

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday, May 2, 2003, Pg 6-B

## Martha Koesters, 94

*Jan. 4, 1909 - April 4, 2003*

**EARLING** – Martha Koesters, the daughter of Nicholas and Frances (Koppold) Wingert, was born Jan. 4, 1909, in Woonsocket, SD. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Wilfrid Catholic Church in Woonsocket, SD. She attended school at Woonsocket and graduated from high school there.

Feb. 26, 1935, Martha married Frederick William Koesters at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Seven children were born to this union. They farmed north of Earling for 32 years. In 1967, they semi-retired and moved into Earling, where Martha and Fred owned and operated the Koesters Apartment Complex. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. She died April 4, 2003, at Little Flower Haven Nursing Home at age 94 years and three months.

In addition to her parents, Martha was preceded in death by her husband, Fred, and her brothers and sisters, Mary Goeser, Margaret Sweeney, Eva Cousen, Joe Wingert, Martin Wingert, Tillie Kenkel and Anna Scheef. Survivors include her children, Rita (Wes) Hawk of Blair, NE; Albert Koesters and his friend, Wilma of Omaha, NE; Jerry Koesters (Jan) of Kennard, NE; Mary Jane Leistra of Kennard, NE; Ruth Graeve of Cleburne, TX; Linda (Dan) Weiland of Lewisville, TX; Dennis Koesters (Charlene) of The Colony, TX; 24 grandchildren; 42 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held April 8, 2003, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Casket bearers were Jason Koesters, Joe Koesters, John Spychalski, David Leistra, Bill Graeve and Mike Koesters. Burial was held at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

