

## Ellen "Nell" Schmidt, 86

*Nov. 11, 1919 - Aug. 28, 2006*

**HARLAN** — Ellen Irene "Nell" Schmidt, daughter of Frank August and Margaret "Maggie" (Mitchell) Skoch, was born at home, near Baileyville, KS, Nov. 11, 1919. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Benedict, KS. Nell attended country school just down the road from their family farm on ground that her father donated for the school. She later worked as a hired girl for her cousin, Pete Rettelle, and always helped out on her parents' farm.

Nell married Laurence Louis Schmidt April 27, 1938, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Benedict, KS, the same church Laurence's parents were married in. Four children were born into this union: Eugene, Janiece, Don and Larry. After their marriage, they moved to the farm that Laurence had been farming the year before they were married. They remained here until moving to a farm south of Sabetha, KS for a few years and then moved to a farm near Sabetha Lake, west of Sabetha. This was their home until January of 1958, when the family moved to Harlan, where Laurence was a district manager for Archer Oil. Nell sold Avon for nearly 40 years. Nell was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. In July of 2002, Nell and Laurence relocated to the Dunlap Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Laurence died Sept. 20, 2003, at the Dunlap Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Nell continued to make her home in Dunlap until her death Aug. 28, 2006, at age 86 years, nine months and 17 days.

In addition to her parents and husband, Nell was preceded in death by her brother, Francis Skoch, and four sisters, Mary Stallbaumer, Kate Stallbaumer, Teresa Reicherter and Rose Brady Dodd, and her grandson, Steven Schmidt, in 1965.

She is survived by her children Eugene Schmidt (Betty) of Harlan; Janiece (Tom) Rau of Shelby; Don Schmidt (Katy) of Gillette, WY; Larry Schmidt (Marilyn) of Columbia Heights, MN; 15 grandchildren; 34 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 31, 2006, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Brian Schmidt, Dustin Schmidt, Michael Schmidt, Brett Sherer, Pat Ferrel, and Mike Kienast casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

