Aaron Gaul, Matthew Gaul, Levi Gilbert and Shawn Gaul casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.