

Bruce, Donald

Donald W. "Hopple" Bruce, 49, of Elkton, died Sunday, Dec. 29, 2002, at his home after a long battle with health problems. He was born on May 28, 1953 in Bad Axe to Jack and the late Bernadine (Gelnaw) Bruce. Don grew up in Chandler Township, north of Elkton, and graduated from Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port High School in 1971. On June 7, 1980, he was united in marriage to Barbara L. McBride at St. Felix Catholic Church in Pinnebog. After high school, he worked at Schubach Farms until 1978. Then he began working at Huron Casting in Pigeon where he was currently employed. In 2000, he began his own business, H & A Trucking. Don "Hopple" was a wonderful family man. He truly loved snowmobiling, deer and pheasant hunting with his boys. He and his wife also very much enjoyed Laker sports and watching their boys compete in track, football and basketball, never missing a game or an event. He coached T-ball for many years, served with the Junior Livestock Association at the Huron Community Fair, was a member of the Thumb Tractor Pullers Association and St. Felix Catholic Church in Pinnebog. Don was an avid gardener and he grew enough vegetables for the whole township. In the spring he could be found collecting maple syrup with his buddy, Jim. He is survived by his wife, Barb; three sons, Justin L., Matthew A. and Timothy L. Bruce, all at home; his parents, Jack and Pat Bruce of Elkton; brothers, John Bruce and his wife, Jenny, of Pigeon, Ted Bruce and his wife, Kathie, of Traverse City, Dan Bruce and his wife, Sally, of Elkton, Jim Bruce and his wife, Harriet, of Bay Port, Bill Bruce and his wife, Linda, of Unionville, Mike Bruce of Elkton, Dave Bruce and his wife, Edwinna, of Capac and Brad Bruce and his wife, Tammy, of White Lake; sisters, Lorie Krohn and her husband, Ray, of Elkton, Kathy Kerr and her husband, Randy, of Elkton; step-brothers, Gary Kivel and his wife, Paulette, of Lupton and Kevin Kivel and his wife, Tami, of Elkton; step-sister, Sherry Burns of Cass City. Preceding him in death were his mother, Bernadine Bruce; and a sister, Linda Smith. A funeral mass will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2003, at St. Felix Catholic Church. Sr. Mary Schwartz and Fr. Joseph Schabel will officiate with burial in Riverside Cemetery in Elkton. A parish scripture service will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Champagne Funeral Chapel in Elkton. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. today and 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home after 1 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Memorials may be given to the family. Friends may sign the guest book at www.CFCelkton.com.