

## Elvera Pauley, 90

*Oct. 8, 1913 - Feb. 24, 2004*

**PORTSMOUTH** – Elvera Matilda Pauley, the daughter of Frank and Catherine Michalski Gessert, Sr., was born Oct. 8, 1913, in Portsmouth. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. She attended Gardner Country School through the eighth grade.

Vera married Fred "Fritz" Pauley Jan. 12, 1932, at St. Mary's Parish in Portsmouth. They were the parents of three children, Michael, Dorothy and Delores, Vera and Fritz were lifelong farmers. After retiring from farming in the late '60's, they moved and made their home in Portsmouth. Vera worked as a cook at St. Mary's Catholic School in the '70's. She was able to remain at her home that is located on the corner occupied by the Methodist Church during its existence in Portsmouth. She entered the Elm Crest Retirement Center Nov. 24, 2003. She was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and also a member of the quilting club in Portsmouth. Vera died Feb. 24, 2004, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 90 years, four months and 16 days.

In addition to her parents, Vera was preceded in death by her husband, Fred, who died in 1981; brothers and sisters, Frank, Jr., Arnold, Margaret, Leona, Ralph, Donald, Bernadine, Virginia and Catherine. She is survived by her children, Michael Pauley (Arlene) of Portsmouth; Dorothy (James) Leinen of Denison; and Delores (Tony) Klein of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; 12 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; two sisters, Regina Waltz of Canby, MN and Cecelia Zimmerman of Omaha, NE; her brothers and sisters-in-law, Andrew (Grace) Pauley of Panama; Ralph (Veronica) Pauley of Woodbine; Jake Waltz of Canby, MN; Sally Schmitz of Harlan; Mary Ann Weis of Woodbine; Cyrilla Pauley of Earling; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 27, 2004, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, with Tim Blum, Galen Pauley, Dan Leinen, Paul Klein, Dean Klein, Alfred Hughes, Todd Klein, Roger Leinen, Ralph Gessert and Marvin Leinen casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

