

Merle Orian Nelson was born on the family farm near Aurelia, ND to John and Marie (Moen) Nelson. He graduated from Donnybrook High School in 1942. He served in the Army with the 720<sup>th</sup> Railroad Operating Battalion during World War II. Merle began his career with the Great Northern Railroad and retired from Burlington Northern in 1981.

On December 30, 1946, he married Betty Ann Frunz in Sidney, Montana. Being a company man, Merle and family moved several times and lived in Berthold, Noonan, Williston, Minneapolis and Minot to name a few. Betty Ann passed away September 9, 1999.

Merle was a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ.

He is survived by his sister, Ione Lawson, Minot and three children: Valli (Rod) Helstad, Williston; Bruce (Yvonne DeMoss), Littleton, CO; and Melissa (Trinity) Schaff, Fargo; Grand children: Michele Thomte, Crosby; Jessica (Jeremy) Kruse, Dickinson; John Nelson and Jesse Nelson, Littleton, CO; and Evan Schaff, Fargo; and Great-grand children: Trevor and Kia Thomte, Alyssa Helstad, Nelson and Preston Kruse.

Merle was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Ann; his parents; sister, Vergil Holte; and two brothers, Dennis and Lloyd.

### **Golfer's Lament**

Let me relax at golf on a sunny day  
And dream of a hole in one  
Let me make an eagle is my prayer  
Before this game is done.

But I miss the green by a country mile  
And my shots to the bunker stray  
I fail to birdie a single hole  
As I come to the end of the day.

So I gather my clubs and ponder a bit  
No eagle, no birdie, no ace in the hole  
But I know I'll never relax at golf again  
Though the odds may try my soul.



## ***Merle O. Nelson***

**Date and Place of Birth**  
February 13, 1925  
near Aurelia, North Dakota

**Date and Place of Death**  
March 17, 2009  
Minot, North Dakota

### **Memorial Service**

Thompson-Larson Funeral Home  
Minot, North Dakota  
Saturday, March 21, 2009 – 11:00 a.m.

### **Officiant**

Chaplain Don Andrews

### **Music**

*“On Eagle’s Wings” CD Selection*  
*Congregational Hymns*  
*“Amazing Grace”*  
*“Old Rugged Cross”*  
Arlyce Nylander, Organist

### **Honorary Bearers**

Merle’s family and friends

***Military honors accorded by the  
North Dakota National Funeral Honor Guard***

Our family would like to thank all of you for your many acts of kindness. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated during this difficult time. May God bless the memory of Merle.

*Thompson-Larson Funeral Home, Minot, North Dakota*