

## **Gillis, John**

Mr. John D. "Jud" Gillis, 82, of Minden City died Saturday, March 16, 2002, at Autumnwood of Deckerville. He was born Jan. 20, 1920, in Ugly to the late Malcolm and Mary (Holshoe) Gillis. He married Ila M. Noble on May 1, 1943, at St. Peter & Paul Church of Ruth. She preceded him in death on Jan. 18, 1978. He was a graduate of Deckerville High School in 1937. He farmed in the Palms area of Sanilac County until 1956. He then became the owner of the Gillis Hotel in Minden City. He was a parishioner of St. Mary Church of Parisville since 1970. He was a former member of the Table Topper Association, a life member of the Minden City Lions Club, a former village council member, a member of the Ruth Knights of Columbus Council No. 3823. The Minden City Athletic field is named after "Jud". He established Little League in Minden City and was sponsor and founder of Babe Ruth and softball teams in Minden City. He was a lover of baseball. He enjoyed cards, visiting casinos, singing, hunting, bowling, traveling, and antique cars. He was a member of the St. Mary Men's Club. He is survived by his special friend, Florence Bismack, of Minden City; seven daughters, Mary Hassler and her husband, Don, of Waterford, Barbara Piazza and her husband, Jerry, of Mount Morris, Marge Bennett and her husband, Leo ("Buzz"), of Waterford, Lou Ann Reinelt and her husband, Bob, of Snover, Sheila Edwards and her husband, Ben, of Bad Axe, Lisa Bischer and her husband, Paul, of Portage, and Laura Klee and her husband, Tim, of Ugly; four sons, John Gillis, Jr. of Bad Axe, Jerry Gillis and his wife, Linda, of Deckerville, Jim Gillis of Minden City, and Joe Gillis and his wife, Carie, of Sandusky; 31 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; one half sister, Laura Klee of Minden City; one half brother, Clayton Woolner and his wife, Marian, of Milan. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Jeff Kowalski; his brother, Norman Gillis; his sister, Virginia O'Steen; and a half brother, Arthur Woolner. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2002, at St. Mary Church of Parisville. The Rev. Charles Hammond, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery of Palms in the spring. Visitation will be from 1 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday and from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Smigielski Funeral Home on Cass Ave. in Minden City. There will be a parish vigil service on Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Minden City Lions Club.