

Meat Markets and the Locker Plant

Here is an enumeration of the men who have operated meat markets in Newfolden. Possibly the order is not correct and maybe some are missing. Iver Grimstad had a small shop on the north side of Minnesota Avenue at first but in 1905 he built a shop west of the present Albert Lokken Insurance Office. The Grimstad used part of the building for living quarters. Mortrud Brothers Melvin and Ned Mortrud operated a meat market. Ole Ophus, John O. Bakke, Willie Larson his shop was on the south side of Minnesota Avenue. Paul Vinje, he had his shop on the north side of Minnesota Avenue. Peter Berg and his wife continued in the meat market business for many years.

The Locker Plant was erected in Newfolden in 1945 at the cost of \$78,000. The Locker Plant is designed to serve the communities of Newfolden, Holt, and Strandquist. Originally it was designed and equipped to handle the entire process from slaughtering, cutting, curing, and sharp freezing. The plant is owned by 380 stockholders and operated by a Board of Directors. The system has 1000 lockers. Ray Elseth was for many, many years the manager.

Sawmills flourished in the early days of Newfolden, In 1907 Jacob Elstad established a sawmill at a site in the south part of the village. Logs were hauled in and sawed as rough lumber. Elstad built a two story dwelling on the site of the apartment house recently remodeled by Hagneback.

Christ Ophus had a sawmill on the east side of the railroad tracks. Some of the men in 1912-1913 went to Kelliher to work in the lumber camps, Iver Farstad, Julius Johnson, Gotfred Olson, Ole Engstrom, Swan Mortrud, Victor Gerdlund, Christ Ophus and many others.

Feedmills were operated by Jacob Elstad, and by Dan and Willie Ostrand.

Lokstad Products Company carries the name of Newfolden to many parts of the United States. The Lokstad factory is located three miles east of the village and gives employment to several people. Various types of rolling pins are manufactured from sugar maple hauled from the New England States. Recipes are included on the wrappers instructing buyers how to make hard tack and lefse.

Blacksmithing was once upon a time important to the community. The service of the blacksmith was needed by farmers for repair of machinery, for sharpening plowshares, and for shoeing horses. To meet the need Affred Shefveland moved from the inland town of Newfolden to the village in 1905. About 1914 he quit his craft and moved to Montana. Henning Peterson succeeded him and served as blacksmith from 1914 to 1947. He sold out to Morris Moen who kept the shop for a few years.

Harness and Show Repair Shops were first started by John A. Hoberg. The next harness maker and shoe repair man was John X Johnson who had his shop on Minnesota Avenue near the Soo Line depot. In the twenties Mr. Tallum began shoe repair work and served well for many years. From 1948 to the early 60's Andrew Holmaas had a shoe repair shop in his son's grocery store.

No licensed plumber lived in the village in the early days but plumbing needs were taken care of by men from out of town.

Electricians were not on the scene in 1904 for there was no electricity available. However, when the first electric plant was purchased a few of the men acquired enough proficiency so that they could handle the plant and do the wiring. It soon became evident that trained men were needed. One such was Einar Johnson and often Hans Olson of Viking was called in. Then came Andy Bakke whose skill is well known.

Wood Choppers may not be a craft but they were in great demand in the early history of the village when wood was the chief fuel. In summer and winter it was a common sight to see Tom Bakke chopping wood.

As a watch repair man Charley Thrush was not too well known but for many years he walked from his modest place south of the village to a small office where he did watch repair, a job he did very skillfully at modest prices. In the early 50's Percy Sorter set up a watch repair shop on the east side of the tracks. Later he moved to an office on Minnesota Avenue.

No Photographer has resided in Newfolden but Mr. Frank Pace, a buttermaker, made photography his hobby. And many interesting historical incidents in Newfolden have been preserved by his photography.

Carpenters and Painters are always needed in communities. During the first decade of Newfolden Reinert Nelson, John Carlson, and his sons Oscar and Willie, Mr. Kringlen, Mr. Moran, and Mr. O. M. Knutson were the carpenters. Mr. Knutson brought his family with him in 1906 and lived here for many years. Mr. Knutson built several of the residences in the village including Mrs. Betsy Hjell's place, the residences occupied by Newell Bergren, and the former Mrs. Sam Lee residence. Mr. Moran built the first modern home in Newfolden for Anders Korstad, the residence now owned by Wallace Johnson. Other carpenters of that early time were Peter Tvedt, Robert Gerdlund, and Alfred Elseth who lived in Newfolden from 1906-1912. Mr. L. P. Slattum built at least two residences, one now occupied by Oscar Hanson and Vernon Swan. Carpenters in the 20's included H. F. Dykeman, Mathias Hanson, Alfred E. Nelson, and S. E. Finnestad who specialized in painting as did his father before him.

