

Alvina Borkowski, 83

Dec. 2, 1919 - July 31, 2003

HARLAN — Alvina Gertrude Borkowski, the daughter of Joseph and Bertha Goesser Mickels, was born Dec. 2, 1919, in Panama, one of three children in the family. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School and graduated from the class of 1937. After graduating from high school, Alvina attended Mercy School of Nursing in Council Bluffs and graduated as a registered nurse. She was then employed at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs and Municipal Hospital in Clarinda. Alvina entered the Army Nurse Corps in October of 1942. Her Military Occupational Specialty was the operating room and general duty as a nurse. She received four Bronze Service Stars and was awarded the World War II Victory Medal. She was honorably discharged in October of 1946. Her military service included battlefield duty in North Africa and Italy. After receiving her discharge, she returned to the States where she continued her occupation as a nurse.

Alvina married Ferdinand Borkowski Nov. 26, 1956, in Omaha, NE. They were the parents of six children, Randall, Lisa, Gary, Berton, Richard and Judy. After their marriage, Ferdinand farmed in the Manning and Manilla area while Alvina worked at the Manilla Manor and Community Health Services in Denison, as a registered nurse. Ferdinand retired from farming in 1972. They continued to live on their farm until moving to Harlan in 1986. He died Aug. 19, 1995. Alvina was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, and a volunteer for the Red Cross Bloodmobile. Alvina died July 31, 2003, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, at age 83 years, seven months and 29 days.

Her parents; her husband; her sister, Edna Schomer; and her brother, Delmar, preceded her in death. Survivors include her children, Randy Borkowski (Peggy) of Seattle, WA; Lisa (Trent) Hovenga of Colorado Springs, CO; Gary Borkowski (Tammy) of St. Louis, MO; Berton Borkowski (Mary Ann) of Carroll; Richard Borkowski of Seattle, WA; and Judy (Michael) Hoppe of Council Bluffs; 20 grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Michael's Catholic Church by Rev. Robert Hoefler Aug. 4, 2003. Burial was held at the Harlan Cemetery with Gary Borkowski, Michael Hoppe, Randy Borkowski, Richard Borkowski, Trent Hovenga and Berton Borkowski casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

