

## Irene D. Cairney, 81

*Jan. 7, 1918 - May 28, 1999*

**EARLING** – Irene Dorothy Cairney, daughter of John and Mary (Dwyer) Geheren, was born Jan. 7, 1918, in Graceville, MN. She was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic church. Irene attended school at Graceville, MN and was a member of the graduating class of 1936.

Feb. 7, 1939, she married Robert Cairney at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Graceville, MN. They were the parents of 11 children. After their marriage, Robert worked as a mechanic during World War II. After the war, they moved to Johnson, MN, where they owned and operated a restaurant and bar. They later sold the restaurant and bar and moved to Portsmouth. In 1966, they moved to Earling. They were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in February of 1989, a year before Robert died. After his death, Irene continued to make her home in Earling. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of St. Katherine's No. 266 of Earling. She died May 28, 1999, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs, at age 81 years, four months and 21 days.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Robert, she was preceded in death by two sons, Robert and Daniel; a grandson, Jason in 1991; and a great granddaughter, Haley. Survivors include her children, Richard Cairney (Cecelia) of Iowa City; John Cairney of Co. Bluffs; Patrick Cairney (Anna) of Atchison, KS; Ralph Cairney (Pam) of Mt. Horeb, WI; Julia May of La Vista, NE; Barbara (Wayne) Lee of Aurora, CO; Michael Cairney (Vivian) of Earlville; Tom Cairney (Bonnie) of Earling; Nancy Schwery of Walhalla, SC; a sister, Lucille Regan of Omaha; 30 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 1, 1999, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, with Doug Cairney, Stephen Cairney, Nate Cairney, George Neill, Jeremy Cairney and Brian Cairney casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

