

So God Made A Farmer

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board"

So God Made A Farmer

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it"

So God Made A Farmer

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt, and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps; who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and then pain'n from tractor back, put in another seventy-two hours"

So God Made A Farmer

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds, and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.

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God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark." It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners; somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church; somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh, and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does".

So God Made A Farmer

Gerald L. Nelson, 92, of Watford City, ND passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born October 8, 1929 at the farm home of his parents Arthur C. and Mabel (Skoglund) Nelson in Garden Township, McKenzie County, 12 miles northeast of Watford City, ND. While Gerald was in first grade, February 15, 1936 (in Parshall) still holds the record for being the coldest temperature in North Dakota with 60 degrees below zero. Gerald kept warm with a sheep skin aviator type hat, a sheep skin coat, mittens on his hands, and scarves around his face and neck.

Gerald attended Nelson School and graduated from Watford City High School in 1946. He attended the State School of Science, Wahpeton, ND 1947-1948 where he learned the electrical trade, a skill which has been useful all his life. Gerald then started farming fulltime northeast of Watford City.

In 1952 when Gerry was conducting business with Arne G. Bob Sanford, owner of S&S Motors, Bob introduced Gerry to his new accountant, Idella Kusler from Kulm, ND. Gerald LeRoy Nelson and Idella Esther Kusler were married May 9, 1954 (Mother's Day) in the First Congregational Church in Kulm, ND. The couple lived on the Arthur C. Nelson farm for a number of years. In 1965 Bill Brown was hired to build a house for the couple, which he did with Louie Hanna as his assistant. After a few months the shell was finished and the Nelsons took over. After a few more months the house became a home.

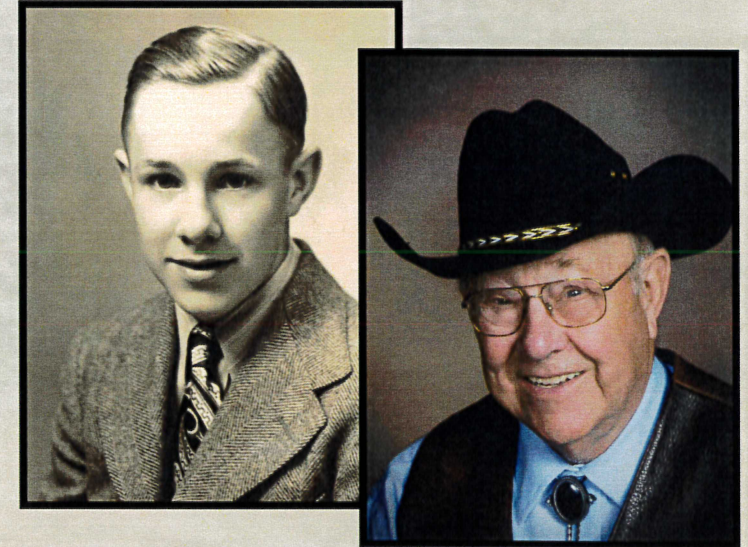
In addition to farming Gerald and Idell started Nelson's Ranch Supply in 1972 selling cattle equipment. The business grew over the years but after 20 years Nelson's Ranch Supply closed to allow more time for travel. Also in retirement Gerald enjoyed restoring over 20 antique farm tractors.

While still in high school, Gerry started a lifelong hobby of photography. The pictures he took are enjoyed and treasured by family and friends.

Gerry was active in various church and community organizations. Gerald served on the state board of directors for both the North Dakota Farm Bureau and Nodak Mutual Insurance Company from 1973 to 1980.

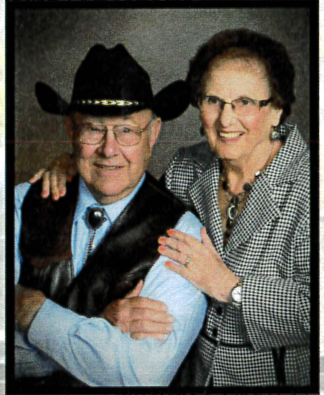
Together, Gerry and Idell enjoyed and helped their children and grandchildren. They frequently went south for part of the winter, often to Deming, NM and then to South Padre Island, TX.

Gerry is preceded in death by his wife, Idell Nelson; his parents, Arthur C. and Mabel Nelson; and sisters and brothers-in-law Phyllis and Leslie Thorland and Arlene and Wesley Wold. Left behind to treasure his memory are his children, Cindy (Wayne) Sorenson of Williston, Craig (Julie) Nelson of Watford City, Kevin (Julie) Nelson of Milton, GA; grandchildren, Jeffrey Sorenson, Brent Sorenson, Philip Sorenson, Adam (Jalyssa) Sorenson, Meghan (Jamie) Jellesed, Heather (Eric) Kwan, Janelle (Cody) Ceynar, Owen Nelson and Gavin Nelson; great grandchildren, Mary Rolfson, Asia and Alex Dutke, Restan and Emrys Sorenson, Elin and Benjamin Kwan, Aksel, Demi, Odin, and Henry Jellesed.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GERALD L. NELSON
"GERRY"

OCTOBER 8, 1929 - AUGUST 4, 2022



IN LOVING MEMORY OF GERRY L. NELSON

Born to Arthur C. & Mabel Nelson
October 8, 1929 ~ Watford City, North Dakota

Returned to His Heavenly Father
August 4, 2022 ~ Watford City, North Dakota

Visitation

Saturday, August 20, 2022
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home Chapel
Watford City, North Dakota
Family Service at 2:00 PM

Funeral Service

Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 2:00 PM
Living Faith Church
Watford City, North Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Roger Olson

Music

Caroline Schwartz

Pallbearers

Jeff Sorenson	Brent Sorenson
Phil Sorenson	Adam Sorenson
Heather Kwan	Janelle Ceynar
Owen Nelson	Gavin Nelson

Final Resting Place

Schafer Cemetery
Watford City, North Dakota

Arrangements By

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Watford City, ND