Kunkel; barbershops by Henry Paulson and Sigurd Paulsrud, and a number of barbers through the years.

The State Bank of Nielsville was organized in July 18, 1904, with a capital of $10,000. The banking house was built in 1904 by Nels Muas and A. D. Stevens. It was known as the Stevens Bank until 1906 when B. B. Larson and Norman Roshlott bought it and changed its name to the State Bank of Nielsville. L. S. Kolden was named cashier in 1911. The bank flourished until 1929 when together with most other banks in the area, it closed its doors forever.

The Royal Neighbors of America organized a chapter in Nielsville in 1923 and have been active ever since. Three charter members still living are: Mrs. Clara Brekke, Mrs. Gena Kunkel and Mrs. Olive Dahl. Mrs. Ethel Eidsmoe, member of the Nielsville Chapter at present, is State Supervisor for the Royal Neighbors of America in Colorado and Wyoming.

At one time Nielsville flourished with three stores, a millinery shop, and several cafes. There were a number of potato houses to accommodate the produce of this farming community. The first was started by Odin Bjornstad and Tommy Thompson. Later houses were operated by Danielson, Egeland and Palm, Brekke, Swanson-Brady, and Miller.

A definite change came in the 1930's and '40's with modes of travel having changed from the horse and buggy to mechanical by that time. A trip into town became a family outing combined with shopping for the necessary items and neighborly visiting.

With the increasing popularity of cars, Saturday night in Nielsville became the high point of the week. Stores remained open as long as there were customers, sometimes until 11 or 11:30 at night. The men of the community talked farming while the women took walks or sat together in cars and visited. For the children, Saturday night was a special time of games, penny candy, ice cream, and hide and seek with their friends.

The Saturday evening "trading" often amounted to an even exchange of eggs or cream for the needed dry goods or groceries. Members of the community patronized all of the stores as well as the meat market, hotels and restaurants, which were kept busy serving refreshments or ice cream cones.

At times during the summer months there were outdoor movies, but the big event of the summer was the carnival sponsored by the American Legion Post. While the rides and concessions kept the children occupied, the adults flocked to the Legion Hall where "Estil, Lars, and Louis" kept the dancers happy with their old-time music until the wee hours of the morning. The wives of the legionnaires ran a food stand near the dance hall and took turns working so that all had a chance to dance and enjoy the event.

With the progress of the years came the telephone office operated by Clara Hovland, Tina Stuhauag, Amanda Grothe, Gina Gilbertson, and Alice Amundson. A hatchery was opened up and operated by Alfred Hanson and Jorgen Boe, and more recently, a greenhouse by Roger and Darlene Ruthenberg.

Progress also brought about a decline in Nielsville. When transportation made traveling distances so easy and enjoyable, people began commuting to other towns to do their shopping, doctoring and visiting, so that one by one the business places were forced to close their doors.

The Cash Mercantile Company, built in 1920, opened November 6th, by Erick Landgaard, who with his wife operated the store for forty-two years. Since their deaths, their son Jerome, has been operating the store.

The Nielsville House, built by Andrew Tronnes in 1896 was later owned and operated by Elmer and Edna Tronnes. A new building erected recently to replace the old has been operated by the Tronnes family until 1975 when Doug Palm purchased the business and it is now known as Couse's Place.

The post office with Alfred Hanson as postmaster, one gas station managed by Wayne Bernard, a bulk oil station run by LeRoy Chandler, and a fix-it shop run by Sidney Smith now exist. The Peavey Elevators are managed by Conrad Murach with Marlys Skalset as assistant manager. Michael-Swanson-Brady Inc. of Moorhead own and operate the Nielsville Washer Plant where potatoes of the Red River Valley are processed. The plant employs a number of local residents for seasonal work in the spring and fall.

Nielsville also has a fire department with Albert Docuter as fire chief. Volunteers man the truck when answering alarms.

A new dial-direct telephone system has been in operation for some time; the town has an adequate water and sewage system and disposal of garbage has been solved with a regular garbage collection each week.

The streets are tarred and kept clean through a special program manned by people who care about their town. Flowers and garden plots are a regular "beautification project" of the local garden club, comprised of a group of women who take pride in adding beauty and color to the village.

Nielsville is not without its patriots. Through the years, and several wars, dedicated men of the community have given of their time and lives in the service of their country.

St. Petri Lutheran church is as alive and useful today, and God willing, the town, the church and the community will continue to work together for the betterment of all concerned through the years to come!

**ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The St. Petri Congregation is listed in the church publication "Norske Lutherske Menigheter i Amerika" as being organized on October 11, 1874 with a total of 100 members that first year. Another source listed the date of organization as May 11, 1875. Since the early records were destroyed by fire, the exact date is difficult to establish. The St. Petri Congregation celebrated its Centennial on July 4, 5, 6, 1975.

The charter members as of May, 1875 were: Hans L. Gordon, Andrew L. Gordon, Lars H. Gordon, Charles L. Gordon, Anders O. Tronnes, Jorgen Johnson, Ole A. Tronnes, Johan-