

The Newfolden Elevators

A Community Necessity

Wheat, oats and barley were the most common grain crops grown in the area. Elevators were instrumental in providing a central location where farmers could bring their grain and store it until it could be transported to markets in larger cities. In addition, the elevators sold coal, fertilizers, seeds, animal feed, pesticides and herbicides. The elevators were also equipped to clean the grain, which was a major convenience for the farmers. Grain elevators were constructed along transportation routes. In Newfolden the Soo Line Railroad was a major transportation artery between Minneapolis and Winnipeg. Construction of the elevator coincided with the arrival of the railroad.



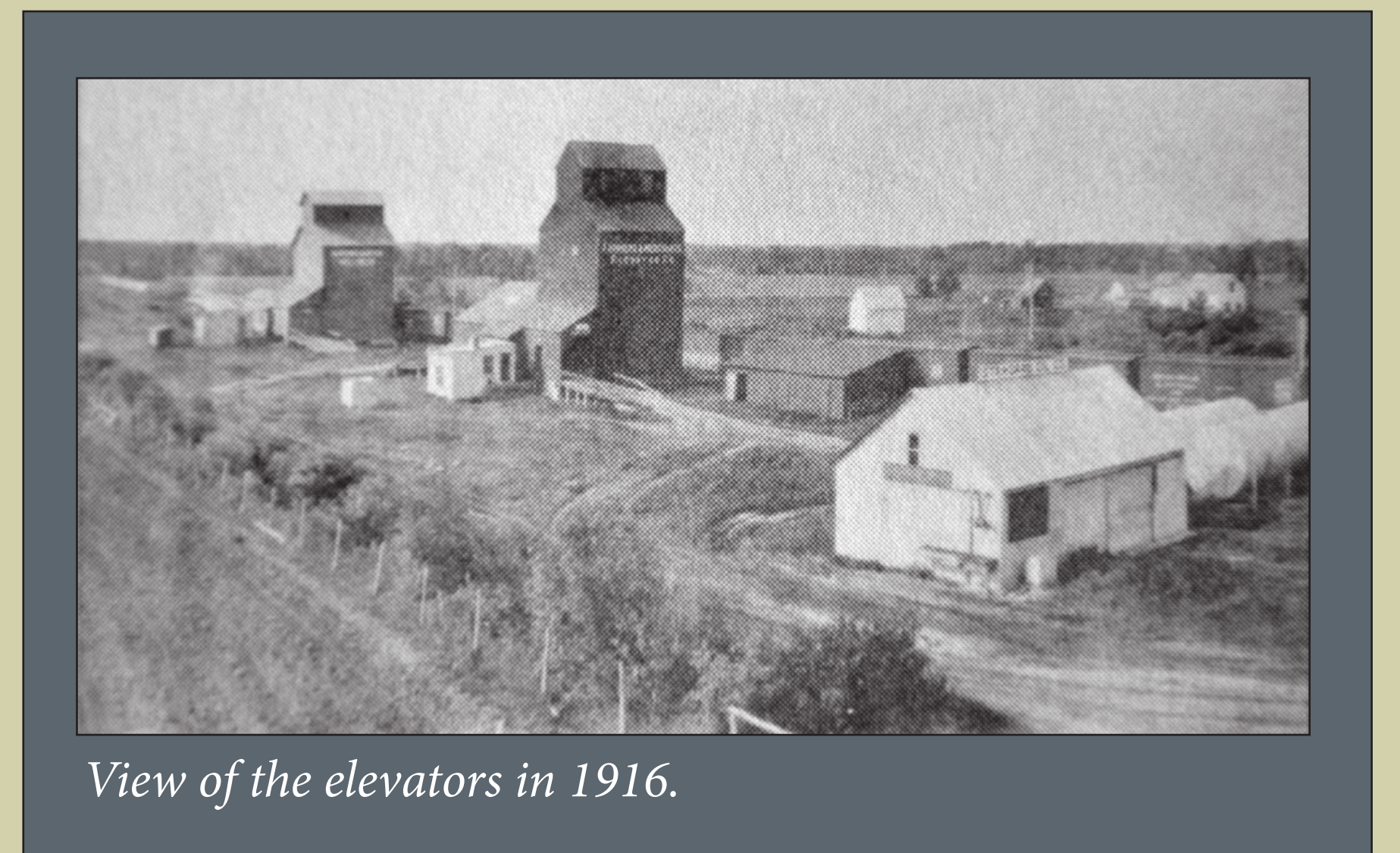
New elevator under construction in the 1950s.

