

CHRISTENSEN, Merritt E.

May 23, 1929

Viborg

July 3, 2000

Knoxville, Tennessee

Viborg Enterprise

July 20, 2000

Merritt E. Christensen

Merritt E. Christensen was born on May 23, 1929 in Viborg, SD to Peter C. and Esther Christensen. He died in Knoxville, TN on July 3, 2000. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Warren and Emerall, sister Elaine Karp and an infant daughter.

Merritt graduated from Viborg High School in 1947 and after a short period of time at home and in California, he joined the U.S. Navy. Upon completion of his naval service he enrolled at the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1957. He received his masters degree from the U. of M. in 1966, but also had studied one semester in Oslo, Norway, one semester at Ball State University in Indiana and one semester in Japan in 1987. From 1959 to 1969 he and his family lived in Minot, ND. The first year there he taught journalism at Minot High School and from 1960 to 1966 was the Public Relations Director for the Minot Public School system. Then from 1966 to 1969 he taught at Minot State College. In 1969 the

family moved to Eau Claire, WI where he taught journalism at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire branch until his retirement in 1997. In 1998 he and his wife Grethe moved to Kingston, TN.

Merritt met Grethe Mortensen aboard ship going to Scandinavia while he was a student at the U. of M. and she was returning home to Denmark. Grethe was born in Viborg, Denmark and raised in Odense and Halbeck. She and Merritt were married in Viborg, SD on August 31, 1958.

Besides his wife, he is survived by daughter Dr. Lise Christensen-Doers and her husband Dr. Jesse Doers of Knoxville, TN, daughter Susanne of Eden Prairie, MN, son Peter and wife Cindy from Spokane, WA and three grandchildren. Also by brother Herbert from Redmond, WA and sisters Carolyn Thogersen of Azusa, CA and Jean Braa of Minneapolis, MN.
