

# Early Entrepreneurs



*D. B. Bakke helps a customer at his store when it was located at Inland Newfolden before it was moved to the present site of Newfolden.*



*Ole Lee Country Store and Post Office.*

Businesses sprang up as settlers moved to New Folden Township. Country stores were a great convenience, as they provided for daily necessities and an outlet for eggs, butter and milk which were bartered for other groceries.

## The Ole Lee Country Store

Ole O. Lee established the first store in 1884 on his farm where he also ran the Humboldt Post Office. Mr. Lee butchered one of his oxen, and sold the meat for a profit of \$30. With this, Lee bought what he needed for his own home, and with the remainder purchased yeast, sugar, salt, tobacco, and matches to be sold to other settlers.

*"It was in 1884 that my brother-in-law, Sven Svenson came to be my partner in the store. As I was doing farming besides looking after the store and post office there was enough work for two men. At first we kept the store and post office in the homestead shanty, but in 1885 a log cabin was built to serve as store and post office." Ole O. Lee.*



*The barbershop. The exact location is unknown, but this is probably in Nordrum's Store. Circa 1912.*

The store became known as the Humboldt Prairie Store. The store was popular and profitable, and the young merchants built a new larger store in 1890. Lee's store remained profitable until the early 1900s when other stores offered competition.



*At its new location in Newfolden, the B. J. Bakke Confectionery, soft Drinks, and Drug Store in 1905.*

## Bakke Store

Dyre B. Bakke came to the New Folden area in about 1887. Bakke built a small grocery store near his home in Section 22 of New Folden Township. The store was popular and grew to include dry goods, medicines, clothing and tools. Bakke also built a flour mill, and a small stone building that was used to store large quantities of butter and eggs until they could be transported to markets in Argyle.

In 1895 the Humboldt Post Office was moved into the Bakke Store. This attracted additional customers. In 1902 Bakke sold the store to his son Bertil and Jens Haug. They later sold the business to Harry Hoberg and Mr. Erickson (Hoberg's uncle).

The name was changed to the Hoberg & Erickson Store until 1904 when it was moved from Inland New Folden two miles north to the new railroad village of Newfolden. The store burned in January 1911, and was never rebuilt.



*Bertil Bakke built these two buildings in 1904. On the right was the Confectionery and Drug Store. Later it became the Ole Tvedt Grocery. In 1915 Nordrum's became the Smeby Aasen Hardware; later Clays Place. The buildings were demolished. On the left was Nordrum's Store which had a barber, cafe' and miscellaneous merchandise. Circa 1911.*



*Another early entrepreneur was Ole Kleppe, pictured on left with his family. The Kleppe Store (above) operated until 1916 when the business was purchased by the Anderson Brothers. Kleppe was appointed Newfolden's postmaster. In 1928 he was killed in a hit-and-run accident. Circa 1910s.*

