

Sidonia Book, 91

Sept. 4, 1911 - Aug. 8, 2003

HARLAN – Sidonia Theresa Schmitz Book, the daughter of Emil and Mary (VonTersch) Schmitz, was born on a farm near Westphalia, Sept. 4, 1911. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. She attended St. Boniface Catholic Schools and was a member of the first graduating class of that high school in 1929. After receiving normal training, she went on to teach school in Westphalia and Cass Townships. In 1931, she moved with her parents to Harlan where she became the housekeeper for Father Charles McAniff.



Feb. 2, 1933, she married Raymond Book at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Father McAniff drove the newlyweds on their honeymoon to Niagara Falls. Three children were born to this marriage. As a member of the parish, she was active in the church choir and played the violin. The couple sang together as a duet in church for more than 25 years. After their marriage, they farmed north of Harlan until 1978 when they retired and moved into Harlan. Sidonia died Aug. 8, 2003, at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 91 years, 11 months and four days. She had been a resident of Elm Crest since 1988.

Besides her husband, Raymond, who died March 28, 1988, she was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters - infant, Hildegard, Hildegard, Sr., Emeline, and one brother, Herbert. Survivors include two daughters, Maxine (George) Schwery of Panama; Emelie (Robert) Koster of Gretna, NE; and one son, Raymond (Maxine) Book of Harlan; 17 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; two step great grandchildren; and one step great great grandchild; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Michael's Catholic Church by Rev. Robert Hoefler Aug. 11, 2003. Burial was held at the Harlan Cemetery with her granddaughters, Ann Hodapp, Michelle Sundholm, Carol Schwery, Patricia Brue, Christine Hawkins, Debra Campbell, Paula Wallace, Cathy Robertson, Rosemary Klein, Julie Determan and Janet Lefeber honorary casket bearers and her grandsons, Nick Schwery, Marty Koster, Phil Schwery, Dennis Schwery, Bill Koster and Dean Schwery casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.