

Ethel C. Schafer, 59

PANAMA - Ethel Christina Schafer, daughter of Leo W. and Anna Marie (Muell) Mahlberg, was born May 28, 1931, on a farm east of Panama. She died at Mercy Hospital in Co. Bluffs, Dec. 1, 1990, at age 59 years, 6 months and 3 days. She was baptized, received her First Communion, and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. She attended St. Mary's School and graduated as the valedictorian of the class of 1949.

June 20, 1950, she married Gerald Schafer at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Seven children were born to this union. After they were married, they made their home in Panama, where he was a truck driver for many different companies, and she was a cook at Mickel's Restaurant in Harlan the last 22 years. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Mary's Rosary Society, a Charter Member of the Panama Community Choir, the Panama Community Club, and a 20 year member of the Panama 500 Club, all of Panama.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Virginia; two brothers, Elroy; and an infant. She is survived by her husband, Gerald of Panama; four daughters, Debbie (Mrs Russ) Tremel of Woodbine; June (Mrs William) Hastert and Joy (Mrs Jeff) Schaben, both of Westphalia, and Amy Schafer of Omaha, NE.; three sons, Robert (Shirley) of Omaha, NE.; William (Kathy) of Panama and Barry of San Antonio, TX.; 11 grandchildren; four sisters, Alice (Mrs Loren) Weihs of Audubon; Irene (Mrs Alvin) Heinrichs of Carroll; Joy (Mrs Eddie) Heinrichs of Maple River, and Irmine (Mrs Donald) Keane of Panama; one brother, Neil Mahlberg (Charlene) of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Dec. 4, 1990 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama with Rev. Chuck Kottas as the celebrant. Concelebrating was Rev. Paul Bianchi. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery with Jim Keane, Mark Keane, Tim Heinrichs, Stanley Weihs, Doug Mahlberg, Scott Heinrichs, Stephen Heinrichs, and Nick "Skip" Schafer, Jr., serving as casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.