

Leo J. Schmitz, 80

Westphalia - Leo Joseph Schmitz, son of Anton and Anna Schaben Schmitz, was born on a farm in Shelby county near Westphalia, on May 4, 1900. 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 May 22, 1922, he married Cecilia M. Zimmerman in St. Boniface church, Westphalia. Three children were born to this union. They made their home on a farm near Westphalia until retiring in 1965 and moving into Westphalia. This has been their home since that time. They were privileged to celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary this month. Mr. Schmitz died at the Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan on Friday, May 30, 1980 at age 80 years and 26 days. He had been a life time member of St. Boniface church, Westphalia and was also a member of the Holy Name Society. Leo had served as the director of the Westphalia Co-op.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three grandsons - Bobby Jo and Joseph Greer and Thomas Joseph Schmitz; a great-grandson, Jason Gerard Schmitz; two brothers - Adolph and John Schmitz; and three sisters - Cecilia Coenen, Mary Engel, and Loretta Branstetter. Survivors include his wife, Cecilia, of Westphalia; two sons - Leonard of Westphalia and Leland of Harlan; a daughter, Irene (Verle) Greer of Harlan; 25 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren, by a brother, Bernard of Westphalia; a sister, Martha (Mrs. Valentine) Schechinger of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Boniface church, Westphalia on Monday, June 2 1980, with Rev. Michael Sims as celebrant. Burial was in St. Boniface cemetery, Westphalia, with Jim Greer, Russ Greer, Doug Schmitz, Neil Schmitz, Larry Schmitz, and Randy Schmitz serving as pallbearers.