

## Mary Jane Henkelman, 85

Feb. 21, 1922 - Sept. 26, 2007 J

**HARLAN** - Mary Jane Henkelman was born Feb. 21, 1922, in Rita, LA, to Salvatore and Frances (Lusco) Culotta. She was baptized at Holy Savior Catholic Church and attended Holy Savior Catholic School graduating with the Class of 1940. After her graduation, she worked for the United States Post Office and Raceland Bank and Trust in Lockport, LA.

June 4, 1944, Mary Jane married Francis Henkelman in Lockport. Five children were born to this union: Francis, Jr., Ann, Dan, Ruth, and Clem. After moving to Defiance, she worked at the bank in Defiance and helped in the cafeteria at the Defiance-Westphalia Catholic School. She also had the role of beekeeper, helping her husband when he ran over one thousand beehives. After she retired, Mary Jane resided in Defiance until September 12, 2007, when she was admitted to Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan. It was there that she died Sept. 26, 2007, at age 85 years, seven months, and five days.

Mary Jane was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her children, Francis Jr. and Ann; and her brothers and sister, Antoinette, Sam Jr., Phillip, Joe, Dominic, Vincent, and Guy. She is survived by her children, Dan Henkelman (Barbara) of Omaha, NE; Ruth Henkelman of Harlan; and Clem Henkelman of Defiance, and his friend, Roxie Meisenger of Plattsmouth, NE; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Anna Culotta of Lockport, LA; Sarah (Nilton) Vedros of Lockport; Frank Culotta (Mary) of Lafayette, LA; and Ruth Culotta of Lockport; nieces and nephews; other family relatives; and her special friend, Paul Jensen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 23, 2007, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Father Tom Coenen celebrating. Honorary casket bearers were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Casket bearers were Doug Schmitz, Penny Kenkel, Terry Kenkel, Tim Kenkel, Ed Schmitz, and Bill Schaben. Burial was held at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of arrangements.

