

Matilda C. Kenkel, 95

Oct. 22, 1906 - Dec. 17, 2001

EARLING – Matilda "Tillie" Catherine Kenkel was born to Frances (Kopold) and Nicholas Wingert Oct. 22, 1906, at Woonsocket, SD. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Church in Woonsocket. Tillie received her grade school education in Cuthbert, SD, and attended high school in Woonsocket. As a young woman, she cared for her mother. In 1930, she moved to Earling.

Oct. 4, 1932, Tillie married Al Kenkel at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Church in Woonsocket. Eight children were born to this union. They farmed in the Defiance area for a few years and then settled on a farm south of Earling. They retired and moved to Earling in 1977. The couple celebrated 56 years of marriage before Al's death Jan. 7, 1989. She became a resident of Little Flower Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Jan. 5, 1999. She died Dec. 17, 2001, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 95 years, one month and 25 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Al Kenkel; one son, Kenneth Kenkel; brothers, Joe and Martin Wingert; and sisters, Anna Scheef, Mary Goeser and Eva Coussen. She is survived by her children, Merle Kenkel (Theresa) of Missouri Valley; Jim Kenkel (Dar) of Earling; Max Kenkel (Dorothy) of Earling; Lee Kenkel (Alice) of Harlan; Ron Kenkel (Barb) of Dow City; Vern Kenkel (Thelma) of Denison and Delores (Karl) Rasmussen of Cheney, KS; 30 grandchildren; 55 great grandchildren; sisters, Martha Koesters of Earling and Margaret Sweeney of Woonsocket, SD; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 20, 2001, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Burial was held at St. Joseph's Cemetery with Jerry Kenkel, Jeff Kenkel, Larry Kenkel, Mark Kenkel, Rick Kenkel and Mike Kenkel casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

