

Bertha M. Mickels, 83

Bertha Mary Mickels, daughter of Nicholas and Mary Sonntag Goeser, was born Jan. 18, 1899 on a farm near Westphalia. She was baptized, received her First Communion and confirmation at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama and attended St. Mary's Catholic school. She grew to adulthood helping on the family farm.

On Feb. 13, 1916 she married Joseph Mickels at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama. Three children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed near Panama for awhile. In 1922, they moved into Panama where Mr Mickels was the town's blacksmith and she was a midwife. After Joseph died on March 17, 1946, she moved to Omaha, Neb., where she was employed as a nurses aide at St. Joseph's hospital for the next 20 years. She retired in 1965 and continued to make her home in Omaha until 1973, when she moved to Manilla. This has been her home since that time.

She was a former member of St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama, St. Patrick's Catholic church in Omaha and a present member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church in Manilla. She was also a member of the Altar and Rosary Society. She died at St. Joseph's hospital in Omaha on Monday, Dec. 6, 1982 at the age of 73 years, 10 months and 18 days.

In addition to her husband and parents, Bertha was preceded in death by an infant son and one brother Anthony. She is survived by her two daughters, Edna (Mrs Al) Schomer of San Benito, Texas and Alvina (Mrs Ferd) Borkowski of Manilla; 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren; three sisters, Cecelia (Mrs Leo) Waltz and Marcella (Mrs Sylvester) Michels, both of Panama and Irene (Mrs Art) Hoffmann of Avoca; a foster brother, whom her parents raised, Leo Sonntag of Harlan; nieces and nephews; other relatives and a great many friends.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama on Friday, Dec. 10, 1982 with the Rev. David Fenelon officiating. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery with Randy, Gary and Berton Borkowski and Jerel, Joel and Paul Schomer serving as casketbearers.

The Pauley Funeral Home of Harlan handled the arrangements.