From the Friday, June 27, 2014 edition of the Kankakee Journal:

Thomas M. Fritz, 71, of Herscher, passed away Tuesday (June 24, 2014) at Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee. He was born Oct. 24, 1942, in Kankakee, the son of Merle and Opal Burling Fritz. He married Janet K. Atwell on Jan. 16, 1965, in Geneseo. She preceded him in death Jan. 4, 2007. Thomas was a farmer and retired in 1998. He was a member of Herscher United Methodist Church. He was also a 4-H leader for 15 years, involved with the Farm Bureau and Kankakee County Corn Growers, Kankakee County Pork Producers, and an alumni of Herscher High School FFA. He enjoyed woodworking and collecting antiques. He loved spending time with his family and his 10 grandchildren. He is survived by his daughters, Cindy (Steven) Harris, of Reddick, Andrea (Ron) Murphy, of Sandwich, Christine (Jeff) Bunting, of Mahomet; grandchildren, Marcie, Ty, and Taylor Harris, Morgan, Daulton, and Andrew Murphy, Olivia and Abigail Bunting; sister, Carolyn (Gary) Schwark, of Lafayette, Ind.; brother, Galen (Evelyn) Fritz, of Herscher; brother-in-law, Warren Slagel, of Bloomington; brother-in-law, Kenny (Genendal) Atwell, of Geneseo; sister-in-law, Jill (Jake) Hultman, of Geneseo; great-grandchildren, Braydon and Joel Fields; and many nieces and nephews. Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and sister, Jeanette Slagel. A gathering for family and friends will take place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Schreffler Life Story Funeral Homes, Herscher Chapel. Another gathering will be from 10 a.m. Monday at the Herscher United Methodist Church until the 11 a.m. memorial service. Burial will follow at Grand Prairie Cemetery in Pilot. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Thomas and Janet Fritz Scholarship Fund at Herscher High School or to Hospice of Kankakee Valley. To view Mr. Fritz's obituary, leave a memory or sign his guestbook, please go to schrefflerfuneralhomes.com. (Pd.)