

Velma Blum, 85 ✓

Nov. 12, 1917 - Jan. 26, 2003

HARLAN – Velma Josephine Blum was born Nov. 12, 1917, to William and Mathilda (Grabner) Koster at Breda. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Bernard Catholic Church and was a member of the St. Bernard High School graduating class of 1935 of Breda. Following graduation, Velma worked for area residents doing housework.

May 25, 1943, she married Robert E. Bromert. To this union one son, James, was born. Following her wedding, she was employed as a receptionist and bookkeeper for a local Carroll physician for one year and then by the Iowa Employment Service in Carroll for four years. Robert died June 21, 1951, six months after the birth of his son, James. After Robert's death, Velma worked in sales.

Feb. 3, 1953, Velma married Robert J. Blum at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Carroll. To this union one daughter, Jane, was born. Robert later adopted James. Robert and Velma resided in Westphalia, moving to Harlan in 1982. In addition to being a mother and homemaker, she worked at Little Flower Haven Nursing and Rehab Center in Earling, for over three years. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. She died Jan. 26, 2003, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 85 years, two months and 14 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert Bromert; and brothers, Bill, Don and Doyle Koster. She is survived by her husband, Robert J. Blum of Harlan; son, James Blum (Jane) of Spirit Lake; and daughter, Jane Wagar of Omaha, NE; grandchildren, Stephanie Blum and Jason Crego, Sr. of Boise, ID; Robert Blum of Boise, ID; Andrea Morfeld of Omaha, NE and Bryan Wagar of Hingham, WI; great grandchildren, Joseph Maccarone and Jason Crego, Jr.; brothers and sisters, Walt Koster of Carroll; Kermit Koster of Lake View; Maxine (Marv) Heinrichs of Fulda, MN; Roger Koster (Darlene) of Elkader; Ruth (Clete) Heinrichs of Marshalltown; and Leroy Koster (Joanell) of Breda; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 28, 2003, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with the Rev. Jack McClure, C.P.P.S. celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Dean Koster, Michael J. Ratigan, Jack Heinrichs, Ronald Ratigan, Robert J. Blum and Rick Wilkinson casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

