

Melvin Schwery, 77

Sept. 2, 1924 - June 14, 2002

PANAMA – Melvin Schwery, son of Melchoir and Theresa (Klein) Schwery, was born Sept. 2, 1924, at Panama. He was baptized, received his first Holy Communion, was confirmed and attended school at St. Mary's in Panama. He grew to adulthood on the family farm.

Oct. 1, 1947, he married Verelda Schmitz at St. Boniface Church in Westphalia. Eight children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed the family farm at Panama. In August, 2000, they moved off the farm and into Harlan. Melvin started farming the family farm at the age of 17, when his father died. He was an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus, Council #1741 of Earling. He was also active in St. Mary's Parish. He was an usher and communion minister and served on many councils and committees within the parish. He died June 14, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 77 years, nine months and 13 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Russell in 1976; brothers, Lavern and Alfred; and sisters, Verena Maiwald and Viola Leinen. He is survived by his wife, Verelda; daughters, Jolene (Larry) Brown of Fremont, NE; Michelle (Sam) Ferguson of Omaha, NE; sons, Lyle Schwery (Jolene) of St. Charles; Myron Schwery (Chris) of Overland Park, KS; Mike Schwery (Jacque) of Blair, NE; Joel Schwery (Barb) of Chaska, MN; Keith Schwery (Eileen) of Panama; his sisters, Margaret Coenen of Westphalia; Magdalena Hodapp of Council Bluffs; Zita Engel of Westphalia; Nonna Adams of Santa Cruz, CA; Theresa Wellman of Neola; Mildred Leuschen of Portsmouth; Cleopha (Newmark) Nelsen of Seattle, WA; 20 grandchildren; three great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated June 17, 2002, at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with the Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant and the Rev. Jack McClure, C.P.P.S. concelebrant. Burial was in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Bill Fahn, Dave Hoffmann, Joe Fahn, Roman Klower, Andrew Pauley, Ed Greiner, Brian Brown and Josef Schwery honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Phil Schwery, Brent McKenzie, Adam Schwery, Kevin Schwery, John Ferguson, Lowell Ferguson, Heather Tucker and Ben Schwery. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

