

George Kaufmann, 88

Oct. 25, 1907 - Aug. 22, 1996

WESTPHALIA - George Michael Kaufmann, the fourth of 11 children born to Martin and Anne Greiner Kaufmann was born Oct. 25, 1907 on the family farm near Westphalia. He attended school in Westphalia, where in the early years only German was taught. At the age of ten he was forced to grow up very quickly when his father died at age 38. He continued in school, but spent his next years helping his mother on the farm which included the cultivating, accomplished with the aid of a team of mules and raising of the younger children.

June 5, 1939, he married Marie Stein at Portsmouth. To this union six children were born. They made their home on the family farm near Westphalia. He spent his entire 88 years in and around the Westphalia area. Most long-time residents will best remember his love of horses. He bought, sold and traded horses for many years before hosting his own big-time horse sales in the early 1960's. Through the years George purchased many semi-loads of cattle following buying trips into Colorado and Montana. In the 1980's he was recognized for his 50 year association with the Omaha Livestock Market. Twenty-four years ago, at age 64, he acted as the Grand Marshall of the Westphalia Centennial Parade, leading the parade on horseback carrying the U.S. Flag. Following the death of Marie May 29, 1989, he continued to live on the farm. It was there he died Aug. 22, 1996 at age 88 years, nine months and 28 days. He was baptized, confirmed and was a lifetime member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Marie, he was preceded in death by his two infant sons; his brothers and sisters, Peter Kaufmann, Mary Frances Hastert, Joseph Kaufmann, Emma Kaufmann, Leo Kaufmann, Blanche Kaufmann and Lawrence Kaufmann. Surviving are his children, Kenneth Kaufmann of Sioux City; Cleo Greer (Larry) of Omaha, NE; Rose Schwarte (Kenneth) of Carroll and Lee Kaufmann (Julie) of Harlan; 11 grandchildren; his sisters, Cecilia Kloewer of Harlan; Sister Mary Rose of Omaha, NE; Dorothy McKeighan of Denison and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 26, 1996 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia with Rev. Thomas Crowley celebrant and Msgr. Michael W. Schwarte concelebrant. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia with Jim Schaben, Edward Goetzinger and Erv Pauley Sr. honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Dan Kaufmann, Jerry Rueschenberg, Jason Schwarte, Leland Kaufmann, Junichi Takeda and Ed Rueschenberg. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.