

## **Leonard C. Stracke, 76**

**February 10, 1919 - June 9, 1995**

**Harlan** - Leonard Clement Stracke, son of Henry and Mary (Coenen) Stracke was born Feb. 10, 1919 at Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed in St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. He attended St. Boniface School in Westphalia graduating from high school in 1937. After graduation he worked as a hired man for his father and Ray Rosman until 1943 when he started farming southeast of Westphalia.

Dec. 30, 1943 he married Bernice Coenen at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. To this union five children were born. They continued to farm southeast of Westphalia until 1961 when they bought their own farm, living there until their retirement in 1981. During this time he was very active in the community. He received the Iowa 4-H Merit Award in 1966. The Westphalia Community Credit Union awarded him a special recognition for serving on the board of directors for eighteen years. He received a Certificate of Appreciation for service as a member of the Shelby County Extension Council for the period of Jan. 1, 1972 though Dec. 31, 1975. Aug. 7, 1989 he was awarded a certificate of award by the American Red Cross in appreciation for serving as a shuttle driver. He was a member of St. Boniface Church until 1981 when he became a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. He was a member of Harlan Council No. 3900 Knights of Columbus. They retired from farming in 1981 moving into their present home in Harlan. It was there that he died June 9, 1995 at age 76 years, four months and 30 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Alfonse Stracke and his sister, Sabina Reisz. He is survived by his wife Bernice Stracke of Harlan; his children - Lenny (Ellen) Stracke of Perry; Grace (Ron) Stava of Omaha; Diane (Gary) Weihs of St. Charles, MO; David (Deb) Stracke of Harlan; Mary (Greg) Stava of Elkhorn, NE and fourteen grandchildren. Also surviving are his brothers and sisters - Joe Stracke of Omaha; Laurina Schmitz of Portsmouth; Marie Nufrio of Fountain City, IN; Bernadine (Lee) Ausman of Phoenix, AZ; Bernard (Barbara) Stracke of Defiance and Norbert (Theresa) Stracke of Co. Bluffs; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 12, 1995 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Tom Coenen celebrant and Msgr. Edward Kelly homilist, and Rev. Vince Ohlinger, Rev. Fred Reischl, Rev. Tom Crowley, Rev. Paul Monahan, Rev. Paul Bianchi, and Rev. Richard Gubbels concelebrating, assisted by Rev. Mr. Pat Davitt. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia with Ray Book, LaVern Musich, Mike Goetz, Felix Dotzler, Walt Staiert, Ron Rosman, Wilfred Weihs and Louis Weihs honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Nick Stracke, Jerry Stracke, Don Stracke, Michael Weihs, Bryan Stava and David Weihs. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.