

# **Benedict L. Blum, 85**

Benedict Leonard Blum, son of Michael and Catherine Reilander Blum, was born on a farm in Shelby county near Westphalia on June 10, 1893. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface church in Westphalia. He attended St. Boniface school and grew to adulthood on his parent's farm. On Oct. 17, 1916 he married Mary Rose Kwapiszeski in St. Mary's church in Panama. Three children were born to this union.

After their marriage, Mr and Mrs Blum made their home on a farm near Panama. Ben retired in Jan. of 1961 and moved into Panama. He became a resident of Little Flower Haven in Earling in Dec. of 1977 and this has been his home since that time. He died at Myrtue Memorial hospital on Thursday, Nov. 9, 1978, at age 85 years, four months and 29 days. Mr Blum had been a long time member of St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by four sisters - Catherine Goetzinger, Anna Kwapiszeski, Sr. M. Antilia and Mary Katzer and by two brothers - Joseph and Michael Blum. His survivors include his wife, Mary Rose Blum of Earling; a son, Ralph Blum of Panama; two daughters - Adeline (Mrs Nick May) and Isabel (Mrs Al Feldman) both of Panama; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, three brothers - Peter Blum of Westphalia, John Blum of Earling, and Chris Blum Sr. of Panama, four sisters - Sr. Margaret Blum of Omaha, Lena Blum of Earling and Clara Lefeber and Sophie (Mrs Chris Schoemann) of Portsmouth; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's church in Panama on Monday, Nov. 13, 1978, with Rev. David Fenelon as celebrant and Rev. Donald Bruck of Defiance, Rev. Robert Schoemann of Co. Bluffs, Rev. Fred Reischl of Audubon and Rev. Eugene Klein as concelebrants. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery, Panama with Jerry May, Roger Blum, John Feldman, Nick May Jr., Robert Feldman and Steve Petersen serving as pallbearers.