

Ben Arkfeld, 84

Panama - Benedict Cornelius Arkfeld, son of Henry and Madelene Blum Arkfeld, was born on a farm in Shelby county near Panama, on April 29, 1895. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's church, Panama. He attended St. Mary's school and grew to adulthood on his parents farm.

On April 9, 1918 he married Katherine M. Kenkel in St. Joseph's church, Earling. Two daughters were born to this union.

They made their home on the Arkfeld family farm. In July of 1918 Ben entered the army and served during WWI. After receiving his honorable discharge in Jan. of 1919, he returned to the farm near Panama and operated a house moving business along with his farming. After Katherine's death in Jan. of 1961, Ben continued to live on the farm.

On April 28, 1962, he married Irene S. Cody at St. Patrick's church in M. Valley. They made their home on the Arkfeld family farm near Panama. After her death in Oct. of 1979, Ben continued to live on the farm. He spent his entire life on the Arkfeld farm where he was born. Mr. Arkfeld died at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan, on Monday, April 21, 1980, just eight days before his 85th birthday.

He had been a life time member of St. Mary's church, Panama. He was also a member of the Panama Post No. 601, American Legion; a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 1741 of Earling, Iowa; a member of the Luke E. Hart Assembly; and a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus of Defiance and a member of its Chalice club.

In addition to his parents, Katherine Arkfeld, and Irene Arkfeld, Ben was preceded in death of a daughter Alice Mickels; six brothers - George, Peter, Michael, Frank, Edwin and Joseph Arkfeld; and two sisters - Sister M. Magdalene O.S.B. and Mary Arkfeld. Survivors include his daughter, Alma (Mrs. Nick) Bruck of Portsmouth; 15 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren, by a brother, John Arkfeld of Co. Bluffs; two sisters - Lena (Mrs. Nicholas) Reding of Oklahoma City, Okla. and Anna (Mrs. Louis) Mages of Logan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's church, Panama on Thursday, April 24, 1980 with Rev. David Fenelon as celebrant and Rev. Richard Arkfeld and Rev. Vincent Rosonke as concelebrants. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery, Panama with Clem Arkfeld, Martin Mages, Dr. Ren Heese, Marvin Kenkel, Henry Arkfeld and Clarence Arkfeld serving as pallbearers.

Military Rites were conducted at the graveside by Post No. 601, American Legion of Panama.

Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of the services.

