



## Sylvan J. Bissen, 71

**EARLING** - Sylvan Joseph Bissen, the son of Nicholas Bissen, Sr. and Clara Book Bissen, was born on a farm near Earling, Jan. 8, 1918. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling and attended St. Joseph's Catholic School. He grew to adulthood on his parents farm, and also served his country in the U.S. Army from 1937 to 1940.

June 1, 1943, he married Virginia Jacobs at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. This union was blessed with the birth of eight children. This last June 1, they were privileged to celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary. After their marriage, they farmed near Earling. In addition to his lifetime membership in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, he belonged to the Knights of

Columbus, Council No. 1741 of Earling, and served ten years as a 4-H leader. They retired from the farm on June 1, 1981 and moved into Earling. This has been their home since that time.

He died at the Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan on July 15, 1989 at age 71 years, six months and seven days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Adella Stracke and one brother, Joseph. He was also preceded in death by several infant brothers and sisters, Hulda, Adella, Irene, Leo and Leona. He is survived by his wife, Virginia of Earling; four sons, Theodore of Galesburg, IL.; Thomas and David both of Defiance; and James of Spanaway, WA.; four daughters, Martha (Mrs Roger) Fawcett of Omaha, NE.; Dianne (Mrs Terry) Goeres of Defiance; Michelle (Mrs Tom) Klabunde of Omaha and Janet (Mrs John) Bruck of Harlan; 26 grandchildren; two brothers, Nick Bissen Jr. and Walter Bissen both of Earling; seven sisters, Hilda (Mrs Joe) Bauman of Buck Grove; Mary (Mrs Tony) Bruck and Cyrilla (Mrs Albert) Pauley both of Earling; Evelyn (Mrs Ural) Smith of Panama; Sr. Mary Helen Bissen of Glenview, IL.; Mildred Von Hagel of Rosenberg, TX., and Theresa (Mrs Jake) Behrendt of Defiance; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated July 18, 1989 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Earling with Rev. Charles Kottas as the celebrant. Rev. John Cain and Rev. Ben Kenkel concelebrated.

Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery with Don Stracke, Randy Smith, Myron Bissen, Keith Behrendt, Larry Bissen, Urban Katzer, Melvin Bruck and Jerome Pauley serving as casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.