

Fern Schwarte, 80

April 28, 1916-Aug. 2, 1996

Panama - Verena (Fern) Marie Schwarte, daughter of John and Anna Klepper Schmitz was born on a farm near Westphalia April 18, 1916. She was the fifth of seven children. She was baptized in St. Boniface Catholic Church and attended St. Boniface Catholic School in Westphalia. After graduation in 1934, she helped her mother on the farm.

Feb. 16, 1950 she married William H. Schwarte at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. They began their married life on a farm northwest of Panama and have continued to make this their home since retiring from farming in 1982. She was a member of St. Mary Of Assumption Catholic Church in Panama and belonged to the Westside Card Club. She died Aug. 2, 1996 at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 80 years, three months and five days.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her brothers Alphons Schmitz, Alex Schmitz and Cyril Schmitz. Surviving are her husband William of Panama; her brothers Alvin Schmitz (Mathilda) of Westphalia, and Verner Schmitz (Helen) of Harlan; her sister Valeria Ann Wilke of Omaha, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Aug. 6, 1996 at St. Mary of Assumption Catholic Church in Panama with Rev. Michael Peters celebrant and Msgr. Michael W. Schwarte and Rev. Tony Zimmerman concelebrating. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia with Bob Hamor, Joe Esser, David Schwarte and Wayne Schwarte honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Tom Schmitz, John Sullivan, Bob Schmitz, Marty Guenette, Jim Schwarte and Randall Schwarte. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.