

On June 2, 1959 the directors of the company adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of the telephone business. On October 14, 1959 the company sold to the Wickstrom Telephone Co. of Karlstad, Minn. The purchaser assumed operation on January 1, 1960. The dial system went into operation March 30, 1962.

Many men served faithfully as board members and officers of the Newfolden Central Telephone Co. Some of them were O.L. Brekkestan, S.A. Dahl, A.S. Rokke, Olger Rokke, and Abel Anderson who had the distinction of serving as pres. for 36 years. Others who served were Alfred Johnson, Ole E. Hjelle, Ole Kleppe, H. Algaard, H.C. Haugen who served as secretary for 33 years.

#### Marshall County Mutual Insurance Company

The early settlers of Central Marshall County were aware of the fact that they had no fire protection. A.S. Rokke commissioner, and Amund Johnson and Martin Schie decided to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing an insurance company. Since the promoters were Norwegian and Swedish they resolved to organize for Scandinavians only. The meetings of incorporation was held in Fpldahl June 30, 1900. Among those present were the following Newfolden men: Edward Haarstad, A.S. Rokke, O.P. Dyrud, J.M. Schei, Martin Soberg, Adohp Gillumd, Ole H. Lee, Ole E. Bjornrud, Nels Skaaraas, O.P. Dyrud. The minutes of the first meetings were written in Norwegian and even the policies were made out in Norwegian. The minutes of one of the first meetings records that a motion was made that the men present would each donate five cents for the purchase of a notebook and paper for the secretary. Small beginnings! But the company grew!

In 1930 the by-laws of the company were amended so that property otherwise eligible could be insured no matter what the nationality of the owners. The company has grown to become one of the large community mutuals in the state of MN. In the 30's the Insurance Co. purchased the former Peoples State Bank in Newfolden for its headquarters. Now policies are issued not only for fire but for package policies as well.

J. M. Schie served as the first president, O. P. Dyrud as the first secretary, and Brede Svenden served as treasurer from 1903 to 1933.

#### Professional Service

Professional services by medical men, dentists, and attorneys are needed in every community but small centers find it difficult to obtain such services. During the first years of Newfoldens history, transportation was slow and a trip to Thief River Falls or Warren was a major undertaking. To overcome this obstacle medical men from Thief River Falls were encouraged to set up office hours in Newfolden once a week. Dr. Bockman, physician, and his co-worker Dr. Schaeleben and Dr. Booren, dentist, came on the early morning passenger train and returned on the evening flyer. The office was rented at the assembly hall of the Kleppe Store. The last entry in the Kleppe's record concerning Dr. Bockman was made July 1907 where it is recorded that Dr. Bockman paid five dollars rent.

When the services of the Thief River Falls doctors terminated Dr. Corrigan, physician, came to Newfolden and set up his practice on the second floor of the Soberg Restaurant. No records have been found on how long he stayed but presumably Dr. Corrigan left before 1910.

In 1910 Dr. George Luther Johnson of Cannon Falls, MN came to Newfolden and began his medical practice. He was a graduate of the medical school at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During World War I he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the war he continued to serve on the Medical Reserve subject to call. Dr. Johnson entered into the political and civic life of the community and for several years served as mayor of the village. He was a representative from Marshall County in the Minnesota legislature for two terms. He spent a life time giving service to the people of Newfolden and its larger

community he was a dedicated country doctor. Countless number of persons appreciate his many kindnesses. He was interested in the welfare and the progress of the community. He died at his home in Newfolden in 1945.

Dr. Spofford, optometrist, came through Newfolden periodically as a traveling specialist. Many a Newfoldenite wore spectacles purchased from him. He traveled by car and a house trailer in which he had his office.

Newfolden has never had a resident attorney but E. M. Evans who lived northeast of Newfolden was an attorney and many people went out to his farm to seek legal advice. Mr. Johanneson of the Newfolden Implement Co. had law training and occasionally gave legal service. In more recent years Mr. J. Kruta comes to Newfolden once a week to his office in Rose's Cafe.

An itinerant dentist, Dr. Turley, came at stated times to all the small villages in this area. No data are available but hear say has it that he obligingly filled a tooth cavity for 75 cents and he advertised in the Newfolden Review that gold crowns could be made for from five to seven dollars.

#### Mail Service

Before 1904 mail came to central Marshall County via Star Route from Argyle supplying small Post Offices such as West Valley, Fodvang, Klep, Humboldt, Loveid, Baltic, Ingalls, Jvne, Rockstad, Newfolden in the inland town of Newfolden township, Opdahl. Some of those who hauled mail on the star route from Argyle were Ole Tvedt, J. O. Strombo, Olaf Nelson, John Windahl and Olaf Anderson. The post office in the village of Newfolden had its origin as the Humboldt post office at the Ole Lee farm started in 1884. In 1896 the Humboldt post office was moved to the D. B. Bakke store in the central part of Newfolden township and was renamed Newfolden. In 1904 the post office was moved to the village of Newfolden with Harry Hoberg as postmaster.

