

NELSON, Merton "Mert"

July 20, 1926
Burlington, Iowa
August 20, 2012
Viborg

Viborg Enterprise
August 30, 2012

MERTON ("MERT") NELSON

Merton ("Mert") Nelson, 86, died Monday August 20, 2012 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Viborg. Mert was born to Merton A. and Cora (Kraayenbrink) Nelson on July 20, 1926. After one year in his birthplace of Burlington, Iowa, the family settled in Viborg, South Dakota where much of the Nelson clan resided. Later Mert moved to California where he eventually played basketball for and graduated from Hayward High School. He entered the U.S. Navy as a signalman in the waning months of World War II.

After the war, Mert worked as a postal employee and as a

tooler of saddles/leather goods, but finally settled into the insurance business. There he met Mary Louise Pache and they married on June 30, 1956. His work took him to Seattle, WA (1962) and Bainbridge Island, WA (1969) where Merton became a partner in the Bainbridge Insurance Agency. After retiring, Mert returned to Viborg where he enjoyed living near his aunt Joy in her final years and visiting with extended family at Nelson reunions.

Throughout his life Mert enjoyed sports, gardening, bird-watching, and reading. He was a witty letter writer, but deciphering his handwriting could be a chore!

Merton was preceded in death by his parents; his brother,

George William ("Bill"); ex-spouses Adelle (Moreino) and Mary (Pache) Nelson; son Gary Nelson; and grandson Michael Purvis.

He is survived by his son, Mark Nelson; daughters, Karen (Nelson) Powell and Dana Nelson; son, Stephen Nelson; as well as son-in-law Stephen Pow-

ell; five grandchildren-- Susan, Lindsey and Kimberly Purvis, and Sean and Eric Powell; close friends Virginia Hansen and Richard Skola; and many cousins and their kin.

Local arrangements are being handled by the Fraternal Funeral Home in Viborg.