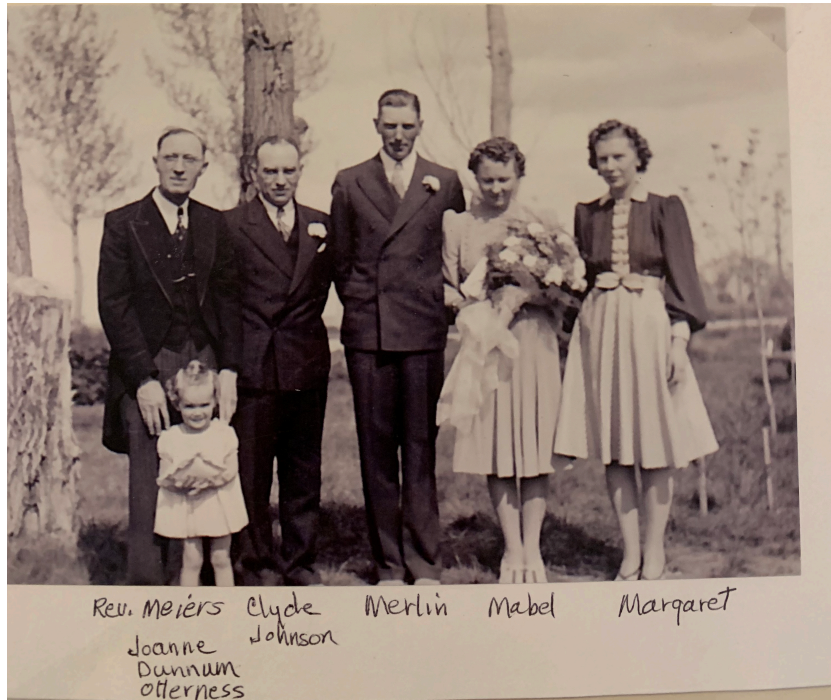


Nelson Family
Anton C Nelson - Mabel F Hanse



Mabel + Anton Nelson
House in Kensel, ND
Spirea's in front

Mabel A - Merlin W Johnson



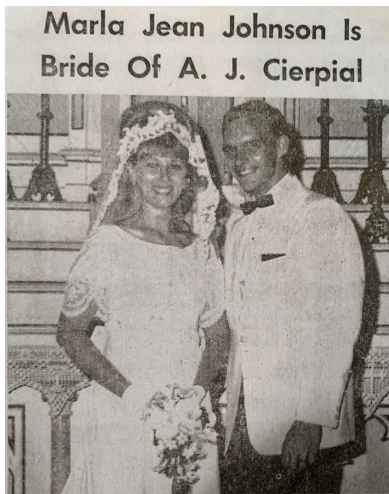
Judith - Thomas Johnson
 Sara Rachel Aaron Andrew



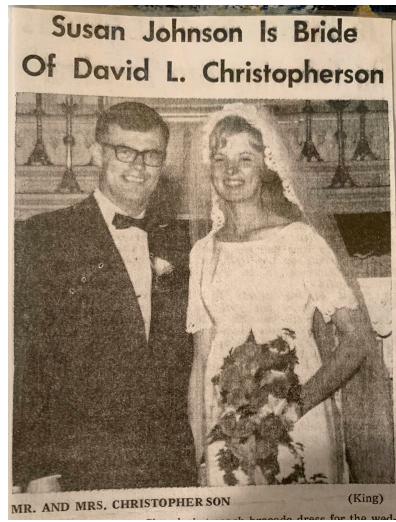
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnson

Judith Gail Johnson and Thomas P. Johnson were united in marriage on Saturday, June 26th at St. John's Catholic church at Kensal, N. Dak. Father J. E. Moore heard the exchange of vows in the double ring ceremony at 3 p. m. Mrs. Earl Ableidinger was the organist and accompanied the soloist Bruce Tweten. The best man was Alfred Reuter, the ring bearer was Steven Florhaug and the ushers were Leland Johnson and James McGuire. The bridesmaids were Sara Rachel Aaron and Jennifer Gregory. The groomsmen were Charles and Larry Johnson, brothers of the bride.

