

## **John M. Smith, 63**

**IRWIN** — John Michael Smith, son of John P. and Elizabeth C. (Malone) Smith was born Aug. 7, 1924 at St. Joseph's hospital in Omaha, NE. He was baptized at St. Joseph's hospital and lived the first four years of his life near Palmyra, NE. As a young boy, he moved with his parents to a farm near Panama. He received his First Communion and was confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Panama. He attended school for a short time at St. Mary's Catholic School at Panama and when his family moved to a farm near Portsmouth, he then attended school at St. Mary's Catholic School at Portsmouth. After school, he helped on the family farm.

On April 6, 1948, he married Mary Bruck at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Seven children were born to this union. After they were married, they farmed for a year near Portsmouth and then for four years at Earling, before moving to a farm near Irwin. They continued to farm near Irwin, until he retired in 1985. He died Dec. 26, 1987 at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan at age 63 years, 4 months and 19 days. He was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Defiance.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Michael and one sister, Mary Elizabeth. He is survived by his wife, Mary of Irwin; four sons, Robert of Manilla; Michael of Irwin; William of Chariton and John of Ames; three daughters, Patricia (Mrs Keith) Schwieso of Defiance; Mary Lou Smith of Harlan; and Shirley (Mrs Kevin) McConnell of Manilla; 12 grandchildren, one brother, William Smith of Co. Bluffs; two sisters, Marjorie Ann (Mrs Ray) Madsen of Nebraska City, NE and Rita (Mrs Lester) Schmitz of Portsmouth; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 28, 1987 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance with Rev. Garry Culver as the celebrant. Burial was in the Sts. Peter & Paul cemetery in Defiance with John Smith, Robert Smith, William Smith, Michael Smith, Keith Schwieso and Kevin McConnell serving as casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.