Gordon Elseth has since 1965 provided the village and community with a much needed service, that of heating and air conditioning.

The Machining Company is a corporation organized by Charles Doppler, Louis Sagsteun, and Wallace C. Johnson. Five men are employed regularly to produce manufacturing gears which are sold to a Minneapolis concern.

Monument Agent for many years has been Hans Hanson selling for the Crookston Granite Company and others.

The first Beauty Shop in Newfolden was set up by Miss Alice Ohlquist of Badger, Minn. in the early thirties. This was followed by a Beauty shop operated by Mrs. Delores Bakke who employed Mrs. Lysnes for a while. Mrs. Betty Swan has a beauty shop in her home.

Barber Shops have served the community, ever since 1904. The names of all the barbers are not available but some of them were Adolph Sollom, Ben Nelson, P. J. Anderson.

The newest implement business in Newfolden is owned by Mr. Potucek who in 1973 built a large modern building on the site of the former Tonnes Nelson complex.

The Curtis Thompson Greenhouse was a fine addition to the village in 1973.

Cattle Buyers - Many men have rendered valuable services to the farmers of the Newfolden area by buying and selling live stock. Carloads of cattle were shipped to the large centers in South St. Paul. Some reports say that as many as 16 carloads of cattle were shipped by freight weekly. Cattle buyers included Martin Tunheim, P. S. Mortrud, Tonnes Nelson, and Olaf Nelson.

Oscar Sorenson in more recent times did much hauling of cattle by truck to Fargo and other centers.

Livestock Association - In 1919 a shipping association was organized with P. S. Mortrud as manager. Other officers were Melvin Ihle, August Græt, H. Algaard, and Martin Saugen. For many years Otto E. Hjelle and Gunnar Lindquist were employed by the Live Stock Assn. to do the selling in South St. Paul. They accompanied the carloads watching over the live stock enroute by watering and feeding the stock as necessary. The business has ranged from a low of 33 carloads a year to a high of 52 a year.

Hotels and Restaurants - Every center of population must needs have hotels and restaurants. The need for these was great in Newfolden in 1904. Ever since that time able people have been willing to serve the public. We find no written records of all who owned and operated eating places but we'll name the early operators we have known. One restaurant and three hotels were built in the fall of 1904. The O. B. Johnson Hotel was the structure now occupied by the Ray Elseth family. Mrs. Elseth is the daughter of the late O.B. Johnsons. Others who have operated the Johnson hotel are: Frank Pace, Mr. & Mrs. Olaf Green, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Hannah Eide. The B. Stamnes Hotel is the building now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Andy Bakke. The N. O. Finnestad hotel known at the time as Central Hotel is now an apartment house.

Many restaurants have flourished since 1904. Owners included Mr. Foss, Bertil J. Bakke, Mr. Aasen, Mr. & Mrs. Ole Tvedt, the Mortrud Brothers, who called their place the City Cafe. Later ones included Soberg, Van-Tassel, Offerdahl Sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Lousi Farstad, Mr. & Mrs. Pemel Anderson. The Ole Tvedts had a grocery store in connection with their restaurants in the Tonnes Nelson complex. All these people gave good service and prepared favorite foods for their patrons.

Inconveniences were many. There was lack of modern refrigeration and wood and coal burning ranges were used. What heat that produced in the kitchen on warm summer days! Eventually kerosene, gas, and electric ranges replaced the old stoves. Bread was not sold in the grocery stores in the early days so the pastry cooks had to bake all the bread and rolls as well as cookies, pies, and cakes.

What a contrast this presents to the efficient up to date modern cafe operated by Rose Osborne.

Social Activities and Entertainment

Even in pioneer days efforts were made for social get-to-gethers. Quilting parties and sewing bees become family affairs for cooperative work, pleasantries, and exchange of ideas. As early as January fifth, 1905 a meeting was held to organize the Newfolden Total Abstinence Society. Miss Lavina Rokke was the speaker. Officers were elected and plans made for future programs. The minutes of the Society from 1905 to 1907 reveal that meetings were held twice a month. The programs were given by the members and consisted of songs, recitations readings, and debates. On June 25, 1905 A. L. Kleppe of Clearbrook was the guest speaker. Gustav Eide, Temperance speaker from Minneapolis, appeared several times. The society functioned ably and well and served the community as a desirable moral force.

In 1919 Miss Esther Thomas and Miss Elizabeth Rankin, the teachers of the public school, organized a Loyal Temperance Legion which is an auxiliary of the W.C.T.U. According to the minutes the meetings were held in the schoolhouse twice a month. Officers in 1910 were president Ruth Thomas, Vice President, Elizabeth Kleppe Secretary Lars Kleppe, Treasurer Gilbert Lokken, Organist Eva Myhre.