

Remembering Newfolden Businesses



Looking east from the roof of the Bovey Shute Lumber Company. The Newfolden Post Office is the largest building at the center left.

Changing Times

Businesses change with time due to the needs of the community. The merchants that emerged during Newfolden's early development reflected the basic needs that were required for establishing homesteads and farms. Horses and oxen were also very important to the first Europeans that came to New Folden Township. It follows that some of the first businesses were a blacksmith and livery.

As the homesteaders became more established, there were opportunities to buy, sell and barter goods. It provided an excellent setting for young entrepreneurs to establish more businesses. One of the greatest influences of development was the arrival of the railroad in 1904. The construction brought workers who needed food and shelter. Their presence created a demand for hotels and other merchants who could provide goods and service to men along the stretches of railroad where they worked. By 1914 there were at least fourteen businesses in Newfolden, including restaurants, three hotels, a bank, a meat market and a lumber mill.

Today the businesses of Newfolden provide goods and services for farmers, residents and tourists. Throughout the town's history, there have been country stores, grain elevators, banks, restaurants, hardware stores, implements, and others that have been an integral part of a strong community and a part of a wonderful place to live.



Gas station built 1935. The building in the background is the Newfolden Creamery that was built in 1906.



Above: Newfolden street looking west. Note the railroad tracks in the foreground and the blacksmith shop on the left. Circa 1910s. Left: Tonnes Nelson and his oxen. Circa 1912.

"They built large barns and bought horses to do delivery business. That is, they would take passengers in buggies drawn by spirited horses for a given rate per day or hour...It was not an uncommon sight on Sunday to see a father hire a team and double-seated buggy and take the family for a ride for a day's visit with relatives and friends."

Excerpt from Cherishing the Past Challenging the Future, The Newfolden Centennial, 2004.



The Grimstad Meat Market and Flour and Feed Store in 1906.



The coming of the railroad in 1904 was the most important factor that turned Newfolden into a boom town in the early 1900s. Inland Newfolden was south of its present location, but when the Soo Line Railroad decided to build a depot near the Middle River, the town was moved from Inland Newfolden to its present location.



Exterior (above left) and interior (above) of Hoberg Store. Circa 1905.



Left: The N.O.. Finnestad family owned and operated the Hotel Central, Newfolden, Minnesota. It was also known as the N. O. Finnestad hotel. The hotel later became apartments. Circa 1900s.



Lining up for milk delivery at the Newfolden creamery that was built in 1906.

Information and photographs for these panels have been provided by the following sources: The City of Newfolden *History of a School From Manor (1884) to Marshall County Central (2004)* by Philip Dyrud and Ronald Ueland. *A Scandinavian Saga: Pioneering in New Folden Township, Marshall County, Minnesota 1882-1905* by John R. Tunheim