

Mary Ellen Finken, 77

Nov. 21, 1920 - Feb. 20, 1998

HARLAN - Mary Ellen Finken, daughter of William B. and Margaret (Finerty) Ryan, was born Nov. 21, 1920 in Earling. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and attended St. Joseph's Catholic School where she graduated in 1938. After high school, she attended Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, where she received her teaching certificate.

Feb. 20, 1943, she married Howard J. Finken in Falmouth, MA, with 11 children being born to this union. She taught at a country school near Dunlap, and was later a secretary at the Martin Bomber Plant in Omaha, NE. She later represented the Patricia Steven's Modeling School and the Commercial Extension Business College. She was also an Avon representative for 27 years where she was a member of the President's Club. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church for 52 years and a member of the St. Michael's Guild and prayer line. She died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital Feb. 20, 1998, at age 77 years, two months and 30 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Howard, June 1, 1988; her son, Robert Jan. 25, 1996; a sister, Catherine Carberry, and a brother, Philip Ryan. She is survived by her children, Linda (Dave) Shanahan of Omaha; James (Gemma) Finken of Olathe, KS; Ellen (Mark) Greenway of Canby, MN; Jeanne (Brad) Lyman of Springfield, IL; Carol (Allen) Tremel of Harlan; William Finken of Davenport; Richard (Pam) Finken of Davenport; Patrick Finken of Kansas City, MO; John (Lori) Finken of Kansas City, MO; Nancy (Tom) Ernst of Lincoln, NE; her sisters, Helen "Bobbie" (C.P. "Red") Brown of Omaha and Alice (Bob) Bevenour of Cedar Rapids; 20 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Feb. 23, 1998, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with the Rev. Richard Gubbels celebrant and Rev. Leonard Kenkel concelebrant, assisted by Rev. Mr. Pat Davitt. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Patrick Finken, James Finken, John Finken, William Finken, Richard Finken and Chad Tremel casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.