

Bernice C. Dotzler, 79

Oct. 16, 1922 - March 1, 2002

HARLAN—Bernice Catherine Dotzler was born to Catherine Marie (Rosauer) and Joseph Zitzlsperger Oct. 16, 1922, at Dedham. She was baptized in Dedham and confirmed Sept. 25, 1934, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison, by Bishop Heelan. She was educated at Coon Rapids Catholic Boarding School in Coon Rapids, Carroll Catholic Schools and schools in Arion, Neola and Ute, graduating from Denison High School Class of 1941. During World War II, she was employed as a telegraph operator for the Illinois Central Railroad.

Oct. 7, 1946, she married Alphonse "Ike" Kloewer at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison. To this union one daughter, Barbara, was born. After Ike's death Dec. 22, 1947, she continued to reside in Denison.

Aug. 14, 1957, she married Aloysius J. "Hookie" Dotzler at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. To this union two daughters, Mary and Betty, were born. The couple resided in Defiance, where Bernice was employed as the Defiance Postmaster until retiring in 1983. She was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison until her marriage to Hookie in 1957, when she became a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Following their move to Harlan in 1986, Bernice and Hookie became members of St. Michael's Catholic Church. In May of 2001, she moved to Elm Crest Retirement Community where she died March 1, 2002, at age 79 years, four months and 13 days.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara Ohlinger; and brothers, Eugene, Wilfred, Joseph and Clarence Zitzlsperger. She is survived by her children, Dennis Dotzler (Ellen) of Omaha, NE; Frederick Dotzler (Cassandra) of Saratoga, CA; Sandra (Jerry) Heller of Defiance; William Dotzler (Annette) of Sioux City; Bruce Dotzler (Paula) of Liberty, MO; Mary (Mike) Rohe of Manning and Betty (Joe) Keane of Defiance; 17 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; brothers, Robert Zitzlsperger of Omaha, NE; Wayne Zitzlsperger of Denison and Ronnie Zitzlsperger (Mary "Bunni") of Decatur, IL; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 4, 2002, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Jack McClure, C.P.P.S. and Rev. Michael Berner concelebrants. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance, with Dick Dotzler, Alan Zitzlsperger, Bruce Dotzler, Frederick Dotzler, Dennis Dotzler and William Dotzler casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

