Beatrice Stessman, 86

PANAMA – Beatrice Mary Stessman, daughter of Joseph B. and Susan (Schwery) Leuschen was born on a farm near Panama on Nov. 11, 1901. She was baptized, confirmed and received her First Communion at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama; attended St. Mary's School and grew to adulthood on her parent's farm.

On Feb. 26, 1924, she married Alfred Stessman at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Five children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed near Panama until 1950 when Alfred retired from farming due to ill health. They continued to live on the farm until 1985, when they moved to the Little Flower Haven in Earling. After the death of Alfred on April 3, 1987, she continued to reside at the Little Flower Haven and it was there that she died on July 21, 1988 at age 86 years, eight months and 10 days. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama, the Altar Society and the Panama Sewing Circle.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Ben Leuschen, Leonard Leuschen and Godfrey Leuschen and one sister, Sr. Adelaide Leuschen. Surviving her are three daughters, Bernice (Mrs Gerald) Gaul of Earling; Margaret (Mrs James) Walsh of Mo. Valley and Ethel (Mrs Alvin) Heller of Portsmouth; two sons, Alvin of Panama; and Bill of Charlotte, NC; 24 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Dorothy Kramer of Waterloo; Mary Ann Cady of Long Beach, CA and one brother, Walt Leuschen of Panama; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated July 25, 1988 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Panama with Rev. Paul Bianchi as the celebrant. Rev. Eugene Klein, Rev. Cornelius Gaul and Rev. LaVern Wingert concelebrated assisted by Deacon Pat Davitt. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery with Dennis Walsh, Tom Gaul, Jeff Gaul, Richard Stessman, Pat Stessman and Dan Stessman serving as casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.