

Eugene Hoffmann, 77

July 31, 1928 - Dec. 9, 2005

LEWIS — Eugene Frederick Hoffmann was born July 31, 1928, on a farm near Panama to Arthur and Irene Goeser Hoffmann. Gene was baptized at St. Mary's Church in Panama. He attended elementary schools in Panama and Shelby graduating in 1946 from Shelby High School. He was active in football and basketball.

January 28, 1950, Gene married Alice Messerschmidt, a fellow classmate, in Avoca. Gene and Alice lived and farmed in the Hancock area for several years and in 1960 moved to the farm where Gene was now living. Ten children were born to this union: Nick, Jim, Karen, Bill, Rebecca, Nancy, Denise, Sharon, John and Jeanne. Gene and Alice always followed their children's athletic and 4-H endeavors. Alice died March 25, 1972. Gene was now in the position of father and mother to his children.

Aug. 10, 1974, Gene married Elaine Greve, a widow with four children. Gene accepted his stepchildren as his family. Now he had 13 kids and was proud of every one of them. He was an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Walnut. He was a 3rd degree Knight of Columbus with the Father Lawler Council. Gene died suddenly Dec. 9, 2005, at the Cass County Memorial Hospital at age 77 years, four months and nine days.

In addition to his parents, Gene was preceded in death by his first wife, Alice; daughter, Rebecca; granddaughter, Rebecca; sister, Agnes Hoffmann; and brother, Robert Hoffmann. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Hoffmann of Lewis; his children, Nick (Barb) of Walnut; Jim (Maureen) of Walnut; Karen Dunkelberger of Harper, KS; Bill (Jenny) of Denton, NE; Nancy Holtz (Keith) of Avoca; Denise Schieber (Mark) of Kansas City, KS; Sharon Witmer (Gary) of Grand Island, NE; John (Bobbi) of Buford, GA; and Jeanne Winternote (Rusty) of Montgomery City, MO; four stepchildren: Pete Greve (Stacia) of Milford, NE; Janis Norgaard (Eldon) of Shelby; Lee Greve (Nancy) of Hinsdale, IL and Gwen Carman (Bruce) of Lutsen, MN; 41 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Marie McCarthy of Omaha, NE; Alice Mogensen of Herscher, IL; and Harold Hoffmann (Bonnie) of Hancock; one sister-in-law, Shirley Hoffmann of Avoca and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 13, 2005, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avoca with Rev. John Frost celebrant and Rev. Paul Monahan concelebrant. Honorary casket bearers were Gene's grandchildren and casket bearers were Andrew Holtz, Eric Hoffmann, Joseph Greve, Patrick Hoffmann, Matt Schieber, Aaron Witmer, Ben Hoffmann and Sam Greve. Burial was held in the Graceland Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.