

Ural Smith, 88

June 22, 1915 - Oct. 24, 2003

PANAMA – Ural Eldon Smith, son of Frank "Shorty" and Lena Stolz Smith, was born June 22, 1915, on the farm near Portsmouth. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth, and attended school at Cass Township Country School. Ural grew to adulthood on the farm where he was born and hired out as a farm hand.

Aug. 28, 1940, Ural married Evelyn Bissen at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, by her godfather, Msgr. Bissen. Seven children were born to this union, Phyllis, Marilyn, Norman, Gaylen, Roland, Randy and Dan. After their marriage, they farmed west of Panama and after the death of his father, they moved back to his childhood home which he later purchased. They remained living on the family farm until they moved to their current home in Panama. Ural and Evelyn celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary Aug. 28 of this year. Ural was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. He was a past member of St. Mary's Parish Council and served his community by helping with CCD and 4-H. He was an active member of the Golden Age Senior Citizens Club in Panama. Ural died Oct. 24, 2003, at age 88 years, four months and two days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Marilyn Kleffman, and a brother, Lynn Smith. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn of Panama; his children, Phyllis (Ken) Monahan of Harlan; Norman Smith (Jean) of Dunlap; Gaylen Smith (Zita) of Portsmouth; Roland Smith (Phyllis) of Portsmouth; Randy Smith (Bonnie) of LaVista, NE; Dan Smith (Tammy) of Bondurant; 27 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; his sister, Lucille Wirtz of Harlan; son-in-law, Ron Kleffman of Portsmouth; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 27, 2003, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Ron Kleffman, Norman Smith, Gaylen Smith, Roland Smith, Dan Smith, Randy Smith and Ken and Phyllis Monahan casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

