



Obed Nels “ole” Nielsen

January 10, 1926 – May 29, 2012

Ole Nielsen, 86, longtime Ogallala resident, died Tuesday, May 29, 2012 in the Ogallala Community Hospital.

Obed Nels Nielsen was born January 10, 1926 in Hartington, Nebr., the son of Nels and Tonetta (Olsen) Nielsen. He attended Hartington Public Schools and graduated from high school there.

On September 30, 1945 Ole married Eva Vernise Thomas in the Hartington Congregational Church. The couple made its home on the Nielsen family farm, northeast of Hartington. In 1953, the Niensens moved to Lakewood, Colo., where they owned and operated a motel. In 1970 they moved to Ogallala, where they became managers of Front Street. In 1978 the couple started Pioneer Trails Restaurant and Nielsen Construction.



His hobbies included woodworking, fishing and camping. Ole belonged to the Moose Lodge and was a life member of the Elks Lodge #1760. Ole was instrumental in keeping the Kenfield art display in Ogallala. He helped with the construction of the museum included in the Front Street complex which housed the art display.

Preceding him in was his wife Vernise Nielsen in 2009, his son Randy Nielsen in 2011, one brother Matthew Nielsen, and one sister Lydia Nielsen.

Survivors include his son Rick Nielsen and his special friend Diana McIntosh, a granddaughter Erin (Jason) Barnhill, a grandson Lee (Melinda) Nielsen, all of Ogallala. Grandsons Trent Nielsen of Phoenix, AZ and Tyson (Lindsey) Nielsen of Superior, Colo. and two great-grandchildren: Oliver and Nolan Nielsen. Two sisters: Neletta (Ralph) Norris of Denver, Colo. and Sonja Apking of Laurel, Nebr.

The family chose cremation. There will be no visitation. The Memorial Service will be Monday, June 4, at 10:30 a.m. in Draucker Funeral Home with Rev. Eric Wait of New Hope Church officiating.

A memorial has been established to the Petrified Wood Gallery. Inurnment will take place at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to webmaster@drauckerfh.com.

Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.