new school house was built in district 19 and in 1918 a new school house was built in district 17.

Shortly after Nielsville was moved to its present site, a two-room school was built in Nielsville. This included district 5. In 1918 a new grade and high school was built in Nielsville. District 23 was consolidated with Nielsville at this time. In 1971 the Nielsville school consolidated with Climax and the school at Nielsville was closed. Districts 17 and 19 also consolidated with Climax.

The 4-H Club has been active in Nielsville since it was first organized in the 1930's. The largest enrollment was in 1939 when 58 members were enrolled in 150 projects and they had 100 percent completion. At present the officers of the community 4-H Club are: Mark Landgaard, president; John Landgaard, vice president; Gary Braaten, secretary; Linda Doeden, treasurer. Their adult leader is Mrs. Jerome Landgaard. Numerous trips and awards have been won by club members over the years. The last one to win a trip was Linda Doeden, who went to the state fair on her garden project.

During the last 30 years the village has flooded an area in town to be used for a skating rink. Youngsters of all ages could be seen using it and even some of the "oldsters". A warming house was provided for their comfort and enjoyment.

Sven K. Bratager

Sven K. Bratager was born on a gaard called Bratagereie in Høl Hallingdal, Norway, to parents Birgit Torstensdatter and Knut Swenson, March 28, 1863. He was baptized April 26, 1863. They had six other children, Ole, Thorsten, Margit, Birgit, Guri and Gro. Thorsten and Margit came to America in late 1870. Thorsten came to Belmont and Margit to Deadwood, South Dakota. Kari Olsdatter Brataaker was born January 6, 1858, on the Brataaker gaard. (It should be explained here, they were both born on the same gaard, but she was the daughter of the owner and Swen's parents were working for him and one had to take the name of the farm. That was the rule all over Norway.)

Kari had a brother Ole and four sisters: Anne (Mrs. Lars Hallebrot), Birgit (Mrs. Vikan), Guri and Gunvor (Mrs. Larsen). Sven Bratager and Kari Olsdatter were united in marriage June 17, 1884 in Hols (Gamle Kirk) old church where they both had also been baptized and confirmed. They came to Reynolds, North Dakota, the same year. He worked for Swen Myre and other farmers along the River in the Rosen- dahl Church vicinity. He farmed for Guro Dokken for seven years. Five children were born there: Birgit (died when one year old), Carl (died when he was four), Bertha, Carl and Bernt. In 1897 he bought lots that the farmers on the prairie had cleared for wood along the river north of the Nielsville bridge. It contained 40 acres but was in four different sections, because of the river bends. He had to clear off the stumps so he could build the house and he required muscle and he had it. It was all done without the use of dynamite.

Selmer was born in the new home December 15, that same year. His father drove thirteen and one half miles with horse and buggy to fetch the mid-wife, Mrs. Alletta Halvorson, to assist at the birth. In 1904, they added another room to the house and Bertha was very happy looking forward to the added comfort. But she died that year, age 16. The land was cleared and an orchard of apples, plums and cherries were the delight of many, not to mention the lovely flowers he grew. He did all the butchering in the neighborhood and worked for Ole Pederson across the river for several years. Mr. Pederson often made the remark when you have Bratager to work for you, he does the work of three men. It was true. He was very strong and enjoyed good health. His wife was often sick, but she worked hard side by side with him in haying and other field work. She was a kind, humble person and did a lot of knitting and quilting for the Ladies Aid at the St. Petri church, of which they were members. Selmer was the first child Rev. O. H. Broodland baptized in his ministry. Sven often talked of the great flood the spring of 1897. Everything was under water at their place then, but the flood came in from two sides at the Andrew Kleppe place so fast, not many of the cattle could be saved. Kleppe cried out "$50.00 to anyone who will save my bull", but the current was so strong nothing could be done. The bellowing of the cattle was heartbreaking.

Kari Bratager died March 11, 1926 and when the Depression hit, the home was lost through foreclosure. Then his health began to fail and he died January 24, 1940. Both are buried in Sundet cemetery.

Charles and Anne Burd

Charles Edward Burd was born at Hartleton, Pennsylvania. His ancestors came to this country in the early 1700's. His great-great grandfather was a soldier in the Continental Army. One winter day in the year of 1902, Charles told his parents he was going West to look for work. His father thought perhaps Ohio would be far enough away from home — also, they had friends and relatives living there. Beyond there, they thought the country was pretty wild, but Charles had received a letter from his brother, George, who was already out West and urged him to come and work at the Hayes Farm — Brothers who were from Charles’ home town — and farmed a lot of land and hired many men. So it was decided he could try it. He worked at the Hayes Farm for about 16 years the year around. One winter he attended school at the Agricultural College in Fargo.

Life at the farm was very interesting. There were always many people around. There were visitors, students and pastors from Pennsylvania who came and spent most of the summer at the farm. The students conducted Sunday school and services on Sunday. There young folks met and planned outings, parties or dances for the coming week. There was always someone in the crowd that could play some kind of musical instrument.