

TERESA NELSON

(Written text and photograph provided by William John Krause II). **Theresa Nelson** was born on September 21, 1968, in Glasgow, Montana, and was the youngest daughter of Floyd C. and Deanna (O'Neil) Nelson, Jr.. Theresa was active in the Tampico 4-H program when she lived in Glasgow. Theresa Nelson graduated from Glasgow High School, Glasgow, Montana, in 1987. Following graduation Theresa entered a radiology training program and then lived in Helena, Montana, where she was the chief Radiation Therapist at St. Peters Hospital Cancer Treatment Center. Theresa's love of working with horses continued from childhood and her involvement in the Tampico 4-H program. In 2010 Theresa Nelson was elected president of the Montana Cutting Horse Association. The last known address of Theresa Nelson was Billings, Montana.



Theresa Nelson. Glasgow High School graduation photograph. Glasgow, Montana. Date: 1987.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL



The brand used by Theresa Nelson. The brand was hung on the corral in front of the grandstand at the Glasgow Fairgrounds, Glasgow, Montana. June, 2010.

Bertha Stensland Nelson

Grandma's Hands



By Theresa Nelson

Bertha Stensland Nelson's hands were small and delicate at birth in 1911. After 75 years of hard, but good, Montana living, her hands have grown extremely wrinkled, but still very strong. My grandma started to work with her hands while doing her main childhood chore: milking. Now, if a person hasn't milked a cow before, he doesn't truly understand what it entails. Squeezing and pulling at the same time, while trying to deflect Old Buttercup's stinging hoof isn't any easy job. Grandma was a milkmaid from when she was "knee high to a grasshopper" until after she finished her eight years of schooling, and her Normal Teaching Certificate training. You see, my grandmother has very special hands. Quite a story can be read in their callouses and lines. Years of work and worry have left their mark behind, but also enclosed in them is a unique love for giving.

Grandma has lived in the same area of Valley County for her whole life. Her parents' homestead can be seen from the ranch that she has resided on for the last 51 years. She has always been surrounded by the land that she loves and the big blue sky that covers her. Although her trips are few and far between, Grandma enjoys traveling. When we finally convince her to take a trip, which isn't a simple task, she won't stay long, and she wishes she were already back before she has even left. As Grandma put it, "I enjoyed all of my trips, and the places were awful pretty, but still, home is Montana."

When I picture Grandma's hands, I see them folded silently in prayer, and how they hold my grandpa tight with a love that's rare. Although she tries to get to church as often as she can, sometimes she has to settle for listening to the service on the radio. But, no matter what she is doing, she will stop and bow her head to repeat the words of the Lord's Prayer with the congregation. Second only to her love of God is her love for her husband. Her plain silver wedding band represents her marriage, nothing fancy just plain love, and has sat permanently on Grandma's ring finger for the last 53 years.

Rarely do we come across someone in today's world who has made a virtual career of voluntary service to young people. Bertha Stensland Nelson is one of those rare individuals. To give oneself for the benefit of others is the richest kind of giving, and Grandma has sacrificed unselfishly to do just that. Grandma has been a volunteer 4-H leader for 41 years. She has touched the lives of two generations of Valley County residents, and through her leadership abilities has instilled in them a respect for hard work, for the land, and their own talents. Grandma has always possessed that special way with children of all ages. For example, she has always shown consideration to the members of our club, treating each as a very important person during the years when children need this so much. While her major efforts

have been directed toward the Tampico Boys 4-H Club and to Valley County, the citizens of the entire state and even the nation, through her 4-H alumni, have felt the impact of her guiding hand, warmth and leadership upon the many young people that have been her club members. It's people like Grandma who give meaning to the word "dedication." Although she has been honored by many people, among them Governor Schwinden and President Reagan, her real reward comes to her in the love and gratitude of all of us who have been, and continue to be blessed by her example of unselfish service. Perhaps as we grow older, the service she has given the 4-H program will be forgotten, but no one who has known her will ever forget the love in Grandma's hands.

The last stanza of Norma B. Ashby's poem "Montana Woman" sums up Bertha Stensland Nelson very well.

The Montana Woman gives generously of her time to volunteer service.

She works constantly for the betterment of her community and her state.

She's religious in her attitudes and is grateful for her faith in giving her the foundation to meet the challenges of her daily life.

Adventurous in spirit, constantly seeking new experiences, she loves to travel, always happy to return to her Montana home.

Kind, friendly, hospitable, fun-loving, devoted to her state and its people, the Montana Woman has been special from the beginning of our state and she still is today.

Representative Ron Marlenee has called my grandma a "Valley County living legend." A living legend, I'm not sure, but I am sure that I love her, and if I could do things over, I'd live my life again, and never take for granted the love in Grandma's every-giving hands.

In *Grandma's Hands* was written by Theresa Nelson in honor of her grandmother, Bertha (Stensland) Nelson. This document was also Published in a 2000 document entitled "**Stensland Family Reunion Book**". (Courtesy of the Valley County Historical Society, Glasgow, Montana.)

BEVERLY ANN (NELSON) PEDERSON

The family of **Beverly Ann (Nelson) Pederson** formally requested that a written segment on their immediate family not be published. These wishes are being respected.