

Vincent Schmitz, 77

Jan. 21, 1925 - July 9, 2002

PANAMA—Vincent George Schmitz, the son of Catherine (Windeshausen) and Peter Schmitz, was born Jan. 21, 1925, on his parent's farm in Cass Township, Section 3, Shelby County. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, and was a member of the St. Mary's High School Graduating Class of 1943.

September 4, 1945, he married Dolores Ann Leinen in the school chapel at St. Mary's Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth. To this union, six children were born. The couple resided their entire lives on the family farm they purchased from Vince's father. He was instrumental in assisting his sons, Tom and Bill, and son-in-law, Neil Petsche, with the beginning of their farming operations, and continued to help them for many years. Operating a produce route for many years, he picked up cream and eggs from local farmers and delivered them to the area processing plants. A life-long member of St. Mary's, Vince was involved in many church activities. He was a 3rd Degree Member of the Earling Council No. 1741, Knights of Columbus of Earling. He participated in numerous community activities and served on several committees including improvements to the baseball diamond and concession stand operations. He also assisted with coaching ball teams. He died July 9, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age seventy-seven years, five months and eighteen days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores Schmitz March 24, 1997; one son, William Schmitz Feb. 26, 2001; one sister, Louise Pauley; brothers, Joseph, Nicholas, Msgr. Peter and William Schmitz. He is survived by his children, Thomas Schmitz (Beverly) of Harlan, Margaret (Peg) Petsche (Neil) of Portsmouth, Patricia (C. Fred) Puckett of Greeley, CO, Lolita Malone of Audubon, and Janet (Don) Altman of Golden, CO; fourteen grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; sisters, Sr. Maristelle Schmitz O.S.B. of Colorado Springs, CO, Catherine (Jerome) Croghan of Manning, and Margaret Croghan of Manning; sisters-in-law, Laurina, Mrs. Joseph Schmitz and Marcella (Sally), Mrs. Nicholas Schmitz, both, of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated July 13, 2002, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with the Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrating with the Revs. Paul Bianchi and Jack McClure C.P.P.S. concelebrating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama with Mr. Schmitz's granddaughters, Rae Malone, Tammy Lynam, Kate Malone, Patti Petsche, Janine Altman and Becky Schmitz honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were his grandsons, Mark Schmitz, David Petsche, Donevan Altman, Donald Petsche, C. Andrew Puckett, Jeffrey Puckett, Rick Malone and Steven Malone. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

