

Matt H. Gross, 91

Feb. 16, 1909 - Dec. 17, 2000

PORTSMOUTH – Matt Henry Gross was born Feb. 16, 1909, to Bertha (Rushenberg) and Frank Gross near Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Earling, and attended school at St. Joseph Catholic School. He farmed with his father until renting his own farm land near Portsmouth, in 1937.

June 17, 1937, he married Margaret F. Smith at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla. To this union, two children were born. The couple moved from the Earling area in 1938 to the Portsmouth area. In 1940, the couple purchased a farm near Portsmouth. He loved music at an early age, and was accomplished on the saxophone, violin and clarinet. He played with his father and brothers in the Gross Brother's Band and the Matt Gross Orchestra. He died Dec. 17, 2000, at the Risen Son Christian Village in Council Bluffs, at age 91 years, 10 months and one day.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Raphael; his brothers, William, John, Alvin, Virgil, Joseph and Ray; sisters, Frances Mumm, Mary Freund and Ella Ahart. He is survived by his son, David Gross, and his fiancée, Diana Heskett; three grandchildren, Deanna (John) Fuller; Jeffery Gross and Kristine (Chris) Russmann; two great grandchildren, John H. and James D. Fuller; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 19, 2000, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, with John Fuller, Larry Wilwerding, Jerry Gross, Chris Russman, Willie Mumm and Dennis Freund casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

