

8 Apr 1952 Reno Evening Gazette  
Rites Conducted In Tonopah For Wreck Victims

"Tonopah, April 8 - Largely attended funeral services for Fred Robert "Bobby" Brotherton and Melvin Eugene "Gene" Nicholas, Tonopah youths killed in an airplane crash near Stone Cabin ranch on Sunday, Mar 30, were held in the Elks Hall on Thursday afternoon.

William J. Crowell read the last rites and the bodies were borne to the Tonopah Cemetery in vehicles traveling side by side. Burial took place in the Veterans of Foreign War plot.

Casket bearers for Mr. Nicholas were Orville Carlock, Lee Henderson, Joe Clifford Jr., John Quas, Jim Merlino and Leroy Fuson.

Both men were members of pioneer Nye County families and were natives of Tonopah. Each saw service during World War II and had been lifelong friends.

Melvin Eugene Nicholas was born on Sept 30, 1923. He attended the local schools and was Tonopah's fire chief at the time of his death. Surviving are his widow Leola and four stepchildren, Violet, Larry, Doris and Warren Evernden; his mother, Mrs. Wade Daves of Hawthorne (NV) and his father John Nicholas of Battle Mountain."