

Norbert Wilke, 58

EARLING — Norbert Bernard Wilke, son of William C. and Lena Victoria Sonntag Wilke, was born March 25, 1922, in Earling. He was baptized, receiving his first communion and confirmation at St. Joseph's church in Earling. He attended the country school and also St. Joseph's school in Earling and then worked for his father.

In 1939, he enlisted in the Navy and continued to serve his country during WW II as a motor machinist's mate second class on submarines. After receiving an honorable discharge on Sept. 30, 1945, he returned to the Shelby county area where he was employed at the Milwaukee Railroad for a short time before enlisting in the Air Force. After completing his tour of duty, he worked for various farmers in Earling until he retired three years ago due to ill health. He then moved to Harlan and this has been his home since that time. He was a member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WW II, Mile-Hi Digger Chapter. He died at his Harlan home on Tuesday, March 24, 1981, one day before his 59th birthday.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by six brothers, Sylvan, Virgil, Donald, Ray, William and William Harold and one sister, Stella Wilke. Survivors include his daughter, Shirley Osler of Co Bluffs; five brothers, Elroy of Denver, Colo., Joseph and Kenneth, both of Omaha, Nebr., Robert "Mush" of Panama, and Gary of Persimmon, three sisters, Doret (Mrs Leo) Sondag of Denison, Marjorie "Marge" (Mrs Kenneth) Schafer of Plattsmouth, Nebr., and Betty O'Neill of Denison, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's church in Earling on Saturday, March 28, 1981, with Rev. Jon Kautzky as celebrant. Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery with David Wilke, Dean Wilke, Keith Wilke, Dennis Wilke, Curt Wilke and Jay Wilke serving as pallbearers. Military rites were conducted at the graveside by the American Legion, Post No. 615 of Earling.

Pauley Funeral Home of Harlan, handled the arrangements.