

Lorencz, John S.

John Lorencz, 83, of Owendale, passed away on Wednesday May 16, 2007, at his farm home with his family, following a one-year illness.

He was born June 2, 1923 in Wyandotte, Michigan, the second of nine children born to the late Joseph and Mary (Hozsa) Lorencz, Sr., Hungarian immigrants. He spent summers working on his family's Owendale farm during the 1930's, and moved there permanently in 1939. He was especially proud of his first job as a shoe shine boy in his birth town. In 1941, John graduated from Owendale High School. John served in the United States Army occupation of Japan in 1945. He worked for over 30 years at Automotive Industries in Owendale, where he met his wife Althea, and later retired in 1985 as a millwright from Prestolite Automotive in Bay City, yet continued farming until age 81.

He was united in marriage to Althea Winchester on May 24, 1952. They celebrated 51 years of life together when she preceded him in death in 2003. He is survived by their four children, Joseph Lorencz and wife Virginia of San Leandro, California; Cynthia Bennett and husband Douglas of Dearborn; Michael Lorencz and wife Lynn of Owendale; and Timothy Lorencz of Baltimore, Maryland. He is also survived by nine granddaughters and one grandson: Bethany (Patrick) Hardy, Ben, Rachel, and Rebekah Lorencz, all of California; Emily, Erin, Meredith, and Abigail Lorencz, all of Michigan; and Ilona and Nadia Lorencz of Maryland. He also leaves behind four sisters, Helen Smith and Elizabeth (Richard) Binder of Essexville, Nancy (Ronald) Prokopenko of Bay City, and Dr. Kathleen Lorencz of Beverly Hills; a brother-in-law, William Howell of Bay City; a sister-in-law, Mary Lou Lorencz of Owendale; 24 nieces and nephews; and several cousins. He was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph; sisters Marion Howell, Rose Mary Lorencz, and Sister Joan (Anna); and brother-in-law Alger Smith. He is also survived by two sisters-in-law, Gwendolyn Sommers of Bad Axe and June (Willis) Farnum of Owendale, and two brothers-in-law, William Winchester and Gerald (Betty) Winchester of Gagetown.

He was actively involved at the Colwood Church of the United Brethren in Christ, Caro, for the last 14 years. He previously attended the U.M. Church in Owendale. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, at his farm. He also enjoyed introducing many people, including international students, to American farm life.

The Funeral Service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 20 at the Colwood Church of the United Brethren in Christ, Caro, with Rev. Phil Whipple, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Elmwood Township Cemetery.

Memorials for Mr. Lorencz may be made to Positive Alternatives, the Gideons, or the church.