

Evelyn Smith, 89

July 3, 1919 - Oct. 6, 2008

PANAMA — Evelyn Barbara Smith was born on July 3, 1919 to Nick and Clara (Book) Bissen in Earling, IA. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling.

August 28, 1940, Evelyn was united in marriage to Ural Smith at St. Joseph's Catholic Church by her godfather, Msgr. Peter Bissen. Seven children were born to this union: Phyllis, Marilyn, Norman, Gaylen, Roland, Randy, and Dan. After their marriage, they farmed west of Panama until they bought Ural's childhood home and raised their children on that family farm. Evelyn was a busy wife and mother. She helped her husband with the farm chores and planted a large garden, canning lots of vegetables. She raised chickens and put many in the freezer for her family. Evelyn was an excellent seamstress and made most of the clothes for the children when they were smaller. She also loved to embroider and sewed many quilts. She served as president of the altar and rosary society, treasurer of St. Mary's Sewing Circle and of Panama's Golden Age Club, and belonged to the Friendship Club, the ladies groups and parish groups. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court St. Katherine #266 of Earling, helped with CCD and was active in 4-H. Evelyn became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Community in May of 2008 and it was there that she died on Monday, October 6, 2008, having attained the age of eighty-nine years, three months and three days.



Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ural, her daughter Marilyn Kleffman, and her brothers and sisters: Hilda Bauman, Mary Bruck, Adella Stracke, Nick Bissen, Jr., Cyrilla Pauley, Sylvan Bissen, Joseph Bissen, Theresa Behrendt, Hulda Bissen, Adella Bissen, Irene Bissen, Leona Bissen, and Leo Bissen. She is survived by her daughter Phyllis and her husband Ken Monahan of Harlan, IA, her sons: Norman Smith and his wife Jean of Dunlap, Iowa, Gaylen Smith and his wife Zita of Portsmouth, IA, Roland Smith and his wife Phyllis of Portsmouth, Randy Smith and his wife Bonnie of LaVista, NE, and Dan Smith and his wife Tammy of Bondurant, IA; twenty-seven grandchildren; thirty-four great-grandchildren; her sisters: Sister Mary Helen Bissen of Glenview, IL and Mildred Von Hagel of Rosenberg, TX; her brother Walter Bissen and his wife Catherine of Earling, IA; other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 with Rev. John Dorton celebrating the 10:30 AM service. Casket bear-

ers were Ron Kleffman, Roland Smith, Norman Smith, Dan Smith, Gaylen Smith, Randy Smith, Ken Monahan, and Phyllis Monahan. Interment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, IA.

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