

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday, May 4, 2001, pg 9-B

## Wilbert Nielsen, 78

*July 6, 1922 – April 17, 2001*

**MINDEN** – Wilbert Francis "Wilbur" Nielsen was born July 6, 1922, in Hancock, son of Edwin Nielsen and Minnie Boggs Nielsen. He was raised in the Minden area and attended country school.

Wilbur and Frances Quirk were married in Rockport, MO, May 7, 1943. They were the parents of four children. They lived in the Minden area where they farmed for 10 years. During that time he also worked for Omaha Standard Truck and Body for over 20 years and the Omaha Stockyards for several years. In 1976, they put up their first new home in the town of Minden. After Wilbur's retirement in 1982, he continued to stay busy by going to farm sales and purchasing and selling tractors. In December of 2000 they sold their home and put up a new house across the alley. From this location he continued to buy and sell tractors over the phone, even though he had been struggling with cancer for over two years. Frances was his main caregiver throughout his illness. He lost his battle with cancer April 17, 2001, at his home in Minden with his family by his side at age 78 years, nine months and 11 days. May 7, 2001, Wilbur and Frances would have celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter who died at birth; his parents, Ed and Minnie-Nielsen; and his sister, Helen Stuhr. He is survived by his wife, Frances; his four children, Jane Mitchell of Council Bluffs; Randy Nielsen (Vickie) of Council Bluffs; Denise Lundergard of Logan and Sharon (A.J.) Betancourt of Omaha, NE; five grandchildren, Tracey (Kevin) Rasmussen, Jason Lundergard, Tony Nielsen, Heath Gravert and Jonathan Betancourt; two great grandchildren, Amy and Rachel Rasmussen; his brothers, Larry Nielsen (Marilyn) of Whittier, CA and Donald Nielsen (Fran) of Council Bluffs; his sister, Shirley (Charles) Brigham of Shelby; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 21, 2001, at the Knutson Funeral Home with Rev. Al Hazelton officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Douglas Stuhr, Kenny Mertz, Tim Ploen, Russ Redinbaugh, Larry Wingert, A.J. Betancourt, Lynn Eckery and Keith Gravert. Casket bearers were Lonnie Ring, Dick Siebels, Mark Murray, Jeff Nielsen, Dan Ring, Bob Siebels and Mike Murray. Burial was in the Minden Cemetery.