

## Janice Langenfeld, 70

*Nov. 21, 1931 - Oct. 14, 2002*

**HARLAN** – Janice Marie Langenfeld, daughter of Michael J. and Cecilia M. (Klein) Gross, was born Nov. 21, 1931, on a farm near Earling. As a young girl, she moved with her parents to a farm southeast of Defiance. She attended Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Defiance, graduating with the class of 1949. After school, she helped her parents on the farm.

Aug. 10, 1953, she married Raymond Stessman at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Three children were born to this union. After they were married, they lived for a short time in Colorado, while Ray was completing his time in the Army. They then returned to Shelby County, and farmed the same farm on which Janice had been raised. They farmed there until 1958, when they found out that Ray had leukemia; Ray and Janice then moved to Earling. After Ray died, Aug. 13, 1959, Janice continued to live in Earling until May, 1960, when she moved with her three children to Harlan.

Oct. 15, 1960, Janice married Owen J. Langenfeld at St. Michael's Catholic Church. One son was born to this union. Janice and Owen have lived in Harlan for the past 42 years. Over the years, she worked as a housewife, raising her four children. More recently, she was employed as a cook for Harlan Community Schools, working for a few years at New Park and West Ridge Elementary Schools, and later at the old Middle School until it closed in 1998. Since her retirement, she and Owen have continued to make their home in Harlan. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and St. Ann's Guild, both of Harlan. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Katherine No. 266 of Earling. She died Oct. 14, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 70 years, 10 months and 23 days.

Preceding her in death were her father, Michael (Mike) Gross; her first husband, Raymond Stessman; and three brothers, Larry Gross, Michael Gross and Jack Gross. Survivors include her husband, Owen Langenfeld of Harlan; one daughter, Kaleen (Paul) Johnston of Manassas, VA; three sons, Phil (Julie) Langenfeld of St. Cloud, MN; Gene (Nan) Langenfeld of Omaha, NE and Glen (Mary) Langenfeld of Bellevue, NE; mother, Cecilia Gross of Harlan; two brothers, Jerald (Martha Ann) Gross of Irwin and Ronald (Rita) Gross of Defiance; two sisters-in-law, Linda Gross and Karen Gross, both of Harlan; 12 grandchildren; one great grandson; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 18, 2002, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Msgr. Gerald Stessman celebrating. Casket bearers were Brian Gross, Paul Gross, Lee Gross, Nicholas Johnston, Todd Johnston and Francis Gross. Burial was in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Earling. The Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.