

Friends of Mr. Nels O. Troe, formerly of Silver Lake, are worried as to his whereabouts and fate. Mr. Troe, who is 27 years of age and unmarried, was farming near Leeds¹, N.D. Three weeks ago Saturday night² he went to a neighbor's shack, about a mile from his own, and so far as known he has not been seen since. His friends fear he is a victim of foul play.

Worth County Index, November 22, 1906

MAN MOURNED AS DEAD IS ALIVE

Nels O. Troe is Seen By Friends, But Disappears Before They Can Speak To Him

Minneapolis, Feb 26. – Mourned as dead for more than a year, Nels O. Troe was seen by several friends last night, but before they could speak to him he again vanished.

Troe disappeared a year ago, when he came to Minneapolis from Benson County, N.D., with several hundred dollars. The police learned that he had picked up new acquaintances about the saloons and the detectives thought he had been killed for his money. Lodging houses were searched, but he was not found, and his relatives did not hear from him. They supposed he was dead.

Friends who live in Emmons, Minnesota, Troe's former home, were in "Stockholm" Olson's³ saloon, First Avenue South and Washington Avenue last night. They say they saw Troe in the rear room talking to someone, but before they could get to him he walked out the rear door and vanished.

Grand Forks Herald, February 27, 1908, Page 1

DOUBLE NOT MAN HIMSELF WAS SEEN

Mystery Over Disappearance of Nels Troe No Nearer Solution Than Before

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb 28. – Nels Troe, the North Dakota farmer who came to Minneapolis a year ago and disappeared has a double, his brother⁴ K.N. Troe, of Emmons, Minnesota, says. So he thinks the man who was seen in the saloon Wednesday and later at Hopkins, Minnesota, is not Troe. Troe is not known to have had any reason for avoiding his relatives, and as he had several hundred dollars when he came to Minneapolis, his friends cling strongly to the murder theory.

The persons who told the police that they saw Troe now admit that they are not positive it was the missing man. The case is as much of a mystery as ever and a reward may be offered for information concerning his whereabouts.

Grand Forks Herald, February 29, 1908, Page 1

Many of our readers will remember an account of the mysterious disappearance of Nels Troe, who some years ago went from Silver Lake (or Emmons) to Benson County, N.D., where he secured a claim. Mr. T. spent an evening of last May with a farmer in that vicinity, and from that time till this his relatives in this county have had no certain information on his whereabouts. His disappearance from the Dakota farm passed practically unnoted for a week or more and a still further time elapsed before his relatives in this county were informed of his absence. Friends traced him to Minneapolis, and put the police on his trail. Detectives learned, or thought they did, that Troe had gone down upon the high bridge at Tenth Avenue South, with a brace of hold-up artists, and as all trace of him ceased at that point it was surmised that he had been foully dealt with. The river was subsequently dragged for his body, but without results, and his friends finally settled down to the conviction that he was lost beyond recall. The Minneapolis Evening Tribune of February 26th retold the story under the headline "Man Thought to be Murdered is Alive" and went on to state that Troe had been seen on the streets of Minneapolis, but disappeared again as soon as he learned that his identity had become known. On the

strength of that report, Mr. Knute Troe, uncle of the missing man, went to the Twin Cities and spent two or three days trying to hunt down clues, finally becoming convinced that the newspaper account, like the subject of it, was way off. This missing man was thirty years old, light complected, height 5 feet 8 inches, weight about 175 pounds. He had but about \$20 with him when he disappeared; had no known enemies. The cause of his strange action is a hidden mystery, and has occasioned his relatives considerable expense and no end of trouble.

Worth County Index, March 05, 1908

SEARCH FOR A BROTHER

Troe Finds Man Thought to Have Been Murdered in 1906

Leeds News: In the fall of 1906 Nelson Troe, who had been living south of Knox, disappeared, leaving all his personal belongings, even his best suit of clothes, his trunk and other valuables. Nothing was thought of the matter until the next spring, when some of his neighbors began to inquire about him. No one could give them any information. Finally the matter was brought to the attention of Troe's relatives. Suspicion was aroused, and certain parties were suspected of having murdered him. With the consent of the county commissioners, State's Attorney Thomas was authorized to make a thorough investigation of the matter and employ detectives.

Last fall Mr. Thomas secured a detective from Minneapolis, who got next to the parties suspicioned, and gained sufficient circumstantial evidence which, with the corpus delicti, Mr. Thomas says, would have made a clear case against them. But the corpus delicti – proof of death – could not be established, and there the matter rested.

About two weeks ago Dr. Poole, of York, received a letter from Chas. Ellingson, a merchant of Sharon, N.D., in which he stated that he had seen Troe in Minneapolis recently, driving a laundry wagon. Dr. Poole sent this letter to Mr. Thomas, who at once notified his brother, Tom, who started at once for Minneapolis, and with the assistance of three police was unable to get any trace of his brother. After searching three or four days he came back. He hadn't been home but a few days when Troe was found. It is thought that the reason they missed finding Nels was on account of the letter saying that he was driving a laundry wagon, instead of which he was driving a milk wagon.

Grand Forks Herald, March 7, 1908, Page 4

¹He had 160 acres in Section 4, Iowa Township

² Saturday 27 Oct 1906

³ Alfred Olson, died 23 Oct 1908. The saloon was located at 1209 Washington Ave South

⁴ Uncle, not brother