Marla - Alfred Cierpial
 Jennifer Gregory



Susan - David Christopherson
Brian Cheryl



James W - Kathryn Lipetsky
Peter Jeffrey Janene David



Margaret - Earl Ableidinger



Lois B - Peder Florhaug



Mary Kathleen - Walter Odegaard
Michael Susan



Steven - Karla Hensley
Kristie Peder



Roger Nadine Linderman
Jessica Matthew Daniel Ross



Elwood - Beverly Bowman



Janelle Jill Jackie Meredith Michael
Michelle Milissa Mark



Early Day Merchant A.C. Nelson & Family

One of Kensal's early day business men was A.C. Nelson. Anton, better known as A.C. Nelson immigrated from Norway when he was eighteen years old and settled in the Webster, S.D. area. He attended school and worked in the store business there. He met and married Mabel Hanse, who was a

-98-

school teacher. They were the parents of two girls, Mabel and Margaret. He moved to Bottineau with his family to be a partner in a store. Lois was born there. The family moved to Kensal in 1920 where he worked at the Farmer's Store for a few years. They bought the house in north Kensal, which was their home during their life.

Mr. Nelson bought his own store, located north of the present bank, and began a general merchandise store. This building also housed the Telephone Company on the second floor. The Johanna Clancy family, who lived there, operated the Telephone Company.

A son, Elwood, was born to the Nelsons in 1923. The years were good until the drouth came. To support his family, Mr. Nelson sold and planted evergreens for C.L. Jensen, many of which are still growing in Kensal and at the Cemetery. He was a salesman and taught school in the winter. He had earned his teaching certificate in S.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were active in the Methodist Church. He was a part of musical groups in Kensal, and sang bass in the church choir for many years. He served on the town board and the Commercial Club. They were noted for their beautiful vegetable and flower gardens.

During the war years Mr. Nelson worked in the Mare Island Shipyards at Vallejo, California. Mrs. Nelson was employed in the Blueprint Dept. Returning to Kensal, they started the L.B. Hartz Grocery Store on the corner south of Olaf Ekren's Implement Store. Mrs. Nelson died in 1957.

In 1959, he visited his native Norway for the first time since he immigrated. In 1960, he retired from the store business and he died in 1962.

All the Nelson children went to the Kensal School for the twelve years. All of them went to college and chose teaching as their careers. All were and are interested in music.

The oldest, Mabel, married Merlin Johnson, a farmer. They raised four children. She taught 22 years, 12 of them in the Kensal School system. After Merlin's death, she married William LeRoy Mead and they continued living on the farm. He died in 1980.

Judith Gail Johnson married Dr. Thomas Johnson. They are the parents of four children and live in Bismarck, N.D. where Tom is vice president of Academic Affairs at Mary College. Judy has pursued her music and is teaching elementary music at the United Tribes in Bismarck.

Marla Jean Johnson married Alfred Cierpial. They have two children and live in Berthoud, Colorado. Alfred is an engineer and Marla works as a nurse.

Susan Jane Johnson married David Christopherson and they live in Delano, Mn. David teaches in Junior High in the Minneapolis school system, and Susan teaches first grade in Delano, Mn. They have two children.

James Johnson married Kathryn Lipetzky and they live on the home farm north of Kensal. Jim and Kathy have four children in school. Jim spent 16 months in the service. He served in the Navy-Seabee Branch, and spent 12 months in Vietnam

with the Naval Support Activities in DaNang. He is active in the American Legion Program. Kathy teaches piano students in Kensal and does substitute teaching.

Margaret Nelson married Earl Ableidinger and they farmed on the Ambrose Ableidinger homestead until they retired and moved into Kensal. Margaret taught nine years, three of which were in the Kensal School District. Earl was an avid hunter and fisherman besides his farming. Earl died in 1973.

Lois Nelson married Pete Florhaug and they are still farming three miles northeast of Kensal. Lois taught a total of 14 years, the majority of them in Kensal. For many years Pete has been a member of the elevator board and a director of Rogosek Township Board. As they are reaching retirement years, their son Roger will be taking over the farm. Pete and Lois raised three children.

Mary Kathleen Florhaug married Walter Odegaard and they live in Mandan, N.D. Kathy is a Public Health Nurse for Morton County and Walter is Supt. of the State Industrial School. They have two children, who are involved in music and sports.

Steven Florhaug is married to Karla Hensley. He has two children. Steven lives in Austin, Texas. He spent four years as a Sgt. in the Air Force. Since then he has been employed as a technician for the 3 M Company.

