

Melvin E. Schumacher, 75

March 29, 1924 - Nov. 2, 1999

PORTSMOUTH - Melvin Edward Schumacher was born March 29, 1924, in Defiance, to Magdalene Rosalia (Leinen) and Thomas Schumacher. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance graduating from Catholic School in 1941. Enlisting in the army Oct. 4, 1946, he served during World War II with assignment at Ft. Smelling, MN. He was a member of American Legion Post No. 707, Defiance.

He married Unis Fae Greer June 6, 1949, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. To this union, six children were born. Although farming was Melvin's main occupation for over 30 years, he also did custom baling, dehoming and was a restaurant owner, as well as, operating a septic tank pumping service for 15 years. He retired from farming in 1977. Following his retirement, he was caretaker for a 30 acre park Bellevue, NE, for several years until August 1992. Music played an important role in his life. He was song leader for a number of years at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, and was a member of the Country Kickers dance group from Omaha, NE. Melvin also won awards for tractor pulling. He died Nov. 2, 1999, as a result of an automobile accident at age 75 years, seven months and four days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Florence, Hilda and Viola; and his brothers, Vernon and Charles. Survivors include four sons, Thomas Schumacher (Linda) of Avoca; Galen Schumacher (Barbara) Huntington Beach, CA; Chuck Schumacher (Coleen) of Avoca; Steven Schumacher of Bristol, TN; two daughters, Berniece (Russell) O'Neill of Two Mountains, Quebec, Canada; and Mae (John) Maher of Carmel, NY; 18 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; four sisters, Mildred Hoffman of Panama; Dorothy (Leonard) Hoffman of Dunlap; Marjorie Greer of Harlan and JoAnn (Wilfred) Wiehs of Jacksonville, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Nov. 5, 1999, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Lawrence Hoffman celebrant and Rev. Michael Berner, Rev. Fred Reischl and Rev. Paul Bianchi concelebrating. Military rites were conducted in the Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Defiance, by the American Legion Post No. 707. Honorary casket bearers were Al Kimmen, Kenny Kimmen, Ray Kimmen, Larry Kimmen and Mike Kimmen. Casket bearers were Jodie Elaine Weber, Jennifer Lou Schumacher, Brian Christopher O'Neill, Michael Paul Schumacher, James Michael Schumacher, Thomas Michael Schumacher and Maranda Jo Maher. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

