

NIELSEN (Nelson), John P.

January 24, 1896
Denmark
July 12, 1932
Niles, Michigan

Viborg Enterprise -
July 13, 1932
July 20, 1932

FUNERAL RITES HERE FRI. FOR J. P. NELSON

A telegram was received this morning (Wednesday) from Niles, Mich., stating that John P. Nelson was killed in an airplane accident yesterday. John Nelson and his wife, the former Bertha Jorgensen, are well known in and the Marion neighborhoods having lived here for many years until they moved to Chicago and later to Niles, Mich. where John was employed in an airplane factory. He was a licensed pilot. His many friends here, at Marion and in Iowa will be shocked to learn the tragic news for John was a well liked young man and his untimely and tragic death will be deplored by all. Funeral services will be held Friday, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Bethania Lutheran church here in Viborg.

OBITUARY

John P. Nielsen was born in Friis, Slesvig, Denmark, January 24, 1896, where he was baptized in the Lutheran church. He, with his parents and brothers, emigrated to America coming here July 4, 1907. They lived on a farm near Gayville for a number of years; while there he was confirmed in the Lutheran church. Later they moved to a farm near Viborg, where he met Miss Bertha Jorgensen who, on January 14, 1920, became his wife. Shortly afterwards they moved to Marion where they farmed for a number of years. In the year 1928 he and his wife moved to Chicago, where he took up aviation—at the time of his death he was a licensed pilot. Was employed by the Heath Airplane Corporation and with them moved to Niles, Mich. John loved to pilot a plane, and tho he had seen more than one of his pals and co-workers carried away in a stretcher after such a trip, he had no fear of death and kept up his flying practice. For some time previous to the illfated trip he had not been feeling well but thought nothing of it. Those of his friend pilots who witnessed the crack-up believe that as he was attempting a landing he had fainted.

During the war he made a determined effort to enlist in the army but was barred because of being technically a German. (Slesvig was under German sovereignty at that time.)

John was a well liked young man, for his friendship was sincere and loyal, and his many friends both far and near are grieved at his untimely passing. The Heath Airplane factory was closed for a day in respect to his memory. Two of his pals, who like him are licensed pilots, accompanied the remains to Viborg: Gene Gallagher and Hans Rasmussen. Miss Bernadine McElynn a friend of the family and an employee in the factory, was a constant companion to the bereaved during her hour of sorrow. These four came in a large car, the expense of which was borne jointly by the Heath factory and Rutherford who had charge of the burial. Messrs. Southworth and Turner were drivers of the ambulance and were both kind and considerate to all.

At the time of his death, July 12, 1932, he was 36 years, 5 months and 18 day. He leaves to mourn: his wife; his aged parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Nielsen; two brothers, Walter and Herman, all of Newell, Iowa; and a host of friends.

Funeral was from the Bethania Lutheran church, of which he and his wife were members; services were conducted by Rev. E. M. Nielsen, pastor of the church. Interment was made in the cemetery three miles west of Viborg, where he was laid to rest beside an elder brother Hans Nicholas, who preceeded him in death.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Rev. E. M. Nielson for his kind words of sympathy at the funeral services of my husband; and to the congregation for the use of the church. I wish to thank also Bernadine McElynn, Hans Rasmussen and Gene Gallagher for their kind consideration; Messrs. Southworth, Turner, Rutherford and Roy B. Nelson for their kindness during the time of sorrow; and friends for the beautiful floral offerings.

—Mrs. Bertha Nelson