

Walter E. Nielsen, 94

Jan. 22, 1898 — June 23, 1992

HARLAN — Walter Edward Nielsen, son of Christian and Hannah (Sorenson) Nielsen was born Jan. 22, 1898, on a farm in Fairview Twp., Shelby County. He attended country school in Fairview Twp., and graduated from the Avoca High School in 1914. After school he helped on the family farm. Nov. 7, 1918, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving his country during WW I. After his honorable discharge Feb. 19, 1919, he returned to the Shelby county area to farm.

July 30, 1919, he married Mina Stofferson in the home of her parents. Four children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed on Walter's parents farm in Fairview Twp. They farmed their entire married lives on the same farm, and built their new house on the farm, retiring in 1950. After retiring, he took pride in his huge vegetable garden and flower gardens. This was their home until Dec. of 1986, when they became residents of the Baptist Memorial Home. After the death of Mina, Sept. 29, 1991, he continued to reside at the Baptist Home until the time of his death June 23, 1992, at age 94 years, five months and one day. He was a lifetime member of the Altamont Baptist Church, and taught Sunday school for many years. He also served on the Avoca Creamery board for 15 years, and the Iowa Egg board, where he was instrumental in getting the Iowa Legislature to pass the "Egg Grading" law; the Farm Bureau, and the Fred Funston American Legion, Post #227 of Avoca.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Martin Nielsen; a half brother, Peter W. Madson; and three half sisters, Alice Madson, Effie Plunkett, and Leah Lee. Surviving are three sons, Eugene (Margaret) Nielsen and Vernon (Inez) Nielsen, all of Avoca; and Richard (Rita) Nielsen of Co. Bluffs; a daughter, Doris (Joseph) Myers of Palmdale, CA.; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 27, 1992 at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. David Erickson of the Altamont Baptist Church, officiating. Military rites were conducted at Cuppy's Grove cemetery by the Fred Funston American Legion, Post #227 of Avoca. Casketbearers were Dan Kenney, Leo Nielsen, Gary Nielsen, Jason Kenney, Larry Madson, and Wayne Nielsen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.