

Lynn "Jack" Smith, 79

Aug. 7, 1918 - Oct. 3, 1997

HARLAN - Lynn Pershing "Jack" Smith, son of Francis and Lena (Stolz) Smith, was born on a farm near Panama, Aug. 7, 1918. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. He attended a country school near his home through eighth grade. After his schooling, he worked on road construction from Harlan to Logan, helping with the road paving of Highway 44 to Harlan.

June 25, 1940, he married Josephine Arkfeld of Panama at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. They became the parents of four children. He started farming in 1940, and also shelled corn and trucked for several years. The tornado and hailstorm of 1940 destroyed their crops and killed their livestock which included Jack's horses. Nevertheless, Jack continued to farm, never retiring even though the couple moved to Harlan in 1985. The last few years he has also sold seed corn. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, and a strong Christian man. He became a patient at Immanuel Medical Center in Omaha, and it was there that he died Oct. 3, 1997, at age 79 years, one month and 26 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Josephine of Harlan; his children, Garry Smith and Thelma Smith of Harlan; Cherylene (Neil) Huebert of Panama; Marlin Smith (Phyllis "Tiny") of Panama; Valerie (Bill) Sullivan of Co. Bluffs; 14 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; his brother, Ural Smith (Evelyn) of Panama and his sister, Lucille Wirtz of Harlan, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Oct. 7, 1997, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Msgr. Edward Kelly celebrant and Rev. Richard Gubbels and Rev. Paul Bianchi concelebrating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Tim Smith, Todd Smith, Jay Smith, Troy Smith, Chad Huebert, Trent Smith and Austin Sullivan honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Dan Rau, Ray Schleimer, Ed Reinig, Phil Gubbels, Ken Bruck and Dean Gubbels. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

