

Harlan Jr News Reporter 27 Jan 2006

Josephine Heller, 86

Oct. 22, 1919 - Jan. 1, 2006

HARLAN — Josephine L. Heller, daughter of Joseph Charles and Catherine Blum Goetzinger, was born in Templeton Oct. 22, 1919. She was baptized in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Templeton. In 1920, as a young girl, Jose moved with her parents to Defiance where she attended school at St. Paul School.

Josephine married Albert H. Heller Jan. 20, 1942, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Two children were born to this union, Karen and Jerry. In 1945, they moved to a farm south of Defiance and farmed there until 1985 when Albert retired from farming. After their retirement, they made their home in town where Jose remained until October 2001. Her church activities included the Altar Society of St. Peter's Church, the quilting bee and the Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Katherine in Earling. She was currently a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Josephine died Jan. 1, 2006, at her home in Harlan at age 86 years, two months and 10 days.

Josephine is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Albert; brothers and sisters, Irene Backhaus, Lizzie Kloewer, Carrie Kloewer, Dick Goetzinger, Sally Foley, Edward Goetzinger, Clela "Sis" Goetzinger, Rose Marie Rasmussen, Helen Kaufman Lucille Hoxworth and LeRoy Goetzinger. Survivors include her children, Karen Everhart of Inver Grove Heights, MN, Jerry (Sandy) Heller of Defiance; five grandchildren, Steve Everhart, Mary "Shelly" Harris, Sharon (Matt) Rhodes, Mike Heller, Jennifer (Jason) Christensen; five great grandchildren, Natasha Harris, Cassidy Christensen, Ashley Rhodes, Garrett Christensen and Jacob Rhodes; two brothers, Virgil Goetzinger (Irene) of Alma, MI and Charles Goetzinger (Eunice) of Defiance; one sister-in-law, Agnes Goetzinger of Westphalia; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 4, 2006, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance, with Louis Heller, Charles Goetzinger, Stan Goetzinger, Steve Everhart, Kenny Foley, and David Heller casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements

