

Owen J. Heese, 70

Jan. 8, 1928 - March 28, 1998

EARLING - Owen Joseph Heese, son of Peter and Isabel (Wilwerding) Heese, was born Jan. 8, 1928, in Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Owen attended St. Joseph's Catholic School and was a member of the graduating class of 1946.

He married Grace Erlbacher April 14, 1953, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Two children were born to this union, Bill and Sharon. After marriage, they resided in Earling. He was a construction manager and built many homes in Earling and the surrounding areas. He was also a rural mail carrier in the Earling and Panama areas and co-owner with Bill Erlbacher of E. and H. Car Wash establishments in Harlan and Manning. He also co-owned the Skelly Station in Earling. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus #1741, the Earling Fire Department, and he was a member of St. Joseph's Parish Council and participated on the building committee of St. Joseph's Parish. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #615. He died March 28, 1998, at age 70 years, two months and 20 days.

In addition to his parents, Owen was preceded in death by his brother, Edward. Survivors include his wife, Grace Heese of Earling; his children, Bill (Deb) Heese of Papillion, NE, and Sharon (Dean) Staley of Charter Oak; four grandchildren, Lyndsey Heese of Papillion, NE; Kyle Heese of Papillion, NE; Nolan Staley of Charter Oak; Bradley Staley of Charter Oak; his sisters, Dorothy (Ambrose) Muenchrath of Earling; Rita Sutherland of Gilman; Bernice (Richard) Hearn of Des Moines; Isabel (John) Klein of Harlan; Mildred (Leo) Bieker of Harlan; Teria Cochran of Omaha; Sister Elizabeth Heese of Earling; Norma (Jerry) Schmitz of Wall Lake; his brother, Larry (Jean) Heese of Cedar Rapids, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery with military rites being conducted by the American Legion Post #615 of Earling. Casket bearers were Jim Bieker, Mark Heese, Jack Hearn, Greg Schmitz, Tom Graeve, Terry Kohles, Mike Erlbacher, Mike Graeve and Steve Erlbacher. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

