

Roman John Schmitz, 80

July 12, 1917 - Oct. 14, 1997

WESTPHALIA - Roman John Schmitz, son of Joseph and Anna Reinig Schmitz, was born on a farm south of Westphalia, July 12, 1917. He was baptized, received his first communion and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church. He attended St. Boniface Grade School and graduated from St. Boniface High School in 1935. His early years were spent working on neighboring farms until joining the United States Army in 1941. He reached the rank of Master Sergeant while serving his country overseas during WW II. After receiving his honorable discharge in 1945, he returned to the Westphalia area.

May 14, 1946, he married Ella Mae Schomers at St. Boniface Catholic Church. To this union, two daughters and four sons were born. They made their home on the farm over 30 years. During that time, they were active members of their community and church. Roman was also a member of the American Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance and the Shelby County V.F.W. Post No. 941. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Earling Council No. 1741. In 1979, Roman and Ella Mae retired from the farm and moved to their present home in Westphalia. Ill health forced him to make his home at Little Flower Haven Nursing Home about three years ago. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital Oct. 14, 1997, at age 80 years, three months and two days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Zeno, age 76; August, who died at birth; Clarence, who died as a child, and Norbert, who died at the age of 6 months. Surviving are his wife, Ella Mae Schmitz of Westphalia; two daughters, Jane Scott (Howard) of Yutan, NE; Joyce Clay (Terry) of Harlan; four sons, Bob (Julie) of Harlan; Jim of Westphalia; Ralph of Ankeny and Gary (Jeanie) of Omaha, NE; 13 grandchildren; one brother, Joe (Mary Ann) of Denver, CO; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 17, 1997, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia, with Rev. Joe Brown celebrant. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery with military rites being conducted by America Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance. Honorary casket bearers were Amy Clay, Danielle Scott, Gina Schmitz and Stephanie Scott. Casket bearers were Jeff Schmitz, Jerrod Scott, Mike Schomers, Tom Schmitz, Wes Clay and Dave Schomers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

