

Leo Benedict Sonntag, 84

June 9, 1910 - March 23, 1995

Harlan - Leo Benedict Sonntag, son of John and Johanna (Engel) Sonntag, was born June 9, 1910 in Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama and attended school in Panama. After the death of his mother, he lived with the Nick Goeser family at their farm near Panama.

He married Isabel Mickels April 10, 1934 in Panama. The couple farmed in the Panama area until their retirement from farming in 1961. They then moved into Harlan. They purchased their first home in Harlan, and he did general maintenance jobs for several people. He retired from this work in 1964. He continued to help her with the flowers, gardening and yard work. In 1994, they celebrated the blessing of 60 years of marriage. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. He died March 23, 1995 at his Harlan residence, at age 84 years, 9 months and 14 days.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one son, Richard Sonntag; two sisters, Betty Johnson and Laura Sontag; and two foster sisters, Marcella Michels and Bertha Michels. He is survived by his wife, Isabel, of Harlan; one daughter, Ellen (Jerry) Niedzielski of Omaha; four sons, Gerald (Theresa) Sonntag, and Donald (Lois) Sonntag, all of Atlantic, David (Phyllis) Sonntag of Denver, CO, and Marvin (Rita) Sonntag of Brayton; two sisters, Eleanor Loehr of Defiance, and Marie Mulvihill of Artesia, CA; one brother, Lavern Sontag of Mineota, MN; two foster sisters, Irene Hoffmann of Avoca and Cecelia Waltz of Panama; 19 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren.

A Rosary Service was held March 24, 1995. A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 25, 1995, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Msgr. Edward Kelly celebrant. Casket bearers were Glen Sonntag, Gary Sonntag, Todd Sonntag, Steve Sonntag, Joe Sonntag, and Rob Sonntag. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery. Burmeister Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.