

## **William P. Schmitz, 53**

*Sept. 6, 1947 - Feb. 26, 2001*

**PANAMA** – William "Bill" Peter Schmitz was born Sept. 6, 1947, to Dolores (Leinen) and Vincent Schmitz in Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Bill attended elementary school at St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama, and was a member of the Harlan Community High School Graduating Class of 1968. He was a lifelong farmer, and upon graduation continued farming with his father, Vincent. Following his brother, Tom's return from Vietnam, Bill worked with his brother, father and brother-in-law, Neil Petsche, in their farming operations. He eventually purchased his own farm, but continued helping family members working closely with Neil. He made his home with his father. He was the scorekeeper for the Portsmouth ball teams. He died at his residence Feb. 26, 2001, at age 53 years, five months and 20 days.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Dolores Schmitz, March 24, 1997. He is survived by his father, Vincent Schmitz of Panama; his brother, Thomas Schmitz (Beverly) of Harlan; sisters, Margaret (Peg) (Neil) Petsche of Portsmouth; Patricia (C. Fred) Puckett of Greeley, CO; Lolita Malone of Audubon and Janet (Don) Altman of Golden, CO; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 3, 2001, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with the Portsmouth ball players honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were David Petsche, C. Andrew Puckett, Donevan Altman, Donald Petsche, Jeffrey Puckett and Mark T. Schmitz. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