Roger Florhaug is married to Nadine Linderman. They have three children. Both Roger and Nadine are teachers in Kensal School, Roger having band and chorus and Nadine has math and science. Roger is also involved in farming.

Elwood Nelson, 1941 graduate of Kensal High School, served with the 50th Signal Battalion during World War II. He graduated from Jamestown College in 1950. He was a teacher at Rogers and Tower City, N.D., Campbell, Wheaton and Barrett, Mn. Presently he works as a professional musician in west central Minnesota.

Elwood married Beverly Bowman in 1956. She is a 1954 graduate of NDSU. He has been at teacher at Tower City, N.D. and Campbell, Mn.

Children: Janelle Linda, graduate in music and physical education, University of MN. Morris, masters degree from University of LaCrosse, Wis., Was a teacher at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. Married Ronald Davis, they have a son, Matthew Lane. They are presently living in Denton, Tx. where Ron is working on a Doctors Degree in Adaptive Physical Eduaction.

Jill Leslie, is a graduate of U of Minn. Morris in Human Services. Jill is the Social Worker in the Hoffman Care Center. Jill's husband, Jerry Olson, is a grade teacher and basketball and baseball coach in the Hoffman-Kensington School System. They are parents of a daughter, Raelee Helena.

Jacqueline Lee is a graduate of Moorhead State in Speech-Theatre. At present she is Assistant Manager of a Hardee's in Boulder, Colorado.

Meredith Kay is a graduate of Moorhead State in theater. At present she is a member of the Boulder, Colorado Dinner Theater.

Michael Eric is a sophomore at St. Cloud State

University and present plans are to become a physical therapist.

Michelle Ann will graduate from high school this spring and plans to enter a degree in nursing.

Melissa Jo will be a junior in high school next year.

Mark Christopher will be a ninth grader in the fall.



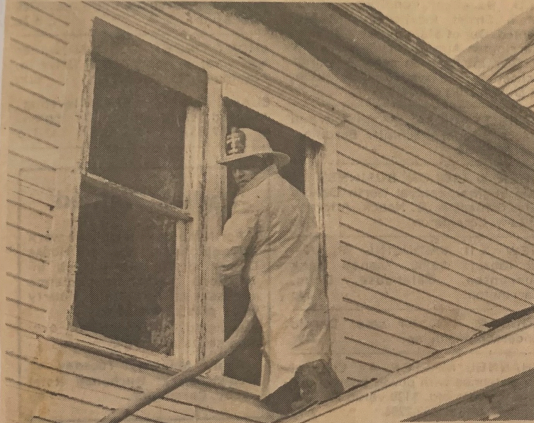
The A.C. Nelsons'



A. C. Nelson General Store

This is an early photo of the first business built in Kensal, built by Sam Shockley, who is pictured at the southeast corner of the building. There are numerous others pictured that are not identified. Feckler and his two partners a Mr. Braun, who had three sons that attended the Kensal School and John Lonski, who is more or less familiar in Kensal, a son Harry (Jerome) and two daughters, Martha and Florence are still around. Wooden sidewalk along the front of this building and all the way north along main street. This building was the only building left after the disastrous fire destroyed all the other buildings north along main street clear up to the next street (Church Street). This building was destroyed by fire and replaced by the new Kensal Fire Hall in 1984.

Scenes From Kensal Fire



Flames blocked the doors of the burning two-story building at the south end of Main Street in Kensal. In order to use the water effectively, the firemen sought any possible route to the interior of the building. This fireman from the Jamestown Rural Department went through an upstairs window.



The Kensal fire was an easy one to fight according to Forrest Bold, Carrington fire chief. Firemen had access to all four sides of the building. A walkway separated the burning structure from the neighboring Ekren Implement building.

Area Had Des

Continued fr

Kensal Building

"We will probably never know the cause," said Olaf Ekren of the fire that burned out one of his buildings on Main Street of Kensal Saturday evening.

The two-story frame building at the corner of Main Street ignited at about 5:30 p.m. Several Kensal people claimed credit for reporting the fire. Kensal Fire Chief George Kulla sounded the alarm at 5:45.

The flames originated upstairs in the structure and quickly spread throughout the interior of the building. Firemen carried their hoses to the roof of the neighboring Ekren Implement building to spread the blaze along Main Street. A light breeze blew from the southwest.

