

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

Recently I had the privilege of viewing the replica of Abraham Lincoln's funeral hearse destined for the reenactment of Lincoln's funeral procession in Springfield, Illinois the first part of May. With only a picture of the original hearse to go by, Blue Ox Mill owner Eric Hollenbeck and his team of local military veterans outdid themselves, producing an outstanding replica. Eric is not only a fine craftsman; he is a patriotic citizen who served his country well in the military service and has been involved in helping his fellow veterans and in the education of local youth. We should be very proud that Eric and his wife Viviana chose our community as a place to pursue their dreams. On February Seventeenth I lost an old friend and I would like to take this opportunity to remember Edward L. Nilsen. Ed and I became acquainted at age six in Nineteen Thirty Three. We were first graders at the Washington Elementary school located in the Nineteen Hundred block of California Street, now the site of the Eureka Senior Center. We also attended Eureka Jr. and Senior High Schools, graduating from Eureka High School in Nineteen Forty Five. Also we were members of Boy Scout Troop #5, meeting at the old fire house located on the North West corner of California and Sonoma Streets. Troop #5 was fortunate to have Ed's father, Dick Nilsen as its committee chair and Ed's uncle Alan Nilsen as the Assistant Scoutmaster. As scouts Ed and I worked together to achieve two merit badges, one for Botany and the other for Photography. Ed earned many more merit badges and became an Eagle Scout. During those early scouting days I spent a lot of time with Ed and really enjoyed being in the presence of his parents, Dick and Doris both of whom were staunch supporters of the scouting movement. I remember one particular Sunday when Ed and his parents invited me along to gather specimens for the Botany merit badge in the Maple Creek/Butler Valley area, my first introduction to Dogwood. To this day, when I see a Dogwood in bloom, I remember the hospitality and kindness of the Nilsen's. Ed and his parents were a positive influence during my early days. There were many troop functions that we enjoyed together during our time with the Scouts. Upon finishing high school, with World War Two winding down, we went our separate ways as young adults' will, studying, working, marriage and raising families. It was years later, when class reunions rolled around, that we saw a bit more of each other while serving as committee members of the E.H.S. Class of "45". Even though our lives and careers differed, there was always the special feeling of knowing one another for so many years. In closing let me say "Thanks Ed for being a part of my life, may you rest in peace".

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