Newfolden Grain Elevators

The Prairie Elevator was Newfolden's first grain elevator. Built in 1904, Albert Hole was the manager. Later the elevator became known as the Farmers Cooperative Elevator (Farmers & Merchants Elevator Co.). Julius Strombo was manager for a time, followed by Axel Anderson who was manager between 1918 and 1953.

By 1905 Newfolden was growing quickly, and included at least fourteen businesses, including a second grain elevator, Hanson and Barzen. The Hanson Barzen Elevator was built adjacent to the Prairie Elevator.

A devastating fire destroyed the elevator on January 12, 1972. The fire likely started in the office area. A fire siren sounded on the outside of the building, but the fire was not reported until Ray Chapman, an employee, arrived at the scene. By 1975 a new, larger elevator had been constructed.



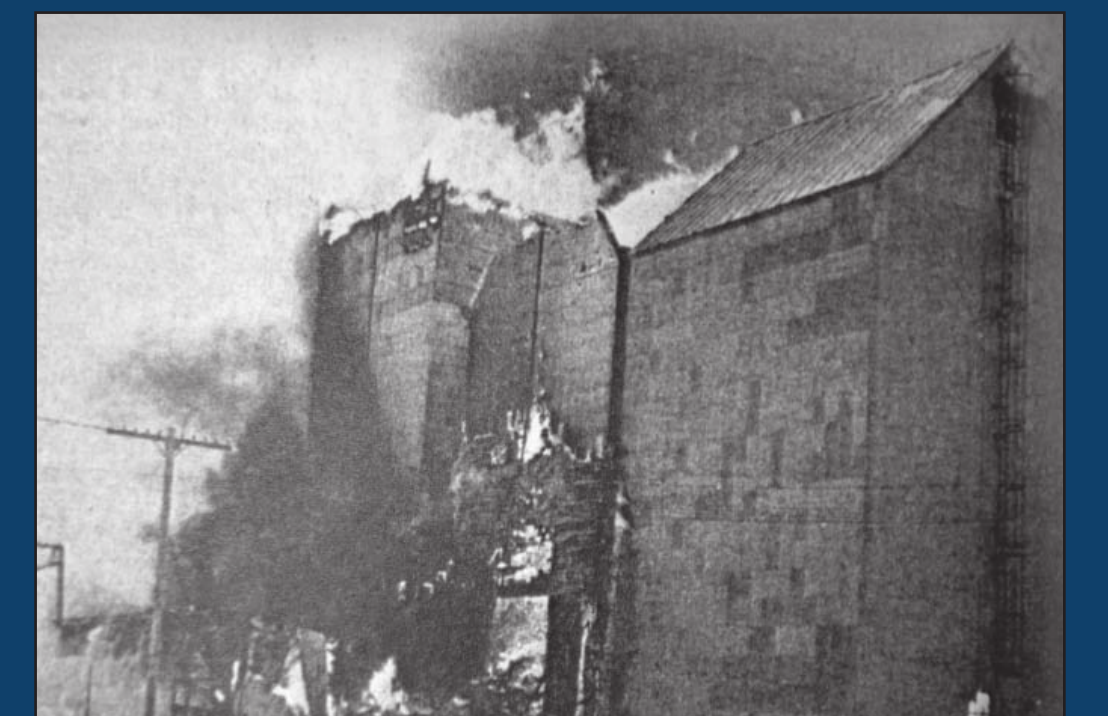
View of the elevators in 1916.



Looking south at the Farmers & Merchants and the Hanson & Barzen Elevators. Circa 1912.



The depot and grain elevators. Circa 1906.



The fire in 1972 was thought to have started in the office area.