nenes Jorgenson, Edward Tronnes, and Theodore Tronnes.

The decision to build a church was made in March, 1886, but the actual building did not take place until in 1887. The church was built on a site east of the Bjornstad farm on a plot of
ground donated by the late Henry Simon, Sr. In 1896 the
Great Northern Railway Co. laid its tracks through what
became the present site of Nielsville, and two years later
the church was moved to its present site. There has been added to
the church a Parish Education Building in 1957; a front
entrance in 1967; and a new east entrance, completed in 1975.
The original church building is still the sanctuary.

Pastors who have served St. Petri are: Reverends, Bjug
Aamondson Harstad, Hans Pederson Solstad, Peer Olson
Stromme, Anders C. Anderson, Halvard Roalkvam, Hans
Olsen Skyberg, Hans Johannessen Villesvik, Johan-Theodor
Burset, Ole Hanson Brodlad, Otto Johnson Lutness, Karl
Stomme, Jacob Nelson Dordal, Hans M. Finstad, Orlando A.
Lee, Edward W. Johnshoy, A. B. Solberg, Dean Bakken, Robert
Nedrud is the present pastor.

NIELSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY

The American Legion at Nielsville was organized November
21, 1919 and given the name Hubbard Post Number 336. Some
of the first officers and charter members still living are Helmer
Anderson of Roseburg, Oregon; John Paulsrud, now living in
Norway; Oscar Tronnes of Minneapolis; Millard Hestad, Ada
and Henry Evje, Gunnar Paulsrud, and Bennie Aukland of
Nielsville.

The Legion has been active over the years in sponsoring the
4-H Club, Boy Scouts, community Christmas tree in the street,
summer picnics and carnivals for the community, bingo par-
ties. They were also instrumental in furthering the memorial
erecled on the school grounds to commemorate the Indian
battle in the area. Each year the Legion and its auxiliaries
arrange for a Memorial Day program preceded by a visit to the
area cemeteries, where they conduct a memorial service. The
present Legion officers are: Francis Spokely, Jr. Commander;
Leroy Chandler, adjutant; Delforest Palm, financial officer.

The Auxiliary was formed in the early 1920's to aid in the
activities of the Legion. Its present officers are: Avis Boe, pres-
ident; Leatrice Sondrol, vice president; Betty Hanson, secre-
tary and Opal Brekke, treasurer. Every year they sell the
National American Legion Poppy to aid the disabled veterans.

INDIAN HISTORY

In 1939, on the 120th anniversary of the battle between the
Chippewa and the Sioux, which had taken place near the site of
old Nielsville, a marker was erected on the school grounds
at Nielsville. On the marker is the inscription: BATTLE OF
THE LITTLE RIVER.

Near this spot on the Little River, the Chippewa and the
Sioux fought a major battle in 1819, leading to the treaty of
1825, ending tribal war in Minnesota. Prior to 1819, the Sioux
rightfully claimed this portion of Minnesota. However, the
Chippewa from the east, having obtained arms from the white
man, were becoming stronger and stronger and pushed the
Sioux farther south and west. The final battle between the two
tribes was fought at the mouth of the Little River. The Little
River is the small creek to the north of the school grounds and
empties into the Red River just north of the Odin Bjornstad
farm.

The outcome of this Battle of the Little River was that after
a day of bloody fighting both tribes retreated, the Chippewa
north of the Sand Hill and the Sioux to the south. In 1825 the
United States Government, in order to end this tribal warfare,
decided that the Chippewa were to have the land north of a
line running from this point on the Red River diagonally
across the state to Anoka. The Sioux were to have the land
south of this line.

NIELSVILLE BOY SCOUTS,
CUB SCOUTS AND CAMP FIRE GIRLS
AND GARDEN CLUB

We have learned that the Nielsville Boy Scout troop may
have been first formed in 1918 under Guy Spokely, Scout Mas-
ter. Although there are no available records, we have found
that some of the early listings have been Otter Paulsrud, Ward
Simmons (then a depot agent here) Jorgen Boe, Sherman Bakke,
Vernon Helgeland and Sherman Bra-
tager. Scouts were taught the various scouting skills and were
taken on camping trips to such places as Lake of the Woods,
Itasca and roughing it in our local wooded area by the Red
River. In 1945 the Scouts were sponsored by the Lutheran
brotherhood of the church.

We believe that the first Cub Scout group was organized by
Mrs. Orlando Lee, then our pastor's wife, in about 1949. It
existed for a time and was allowed to dissolve, only to be reor-
ganized at a later date and is now active again.

The Camp Fire Girls were organized under the direction of
a high school teacher, Lenora Isaacson, in about 1931. They
were an active organization who pursued their crafts, went
camping and as a diversion, presented a three-act play "The
Returning of Rosalie," a story about a white child who had
been kidnapped by gypsies and finally was returned home.
The group had a good time presenting it in neighboring towns
and it was very well received. The Camp Fire Girls finally disbanded when their leader left for another school and some of
the girls graduated and moved on.

The Nielsville garden club was organized January, 1957. It
was named the "Garden Bugs." In December 1961, the club
was discontinued. In January, 1963, a new garden club was
organized with the name "Nielsville Prairie Gardeners." The
club meets once a month. Their project is, in the spring to
plant flowers around the church and the flower strips up town
and to keep them watered and hoed.

The highlight of the year (1975) was the preparation of the
11th District, 16th Annual Flower Show on August 15th at the
Climax School with the Climax Evergreen Club and the Niels-
ville Prairie Gardeners Clubs, hostesses.

SCHOOLS, 4-H CLUB AND RECREATION
IN NIELSVILLE

As the people settled in Hubbard township one of the first
concerns was to establish schools for their children. The first
school built was in district 5, a half-mile west and a half-mile
south of Nielsville. It was built in 1876. Later a school was
built two miles north of "Old Nielsville." District 7 built two
miles east and one-half mile south of Nielsville. In 1905 district
19 moved a school house in from Scandia township. It was
located four miles east and one mile north of Nielsville, so at
this time there were five rural schools in the township. This
was necessary as the children had to walk to school. In 1917 a