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Mary Catherine Thraen, 86

Feb. 29, 1912 - Dec. 15, 1998

EARLING - Mary Catherine Thraen, daughter of Fred and Anna (Piene) Katzer, was born Feb. 29, 1912 at Anderson County, KS. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Catholic Church in Greeley, KS. Mary walked five miles to attend St. John's Catholic school in Greeley. As a young girl, it was her job to bleed the water off the natural gas wells. She drove a team of horses to help her father on the farm, picked corn by hand and refused to drive a tractor. She moved to Iowa to be near her brothers and worked doing housework for others.

Nov. 24, 1931 she married Henry A. Thraen at St. Michael's Catholic Church during a mission by Bishop Drumm in Harlan. They became the parents of two children. They lived on a farm near Portsmouth before moving to a farm south of Earling in 1940. They retired in 1972 and moved into Earling. After Henry's death Dec. 24, 1980, she continued to live in her own home until entering Little Flower Haven Aug. 23, 1994. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, the Earling Alter Society and the Earling Quilters. She died at Little Flower Haven Dec. 15, 1998 at age 86 years, 9 months and 14 days.

In addition to her parents and her husband Henry, she was preceded in death by her brother John, Albert, Anthony, Henry and Louis; her sisters, Emma Kenkel, Anna Pauley, Agnes Alexander and Clara Katzer. Survivors include her children, Mary Ann (Michael) Assmann and Marcus Thraen (Priscilla) both of Earling; 13 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 19, 1998 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling with Rev. Michael Bern celebrating. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling with Scott Thraen, William J. Assmann, Andrew P. Thraen, Robert L. Assmann, Wade A. Johnson, and Thomas L. Assmann casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.