

Cleta Brinker, 89

June 14, 1914 - June 1, 2005

HARLAN — Cleta Ann Brinker, daughter of Bernard and Anna Rosman Hodapp, was born June 14, 1914, on a farm south of Westphalia. She attended school at St. Boniface Catholic School in Westphalia and graduated with the class of 1933. After her high school graduation, she worked in Omaha, NE as a housekeeper.

Cleta married Edward Brinker Feb. 20, 1939 at St. Boniface Church in Westphalia. They moved to a farm near Westphalia after their marriage and were the parents of five children: Clarence, Sr. Marilyn, Kenneth, Jane and Jo Ann. They remained on the farm until their retirement in 1977 when they moved into Harlan. She died June 1, 2005, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 89 years, 11 months and 17 days.

In addition to her parents, Cleta is preceded in death by her brother, Leo Hodapp and a sister, Esther Gaul. She is survived by her husband, Edward Brinker of Harlan; her children, Clarence Brinker (Karen) of Harlan; Sister Marilyn Brinker of Bartlesville, OK; Kenneth Brinker (Lin) of Harlan; Jane (Bob) Toller of Zionsville, IN and JoAnn (Steve) Wright of Pueblo, CO; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Alice Hodapp of Sioux Falls, SD; Sister Marie Hodapp of Hudson, WI; Rita Mueller of Princeton, WI; and Marjorie (Bernie) Kennedy of Sioux Falls, SD; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 4, 2005, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Bob Brinker, Michael Brinker, Jim Hodapp, Kevin Brinker, Cory Brinker, Robert Toller, II, Jamie Giannetto, and Lindsay Giannetto casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

