

Alfred and Leonetta Kenkel



EARLING - Alfred Nicholas Kenkel, son of Anton and Kathryn (Jacoby) Kenkel, was born Feb. 9, 1910 at Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and attended school in Earling. Leonetta Rosman, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Miller) Rosman, was born Oct. 18, 1913 on a farm near Westphalia. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. She attended and graduated from St. Peter's Catholic School in Defiance. Alfred died at his home in Earling May 12, 1997, at age 87 years, three months and three days. Leonetta died May 12, 1997, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 83 years, six months and 24 days.

Jan. 8, 1935, Alfred and Leonetta were married at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. To this union five children were born. Alfred and Leonetta started farming in Union Township after their marriage on the land owned by Alfred's father. This was their home until their retirement in January of 1973, when they moved to their present home in Earling. Alfred and his son, Dennis, started the Kenkel fertilizer business in Earling in 1961, which Alfred sold to Dennis in 1974.

Both Alfred and Leonetta were members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Alfred was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Earling Council No. 1741, the Holy Name Society and Past member of the Earling Fire Department. He was also on the Shelby County Board of Review and Earling Mutual Company Telephone Board. Leonetta was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of St. Katherine No. 266, the Altar Society and Bible study groups. Alfred enjoyed his woodworking and Leonetta enjoyed her sewing, quilts and gardening, and together they enjoyed their grandkids' school activities and sports, golf, traveling and playing cards.

Alfred and Leonetta were both preceded in death by their parents and their son, Donald, who died Oct. 16, 1964. Alfred was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, Mary Reinig, Lucy Rauterkus, Hubert Kenkel, William Kenkel and Al Kenkel. Leonetta was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Adelaide Schlitz, Edith Assman, Elizabeth Dressen, Marie Earl, Urban Rosman, Roman Rosman and John Rosman.

They are survived by their children, Denny Kenkel (Marie) of Earling; Jack Kenkel (Gloria) of Earling; Dean Kenkel (Pamela) of Harlan and Peggy Leinen (Edward) of Portsmouth; 15 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Alfred is survived by his brothers, Joe Kenkel of Earling and Vince Kenkel (Irene) of Harlan. Leonetta is survived by her sisters, Irene Wilwerding of Dunlap; Dorothy Sonderman of Earling; Julia Heller (Irvin) of Harlan; Myra Klahs of Norfolk, NE and Althea Sweeny of Neola. They are also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A joint Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 15, 1997, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling with Rev. Michael Berner celebrating. Concelebrating were Msgr. Edward Kelly, Msgr. Gerald Stessman, Rev. Thomas Crowley, Rev. Leonard Kenkel, Rev. Ben Kenkel, Rev. Greg Leach, Rev. Paul Bianchi, Rev. Gordon Gittins, Rev. Jim Wilwerding, Rev. Chuck Kottas and Rev. Eugene Klein. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery with Max Kenkel, George Kenkel, Neil Kenkel, David Kenkel, Norman Kenkel and Fritz Reinig serving as Alfred's casket bearers. Leonetta's casket bearers were Kenny Lapke, Ivo Wilwerding, John Assmann, David Heller, Bob Sonderman and Frank Klahs. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.