

1942. THORNING.
Guldbryllup.



Retired Teacher N.P. Nielsen and Wife, Thorning, Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary

Twelve years ago teacher Nielsen retired as teaching in Thorning after 36 years and since that time he and his wife have lived in the town of Thorning. Teacher Nielsen is 78 years old and Mrs. Nielsen is 71. Teacher Nielsen is a small landholder's son from Hjortshøj, and until his 22nd year he was mostly farming as a herd boy, second and first farmer's helper, but for many years he had desired to become a teacher.

Hesselballe Højskole was located next to his home. During two winters he took classes there and that gave him the desire to go to the teachers' college, but as he lacked the funds he started during the winter months to prepare himself for the first part of the teachers' examinations, assisted by headmaster Simonsen from the Højskole, while he worked on the farm during the summer. After he had studied and worked for three years he went to Aarhus and took the examinations he had prepared himself for.

He then borrowed 200 kroner from a farmer, which made it

possible for him to go to Gedved Teachers' College, where P. Boysen was headmaster, and there he passed the second part of the teachers' examinations one year later, in 1886.

Nielsen was now a winter teacher at Hesselballe Højskole, and besides that he had been a teacher in Sønderup på Himmerland and in Mygind. In 1894 he and his wife moved to Thorning, where he had been called as teacher and leader of singing in the church.

A small piece of land also belonged to the post, so Nielsen and Mrs. Nielsen now had their hands full.

The school had two classes, and a short time later the number of classes was enlarged to four. There were so many children in the school that Mrs. Nielsen had to help the youngest in the class with their spelling. The cleaning of the church was also part of their post and after a time it was decided that the floor in the school was to be washed and varnished instead of swept twice a week and sprinkled with sand by the big schoolgirls, as it had been before. Nielsen and his wife now also took that upon themselves. The salary was not big to provide for the family. There were four daughters and a son, but the small piece of land helped and also Nielsen and Mrs. Nielsen had the quality of being diligent and content with little. For the work at the church, which also included ringing the sun up and down, Nielsen received a yearly salary of 40 kroner.

Nielsen was a reliable and capable teacher. Besides school he also taught evening classes. For a time he taught gymnastics to men and women, and for many years he directed a choir in Thorning.

He always looked after the yard at the school and when the new school was built outside town in 1905 he himself planted every bush and tree.

Mrs. Nielsen descends from Sinding. She has, as her husband, taken an active part in the Grundtvig folk life in the district and her house shows characteristics of order and cleanliness.

They are both well physically and spiritually and are looking forward to celebrating their golden anniversary together with their children and grandchildren.