

Leonard "Wimpy" Erlbacher, 95

Feb. 21, 1911 - Oct. 25, 2006

EARLING — Leonard Elmo Erlbacher, better known to everyone as "Wimpy", was born Feb. 21, 1911, to John and Rose (Wilwerding) Erlbacher in Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling and remained a member of the church throughout his entire life.

Leonard married Magdalen Freund Sept. 24, 1935, at St. Joseph's. Eight children were born to this union, Elaine, Jan, Phyllis, Gerald, Marie, Allan, Charles, and Dean. The Erlbacher's made their home and raised their children on a farm outside of Earling. Wimpy farmed and did farm-to-market trucking until his retirement in 1977. In 1997, he became a resident of Little Flower Haven where he lived until his death Oct. 25, 2006, at age 95 years, eight months, and four days.

In addition to his parents, Wimpy was preceded in death by his wife, Magdalen; his son, Gerald; his brothers, Jake, Elmer, and Laverne; and his sisters, Marie and Patricia. He is survived by his children, Elaine (James) Barrett, Jan (Frank) Duffy, and Phyllis Roberts, all of Omaha, NE; Marie (Dennis) Kenkel of Earling; Allan "Tim" Erlbacher (Jane) of Defiance; Charles Erlbacher (Doris) of Dow City; and Dean Erlbacher (Dana) of Defiance; brother and sisters, Ella Mae Darnell of Elgin, IL; Irene Kenkel of Harlan; Rita Briggs of Audubon; and John Erlbacher of Earling; 70 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 28, 2006, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with the Rev. Tom Coenen officiating. Burial was at St. Joseph's Cemetery with Mike Erlbacher, Joe Erlbacher, Doug Erlbacher, Brian Kenkel, Jeff Erlbacher, and Patrick Erlbacher casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

