

Franzel, Daniel A.

Mr. Daniel "Dan" A. Franzel, 92, of Ubly, passed away Monday morning, October 16, 2006, at the Bay Regional Center in Bay City. Dan was born on July 31, 1914 in Austin Township on the farm of his late parents, George and Irene (McMillin) Franzel. He was raised on the farm and now owns it. It is a Centennial Farm of the Franzel family. He married Mary Eileen Sommerville on April 2, 1948 in Bad Axe. Dan was a graduate of a country school and Ubly High School. He was a member of the Ubly Championship Football Team in 1931. He took courses at Michigan State University in Livestock and Farm Management. He attended Ag Days and other workshops. He farmed 3,000 acres, which are now rented. He owned and managed 1,500 acres plus other real estate holdings. Dan had worked at Bud Wheel in Detroit. He sold eggs and did livestock trucking in Detroit as Franzel Farms Trucking. Dan was a fertilizer salesman for Agrico Fertilizer for 20 years. He was a dealer for Funks Seed Corn for 20 years with up to 100 annual customers. Dan was a cash crop farmer, using his farm for test plots for 25 years. He also raised and milked registered Herford cattle. He was a member of the Michigan Milk Producers and sponsored livestock tours to Austria, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Hawaii, England, and within the United States. Dan was a World War II veteran of the South Pacific Theatre and was hospitalized for four months from related injuries. He was a heavy engineer training instructor at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, serving four and a half years in the U.S. Army. Dan and his family were present at the World War II Memorial Dedication in Washington, D.C. on May 29, 2004. Dan has worked with 4-H doing projects, advisory work and judging livestock. He was a former member of the Thumb Veterans Organization. He was a member of the Ubly Community Club. Dan was a member of the Bad Axe Lions Club for 25 years and had a lifetime membership to the Bad Axe Knights of Columbus Council #1546. He was on the building committee for the K. of C. Hall in Bad Axe. Dan was a committee member for 10 years for the Farmers Home Administration. He was a committeeman with the Huron County ASC Community for 10 years as well as the committee's chairman for 25 years. He was a committeeman for the Michigan Association of Farmers Elected ASC, and was Chairman of the state for 15 years. He was on the Holstein-Freisian committee of registered Holsteins for 25 years. Dan was a member of the Huron County Farm Bureau, the Michigan Livestock Association, and Michigan Milk Producers. He belonged to the Michigan Cattlemans' Association, to the Big Brother-Sister Organization and was on the Huron County Board of Directors for six years. He was Chairman of the committee to organize the Huron Soil Conservation District. He was on the Board of Directors for Bay Port State Bank from 1989-1992. Dan was a former parishioner of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Freiburg and was currently a parishioner at St. John Catholic Church in Ubly and had been most of his life. He loved to assist young farmers, both financially and with his farming knowledge. He also provided assistance to small business persons. Dan enjoyed smoking his pipe, playing euchre and toddy. He enjoyed sports, especially football. Dan loved to travel, meet and talk to persons of all walks of life. He truly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Dan is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Eileen Franzel, of Ubly; one son, Harold Franzel and his wife, Carrye, of San Antonio, Texas; two daughters, Mary Catherine Nichol and her husband, John, of Mt. Pleasant, Sharon Franzel, of Atlanta, Georgia.; four grandsons, Michael and Wesley Franzel, Jonathan and Jason Nichol; special friend, Doris Western, of Bad Axe. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Josephine Franzel and an infant sister, Irene; one brother, Harold Franzel. A Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2006, at St. John Catholic Church in Ubly with military honors. The Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the St. Ignatius Cemetery in Freiburg. Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday at the Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home in Ubly. There will be a parish vigil service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and a rosary at 8 p.m. by the Bad Axe Knights of Columbus. Both services will be at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been requested to the Family Discretionary Fund.