

## **Kroetsch, Wilfred**

Mr. Wilfred Kroetsch, 81, of Minden City passed away Saturday evening, Oct. 19, 2002, at St. Mary Medical Center of Saginaw. Wilfred was born on June 20, 1921, in Snover to the late Charles and Hilda (Hergott) Kroetsch. He married Virginia Schumacher (Heilig) on Jan. 17, 1953, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ruth. Wilfred managed the Minden City Little League Baseball Team for years. He was a pitcher in the 1950s for the Minden City Team in the Sanilac County Baseball League. He owned and operated the Silver Star Gardens from 1950 to 1957. He worked for twelve years at the Minden City Lumberyard. He then went into the construction business, which he retired from in 1990. He built and owned the local car wash for 31 years. He was a lifetime member of many organizations, including the Minden City Lions Club and Fire Department and the Ruth Knights of Columbus, where he was a former Grand Knight. He served on the Minden City School Board and Village Council. He was a lifelong member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ruth where he served on the cemetery committee. He bowled for many years with the Farmers Elevator League of Minden City. He sponsored a ladies bowling team from the Minden City Car Wash for many years. Wilfred is survived by his wife, Virginia, of Minden City; three sons, Thomas Heilig and his wife, Martha, of Georgetown, Texas, Roger Kroetsch and his fiancée, Carol Hutchinson, of Cass City, Terry Kroetsch and his wife, Sue, of Ubly; three daughters, Wendy Maier and her husband, Albert, of Palms, Jo'Ann Zdrojewski and her husband, Phillip, of Palms, Barbara Partaka and her husband, Joseph, of Minden City; one daughter-in-law, Janice (Heilig) Kaufman and her husband, Bob, of Minden City; 18 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, four brothers, his twin, Willard Kroetsch and his wife, Shirley, of Snover, Leon Kroetsch of Flint, Jerome Kroetsch of Ghana, Africa, and Gerald Kroetsch and his wife, Suzanne, of Snover; one sister, Katheleen Rich and her husband, Vernon, of Sandusky; two sisters-in-law, Eileen Pelot of Minden City, Mary Ann Schumacher of Kinde. Wilfred was preceded in death by one son, John Heilig; one grandson, Daniel Kroetsch; one great-grandson, Conner Tarzwell; two sisters, Helen Reinelt and Ruth Westbrook; two brothers-in-law, Scott Westbrook and Gerald Reinelt; one sister-in-law, Georgine Kroetsch; two daughters-in-law, Sandra Kroetsch and Fay Heilig. Funeral mass for Wilfred Kroetsch will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2002, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church of Ruth. The Rev. Steve Gavit, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. There will be a Knights of Columbus rosary at 8 p.m. today and a parish vigil service at 8 p.m. on Wednesday at the Smigielski Funeral Home on Cass Avenue in Minden City. Visitation will be from 6:30 to 9:30 today and from 12 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursday at the church.