

Ralph Karl Nielsen, 87

Dec. 5, 1905 — Dec. 31, 1992

HARLAN — Ralph Karl Nielsen, son of Niels P. and Maren Luella (Nelson) Nielsen, was born on a farm in Jackson twp., Shelby county, Dec. 5, 1905. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville. He attended Jackson No. 2 rural school, and later attended Dana College in Blair, NE., for 1 1/2 years. He returned to enter farming with his father in Jackson twp.

July 30, 1930, he married Frieda E. Smidt at Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg, S.D. They continued to farm in Jackson twp., after their marriage until they retired from farming in 1964 and moved in Harlan. In Harlan, he worked part-time with the Shelby County Soil Conservation Service as a member of the surveyor's crew. They observed 62 years of marriage in 1992. He was a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church. In addition to participating in all areas of church life at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. He served on the national board for the United Evangelical Lutheran Church and as a long-time board member of Salem Homes of Elk Horn. He was active in Cursillo and in prison visitation. He has been a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan since 1968. In his youth, he played baseball in the Jacksonville area. In later years, he coached little league teams. He died at the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn Dec. 31, 1992, at age 87 years and 26 days.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Agnes (Mrs Ben) Aastad of Granite Falls, MN., and Ann (Mrs Arthur) Christensen of Audubon. He is survived by his wife, Frieda of Harlan; three sisters, Harriet (Mrs Ras) Scott of Elk Horn; Bessie (Mrs John) Jorgensen of Audubon; and Elvira (Mrs Art) Mumm of Elk Horn; two daughters, Jeanne Sorensen (Connie) of Milford; and Lona Louis (Fred) of Northbrook, IL.; three sons, Don (Marie) of Haughton, LA.; David (Sandy) of Wayzata, MN., and Stanley (Cheryl) of Shelby; 11 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Jan. 2, 1993, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan with Rev. Otto Zwanziger, officiating. Memorials may be given to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan, or Salem Lutheran Homes, Elk Horn. Burmeister Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.