Postmasters at the Newfolden Village have been:

Harry Hoberg 1904-1905, John Hoberg 1905-1906  
J. O. Strombo 1907-1914, Ben Johnson 1915-1916  
Ole Kleppe 1916-1928, Martha Kleppe 1928-1934  
C. H. Cook 1934-1967, Harvey Stokke 1967-

In the early history of the village the money order business was slight but when rural delivery came in 1913 the mail order houses capitalized on selling by mail and the parcel post business increased considerably. The fee for a two fifty dollar money order or less was three cents. Beginning with the depression the postal department provided a means whereby people could buy postal savings certificates. The Newfolden post office handled thousands of dollars annually.

The first rural route mail service in Newfolden was route one with John Lokken as carrier. Later John Dyrud became the carrier on that route till his death.

Orville Larson now serves that route. A second rural route was established in 1913 with H. C. Haugen as carrier. After serving for fifty years he retired in 1963. He was succeeded by Ray Holmstrom.

In 1905 a rural star route delivered to Jerve and Ingalls but was finally merged with rural free delivery of neighboring towns.

#### Soo Line

The coming of the railroad was the making of the village of Newfolden. A few items of interest have been gleaned but the files of the Soo Line must have a wealth of data concerning the operation of trains through Newfolden.

Construction of the railroad began in the summer of 1904 when crews of workmen laid the gleaming rails through the countryside from Thief River Falls Northward to Winnipeg. Gravel trains were followed by freight trains and finally on

November 21, 1904 came the first trial run of the Winni-peg flyer. The United States mail was hauled by the Soo Line for many decades. The Soo Line has always provided living quarters for its depot agents on the second floor of the depot. Julius Field was depot agent from 1904 to 1907. Then Mr. Heinecke 1907-1908. Then Ed Haulotte from 1908-1914. Others were Mr. Inman, Tracy Ferris, Peter Bauer 1929-1941. Dates are not available for Mr. Huset, P. M. Johnson, George Holmen. The latter left Newfolden in 1947 to serve at the Warren depot. Since that time Mr. Mercil has faithfully and ably served the community.

In connection with the Soo Line there has been telegraph service. This service was reduced so that the telegraph handled only the dispatching of trains.

The Soo Line maintained for many years a section house built a quarter of a mile to the north of the depot. The first section boss was Mr. Rogers. The crew of men needed to maintain the road bed in good condition was at first a large one and Mr. Rogers boarded them at the action house. Section men at that time received fifteen cents per hour with a ten hour day. Nels Gibson succeeded Rogers as section boss. During his stay, the section house burned down but the Soo Line rebuilt it. Henry Kaak followed Gibson and after him came steiner Blinsmon. His son Oscar has furnished this information. Oscar worked on the section for many years and he saw the change from a hand operated section car to one run by power. John Doran was chief of the section gang for many years. Now the foreman does not operate from Newfolden. George Lindbeck was one who for many years was employed to transport U. S. mail pouches to and from the depot to the post office morning and night.

Albin Holmgren of Thief River Falls has supplied the following information. His father, John Holmgren, worked

with J. A. Berg, Soo Line foreman, to build the railroad bridge south of town. Albin worked with August Carlson on the Newfolden section for a time.

### Historical Information

The area of Newfolden as well as all of Marshall County was once upon a time claimed by great Britain and later by France. When the Louisiana Purchase was made in 1803 France ceded a huge area and what is now Minnesota became a part of the U. S. Boundary disputes with Great Britain continued till 1818 when a treaty settled the northern boundary as it now is along the 49th parallel north latitude, Rainy River, and Lake of the Woods projection. Previous to the time before man knew this continent all of northern Minnesota was a part of Lake Agassiz. In 1849 all the area from the Missouri River to the present boundary of Iowa and Lake Superior to the east was made a territory and governed from Washinton, D.C. by a governor who lived in St. Paul. From 1848 to 1858 changes were made in the territory boundary and in 1858 Minnesota was made the 32nd state in the Union with boundaries as they are at present.

### The village of Newfolden

From 1904 to 1916 the village of Newfolden was governed by the township of Newfolden for purposes of taxation, justice of peace, and police force. On March 14, 1916 an election was held in the village to determine if the village should incorporate as a separate unit. The election favored the move and on election was held to elect officers.

President E.M. Wilson

Treasurer H.M. Hanson

Clerk Alfred Johnson

Constable Julius Johnson

Justice of Peace Dr. G.L. Johnson & John H. Johnson