

Laurence Schmidt, 89

Nov. 25, 1913 - Sept. 20, 2003

HARLAN - Laurence Louis Schmidt, the son of John Martin and Mary Eleanora McQuaid Schmidt, was born Nov. 25, 1913, on a farm near Axtell, KS. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Bridget Catholic Church. He attended school at Pleasant Valley School, which was a one room school house one and a half miles from home, for grades one through eight. He worked at home until age 21 when he then went to work for the township running a caterpillar which pulled a grader. In 1935, since no one in Kansas had a corn crop, he went to Idaho to pick corn and potatoes. He started farming in 1936.



Laurence married Ellen Irene "Nell" Skoch April 27, 1938, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Benedict, KS, and were the parents of four children, Eugene, Janiece, Don and Larry. In January of 1958, the family moved to Harlan, where he was a district manager for Archer Oil. He also had a successful scrap iron business. Laurence retired from the scrap iron and oil business in July of 2001. In July of 2002, he and Nell relocated to the Duntap Nursing and Rehab Center. He was a member of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Laurence died Sept. 20, 2003, at the Dunlap Nursing and Rehab Center at age 89 years, nine months and 25 days.

In addition to his parents, Laurence was preceded in death by seven brothers and sisters, Nora Koelzer, Cecilia Welch, Hugh, Oscar, Ralph, Rose Rilinger and Lebert, and a grandson, Steven Schmidt, who died in 1965. He is survived by his wife, Nell of Harlan; his children, Eugene Schmidt (Betty) of Harlan; Janiece (Tom) Rau of Shelby; Don Schmidt (Katy) of Gillette, WY; and Larry Schmidt (Marilyn) of Columbia Heights, MN; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; his sister, Alice Cain of Axtell, KS; his brother, Paul (Luella) Schmidt of Buhl, ID; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 24, 2003, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. Robert Hoeffler celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Brian Schmidt, Dustin Schmidt, Pete Mlover, Michael Schmidt, Brett Sherer and Mike Kienast casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.