

William J. Smith, 76

Nov. 7, 1916 — May 27, 1993

EARLING — William Jerome Smith, son of John and Sarah (McAndrews) Smith was born Nov. 7, 1916 at Buck Grove. He died May 27, 1993, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan, at age 76 years, 6 months and 20 days. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Buck Grove, and received his First Communion and was confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla. He attended Sacred Heart Grade School in Manilla. In 1929, the family moved to a farm southwest of Buck Grove, where he grew to adulthood. In Feb. of 1941, he entered the U.S. Army, serving his country during WW II for four and one half years, three years of which were in the European Theater. After receiving his honorable discharge in June of 1945, he returned to Shelby county.

July 23, 1945, he married Marcella Bissen in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. They were the parents of five children. After their marriage, they farmed near Buck Grove for four years before purchasing a farm near Earling. In 1970, they moved to their present home in Earling, which he had built. This was his home until the time of his death. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the American Legion Post #615, both of Earling.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, John and Francis Smith. He is survived by his wife, Marcella of Earling; his children, JoAnn (Robert) Koesters of Earling; Marcella (Charles) Smith of Omaha, NE.; Patricia (Tim) Gross of Earling; Bill Jr. (Mindy) Smith



of Mason City; and Charles (Marlene) Smith of Minneapolis, MN.; 18 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; 3 sisters, Margaret Gross of Portsmouth; Catherine (Herman) Jokerst of St. Augustine, FL.; and Monica (Harold) Kleffman of Harlan; 2 brothers, Joseph Smith of Sycamore, IL.; and Eugene (Marian) Smith of Portsmouth; nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 29, 1993, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling with Rev. Chuck Kottas, celebrant, and Rev. Cornelius Gaul and Rev. Eugene Klein, concelebrating. Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery, Earling with Ron Smith, Kevin Gross, Steven Koesters, Brian Koesters, Jeff Gross and David Smith casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.