

## Harold Nelson, 90

*Feb. 2, 1913 - Dec. 13, 2003*

**CLAYTON, CA** – Harold Nelson, a recent resident of Clayton, CA, and a longtime resident of Dinuba, CA, died Saturday, Dec. 13. He had suffered declining health in recent months, but expressed while he was ill that his loved ones should not be too sad because he had had a happy life and a loving partnership with Eleanor, his wife of 67 years.

Harold was born in a Shelby County Iowa farmhouse on Feb. 2, 1913, to John and Jane Nelson, immigrants from Denmark. In his 90 year life, he observed the amazing changes of the 20th century from horse and buggy to jet travel. Harold wrote an interesting and often humorous autobiography for his family.

Harold attended a one-room school and graduated from Harlan High School. He had five brothers and was predeceased by brothers, Russell and Bill. Surviving brothers are Marion and Arnold of Modesto, CA, and their wives and Orville and his wife of Salem, OR. Harold enjoyed a large extended family of cousins, nephews and nieces.

Harold was baptized in the Merrill's Grove Baptist Church as a boy and grew up to be a kind, Christian man who made it his mission to share the Central Valley's abundance of food with the people who needed it. Leaving Iowa in the Depression, he got into the grocery business in California where he was soon promoted to manager of a Safeway store, and he continued in the grocery business for nearly all his adult life. He was active for many years in the First Baptist Church in Dinuba, CA, where he and Eleanor made many good friends.

A short obituary cannot capture Harold's generosity, sense of fun, enjoyment of road trips to visit family and friends, gardening accomplishments, and love for his family, including daughters, Karol McMahan and Vickie Bellingham and granddaughters, Hillary McMahan, Kerry Kennedy and Shelley Matek and their husbands. Special thanks go to son-in-law, Ken Bellingham, who lovingly visited and cared for Harold daily in his last months. Thanks also to the kind and capable staff of Stonebrook.

A memorial service was held on Friday, Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, 1578 Kirker Pass Road in Clayton, CA. Memorial contributions can be made to Gleanings for the Hungry and Habitat for Humanity.