

## **Deloris Erlbacher, 80**

*March 17, 1924 - Sept. 3, 2004*

**ELGIN, IL** – Deloris Wellnitz “Shorty” Erlbacher was born March 17, 1927, the third of four daughters born to John and Anna Wellnitz. The family resided in Ortonville, MN before moving to Milbank, SD. After she finished her education, she moved to Elgin, IL to be near her oldest sister, Agnes, and seek employment. Soon thereafter the rest of the family joined them in Elgin to live and work.

Deloris married Vern Erlbacher from Earling in 1943. Shorty was employed at the Elgin Watch Company for many years. Vern and Deloris also owned and operated the Elgin Yellow Cab Company. In 1947, when her sister, Agnes, died unexpectedly having two young daughters, Shorty left her job to care for the children until their father remarried. She was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Elgin, IL, and also a member of the American Legion Post #57 and the Elgin Eagles Club. She died Sept. 3, 2004, at St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, after a lingering illness.

Deloris was preceded in death by her husband, Vern Erlbacher; her parents; and one sister, Agnes Schuchard; in-laws in this area, Jake and Irene Erlbacher, Lena Erlbacher, Elmer and Anne Erlbacher, Marie Stolz, Bob and Pat Malone and Vince Kenkel. She is survived by two sisters, Delvina Miller and Johanna Rinne, both of Elgin; in-laws, Leonard and Johnnie Erlbacher of Earling; Irene Kenkel of Harlan; Rita Briggs of Audubon; and Ella Mae (Ed) Darnell of Elgin; many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated in Earling Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2004, with Father Mike Berner officiating. Casket bearers were John Hickey, Larry Kelley, Roger Willy, Neal Kenkel, Dewayne Stolz, Allan Erlbacher, Charlie Erlbacher and Dale Erlbacher. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.