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Helen Bieker, 91

Nov. 21, 1914 - Feb. 4, 2006

DEFIANCE — Helen Barbara Bieker, the daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Thielen Leuschen, was born Nov. 21, 1914, at Portsmouth. She was baptized at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth and confirmed at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Helen attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama and graduated from high school there as a member of the class of 1933. She then attended Mount Saint Scholastica College in Atchison, KS and later taught school in a one-room school house located 1½ miles north of Highway 44 on M-16 in Shelby County.

June 27, 1940, Helen married Edmund A. Bieker at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Their 50 year union was graced with five children, Alice, Daniel, Arthur, Robert and Julia. Helen and Edmund raised their family in Defiance, where Helen was active in St. Peter's Parish as a member of the Altar Society. She died Feb. 4, 2006, at Myrtue Medical Center at age 91 years, two months, and 13 days.

In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Edmund Feb. 11, 1991; her brothers and sisters, Hilda Fahn, Henrietta Schilz, Marie Coenen, Urban, Donald, Rita, and Nicholas Leuschen; great-granddaughter, Ellery Bieker. Survivors include her children, Alice (Ernest) Journell of Pearisburg, VA; Daniel Bieker (Jean) of Harlan; Arthur Bieker (Mary) of Omaha, NE; Robert Bieker (Margo) of Omaha, NE; Julia (Bill) Schaben of Defiance; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and brother, John Leuschen of Panama; sisters-in-laws, Anna Mae Leuschen of Harlan; Mick Bieker of Harlan; Dorothy Stenzel of Plainfield, IL; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 6, 2006, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Casket bearers were Brian Bieker, Robert Bieker, Dan Bieker, Arthur Bieker, Benjamin Schaben, Craig Bieker and William Schaben. Burial was in the Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