"Without help we'd never got that fire out," said Fire Chief Kulla after the flames were extinguished. Seven firefighting units were on the scene, from Kensal, Courtenay, Jamestown and Carrington.

By the time the two Carrington trucks arrived at 6:30, the Kensal water tower had been emptied. Badly needed water was pumped into the trucks from cisterns.

The fire was brought under control by 7:30. The building still stood but the interior was charred. Portions of the roof had fallen in.

The building had stood on the corner of Main Street since the 1900's. It had housed Kensal Implement and a number of grocery businesses. It had been vacant for several years—

recently. Its estimated value was \$5,000.

Racing at the Kensal Speedway scheduled for the evening was cancelled because of the fire. Onlookers found an equally interesting spectacle as the firefighters struggled to extinguish the blaze for 2½ hours.

Undetected embers burst into flames several times during the night, bringing back the Kensal firemen to put them out.

**FORCE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
KENSAL, NORTH DAKOTA**



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dedicated April Eight, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-three
Kensal, North Dakota



Mabel Nelson Johnson Mead
Church organist and community
accompanist



“Toni and her Cronies”

Kensal Kosy K's

A special meeting was called at the home of Mrs. Merlin Johnson, November 18, 1948 for the purpose of organizing a homemaker club. Mrs. Clausen, home extension economist acted as chair person. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Merlin Johnson, President; Mrs. Edward Wolsky, Vice President; Mrs. H.E. Nichols, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Marvin Kollman, Program Chairman. The name of the club selected was Kensal Kosy K's.

Other members joining were Mrs. Clair Christensen, Mrs. Joe McGuire, Mrs. Paul LaQua, Mrs. Louis Neva and Mrs. Edwin Wolsky.

Mrs. Gerald Norheim and Mrs. Gordon Bredahl joined in January. Mrs. Merle Anderson and Mrs. Duane Neva joined in April.

A sewing machine clinic was held in June 1949. Many machines were repaired and oiled. A sewing class was held at the Methodist church basement. We made a dress and an apron with Mrs. Clausen as instructor.

In 1961 many of our members began taking lessons in the art of ceramics with Mrs. Roy Anderson as instructor. The meetings were held at her home. We displayed many ceramics at different events. Many members continued this hobby.

In July of each year we try to visit some place of interest such as a musical and enjoy a supper afterwards.



Kensal Kosy K's Christmas Party. Lillian Wolsky, Alice Wolsky, Ruby Burleson, Mabel Mead, Irene Ableidinger, Eva Goodman, Irene Hoggarth, Kate McGuire, Sally Lampert, Vernetta Neva.

-38-

Kensal's First Celebration July 4, 1904

The town of Kensal did itself proud in its celebration on the fourth, the crowd was large and the entertainment good and visitors were much pleased.

Early in the morning teams bringing in the farmers, their wives and children, began to arrive and by breakfast time it was apparent that there was going to be a large crowd in town before noon.

This being Kensal's first celebration considerable uneasiness was felt by the committee who fully realized the work and worry connected with the affair, but from the parade, which was the first number on the program, until after the last dance at the bowery, there was not a hitch in the proceedings and while the attractions were all home talent it was the general opinion of the visitors that Kensal's first celebration was a decided success.

The parade, which started at ten o'clock was a glad surprise to everyone. Paulsen and Sletten captured first prize with a large float beautifully decorated and carrying a number of little girls tastily dressed in white. There were twenty business houses represented in a procession over two blocks long. After the parade the band gave a short concert at the depot park. Following that

George Thorp of Jamestown gave an appropriate speech. From this time until noon the crowd was kept in a roar by the sack race, the fat men's race and the tug of war.

After dinner everyone went to the race track and ball grounds and at 2:30 the races began. The first was the farmer's race and this was won by George McKenzie's horse driven by Will Callivan. Hans P. Johnson came in second and S.J. Wells third. John Nihill and Fred Burleson also had horses in this race. In the free for all class George Armstrong's Prince Wilkes won first money, Will Gallivan second and Andrew Joos of Wimbledon third.

After the races there was a ball game between Kensal and Wimbledon and was won by Wimbledon by a score of 6 to 3. In the evening there was the usual bowery dance.

