

Emil J. Gross - 85

~~Sept. 27, 1937~~ - May 9, 1998

WESTPHALIA - Emil John Gross, son of Joseph and Mary(Engel) Gross was born Sept. 27, 1912, in Earling. He was the eighth of twelve children. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling and attended both country and parochial schools. As he grew up on the family farm near Earling, he learned to work, conserve the land, and tend to livestock. Sunday afternoons the pasture became a sports field where he played baseball with his eight brothers. He also played the piano and harmonica with the family band.

On his twenty-fifth birthday, Sept. 27, 1937, he married Aquinata (Nottie) Kaufman at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Thirteen children, five daughters and eight sons, were born to this union. After farming near Earling for several years, they purchased and moved to a farm near Westphalia. Besides farming he was active in church and community affairs. He was a board member of the Westphalia Co-op Association and Westphalia Credit Union, a member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 1741, and an officer of the Holy Name Society. He also coached Midget baseball. In recent years, he served as a guide for the Shelby County German Colonies Heritage Tours and as a committeeman for Gesundheit. He also pursued woodworking and a favorite project was making large rosaries out of black walnuts. In 1960, he fulfilled a dream. With the help of his brother, Werner, he built a new ranch-style house on his farm. He continued to live there throughout his retirement. He died May 9, 1998, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 85 years, seven months, and 12 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers: Michael, Andrew, Leonard, Werner, Norbert, and Alban; his sisters: Anna Habberger, Clara Scheuring and Gertrude Coenen; grandchildren: Kevin and Laura Gross. Survivors include his wife, Nottie Gross of Westphalia; his children, Pat Gross of Des Moines; June (Tony) Prom of Harvey, ND; Jerry (Sue) Gross of Westphalia; Father Ken Gross of Co. Bluffs; Joe (Mary) Gross of Donahue; Bonnie McCoy of Des Moines; Andrew (Denise) Gross of Des Moines; Theresa (Steve) Becker of Storm Lake; Edward (Leslie) Gross of St. Paul, MN; Paul Gross of Audubon; Rose (Jeff) Wignall of Creston; Norman (Laurie) Gross of St. Paul, MN; Nicholas Gross of Glenwood; 34 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; his brothers, Marcus Gross of Harlan; Charles Gross of Laguna Hills, CA and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 12, 1998 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Concelebrating were Rev. Joseph L. Brown C.P.P.S. and priests of the Des Moines Diocese, with Rev. Ken Gross as the Presider and Rev. Richard Gubbels the Homilist. The Most Rev. Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S. gave the Prayer of Commendation. Burial was in St. Boniface cemetery in Westphalia with sons: Jerry, Joe, Andrew, Ed, Paul and Norman casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

