

Raymond J. Gross, 87

March 5, 1912 - July 21, 1999

EARLING – Raymond John Gross, son of Frank and Bertha (Ruschenburg) Gross, was born March 5, 1912, on a farm north of Earling. He was baptized, received his first holy communion and was confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. He also attended country school. After attending school, he went to work on his dad's farm and other farms. He was a farm hand for 15 years. In March 1941, he was drafted into the Army. During his service time in WW II, he was in the Regimental Band of the 113 Calvary.

While stationed in Camp Hood, Texas, he married a Westphalia girl, Ella Mae Schneider, May 16, 1943. Six children were born to this union, Joyce, Edna, Marla, Lynn, Diane and Jolene. Later in 1943, he went overseas and Ella moved back to Westphalia. In November 1945, he was discharged from the army and joined his wife. They moved to Defiance for a couple of years and then moved to Earling, where they stayed. He went back to being a farm hand and in 1947 he joined the Earl Russell Orchestra. He played the trombone in the band until 1943. Also in 1947, he went to shoe repair school for two months then bought the shoe repair business in Earling, from Theodore Stinn. He had been "Saving Soles" up until his retirement in August 1995. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the American Legion and the VFW for many years. May 21, 1994, his wife died and he continued to reside in his home until May 1999, when he moved to Little Flower Haven. He died July 12, 1999, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs, at age 87 years, four months and seven days.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Ella Mae, he was preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters, Joe, Bill, Alvin, John, Frances Mumm, Mary Freund and Ella Ahart. Survivors include his children, Joyce (Sylvan) Kenkel of Panama; Edna (Bruce) Smith of Lewis; Marla (Larry) Moller of Griswold; Lynn Gross (Joni) of Omaha; Diane (David) Rogers of Denison; and Jolene (Lee) Null of Earling; 12 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; his brothers, Matt Gross of Co. Bluffs; Virgil Gross of Salina, KS; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated July 14, 1999, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant and Rev. Leonard Kenkel and Rev. Michael Peters concelebrating. Military rites were conducted in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling, by the American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling. Casket bearers were Jeff Kenkel, Vaughn Gross, Mike Moller, Terry Kenkel, Dan Wingert and James Rogers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.