

Thomas Harold Nelson, Jr., 86

Aug. 27, 1913 – March 17, 2000

IRWIN – Thomas Harold Nelson, son of Tom and Inger (Thompson) Nelson, was born Aug. 27, 1913, on his parents' farm near Irwin. He was baptized and confirmed, using the Norwegian language at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which was then located four miles south of Irwin. He attended Danway Country School through the eighth grade.

June 28, 1936, he married Lillie Jensen at her family's home near Gates. The couple farmed in the Atlantic and Kirkman areas, before moving to a farm near Irwin. In 1962, they held a farm sale and moved into Irwin. Tom was then employed as a custodian for the Irwin School System until his 1985 retirement. Tom and Lillie became residents of the Elm Crest Retirement Community in October, 1989. Lillie died April 28, 1997, in Omaha, NE. He was a lifetime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin. He died March 17, 2000, at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, at age 86 years, six months and 19 days.

Preceding Thomas in death were his parents; his wife, Lillie; four sisters, Mollie Knudson, Ina Duke, Isabel Wiig and Charlotte Ostebee; and three brothers, Russell Nelson, Luther Nelson and Niel Nelson. Survivors include two daughters, Vernia (John) Erickson and Linda (Vernon) Brue, both of Harlan; one son, Darrell (Donna) Nelson of Cherokee; one sister, Lulu Hodnefield of Lakefield, MN; seven grandchildren; six great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 20, 2000, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, with Pastor Sidney Flack officiating. Casket bearers were Scott Nelson, Jeff Nelson, Michael Erickson, Robert Brue, Jim Nelson and Daniel Erickson. Burial was in the Danway Cemetery in rural Shelby County. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.
