

Housewarmings in the early days were very simple but they reveal neighborliness and Kindness. The first family to receive a house warming was presented with two pieces of furniture.

Bridal Showers were given by the immediate friends of the bride in a home where games and singing provided the entertainment.

Basket Socials were popular forms of entertainment and provided funds for various purposes.

The Overland Walking Club was organized in 1912 under the leadership of Miss Clara Bakke and Miss Martha Kleppe. As can be surmised the group did much hiking and walking. Meetings were held twice a month at various homes and the programs included music, reading, and parlor games. A snap shot taken by Frank Pace at a picnic in May of 1913 shows there were 29 young people present.

Home Talent Plays were not often presented but in the early twenties Miss Lucille Gilbert Directed a play in which local young people participated. In the cast were Luella Tandberg, Olger Green, Hjalmer Haugen, John H. Johnson, Luella, Ruth, and Henry Hanson.

Chautauqua programs came to Newfolden several summers. A large tent was erected in which to make the presentation. One summer in the middle twenties programs were presented afternoons and evenings for four consecutive days. Admission to the evening programs was forty five cents. The programs included lectures, music, and dramatics. The programs were popular and the tents were usually filled to capacity. When the radio and talking movies came on the scene the old chautauqua lost its appeal and disappeared from the countryside.

Political Meetings are too numerous to enumerate. However, it may be proper to make mention of the first one. Langer of North Dakota came to Newfolden to promote the Non-partisan League. Republican representative Selvig once spoke at a political rally in the early thirties.

Red Cross Classes were held during World War I to give first aid training and to encourage the workers to make bandages to send to the hospitals and to knit sweaters, socks, and helmets for the soldiers. Mrs. Bergsman assisted by many dedicated willing women sent large shipments of Red Cross material. Miss Elizabeth Johnson, a Red Cross nurse, came to Newfolden and gave instructions on how to make bandages and hospital shirts.

First Aid and Home Care Course was first offered in the thirties when Mrs. Chester Dahlgren came to Newfolden to teach a class of ten women a course in Home Nursing Care. The course included lectures and demonstrations.

Baseball has always been a popular sport in Newfolden. One of the early teams is remembered for their many victories as they played neighboring towns including Thief River Falls. Members of the team were Oscar Stamnes, Haulotte, Alfred Johnson, John Olson, Carl Sorenson, Peder Tvedt, and Julius Johnson, Ole Tvedt, Iver Lokken. The manager was Julius Strombo.

Other Organizations that have functioned or are now operating are Senior Citizens Club, Junior Modern Woodmen, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls.

Otto Knutson Post Number 427 was granted a charter May 1, 1923 with Elmer Swan as commander. The Legion has complied with directives from the government for conducting military rites for departed veterans.



The Legion also sponsors Memorial Day Services annually and places flags on the graves of departed comrades.

Basketball in the early days of Newfolden was a favorite game. Even in the early twenties before there was a gymnasium in the school young men got together in any assembly place available. A record reveals the names of players and referees in 1920. On December 23, 1920 Bill Lokken was a referee and the players were A. Aasen, Ernest Myhre, Reuben Blewett, B. Johnson, E. Bjornrud, Adolph Ekman. On December 30 the same year the same team played Thief River Falls with Kleppe Lars, as referee.

The Assembly Hall called the Olaf Nelson place was rented out for entertainment purposes. In 1925 Albert Lokken in cooperation with Brummund of Thief River Falls showed still movies at the hall. Olaf Nelson had a popcorn machine and we remember that the first time he tried to use it the machine caught fire. Kerosene was the fuel used.

Public Lectures were given in a series in the thirties to inform people about national affairs. It should be noted here that the radio was not as commonly used then as now and of course TV had not appeared on the scene so the information to the public had to be given by lectures and newspapers. In the thirties J. M. Mork presided at these meetings and led the discussions that usually followed.

Circuses have from time come to the village of Newfolden for one day showings.

Library Services in addition to those in the public schools had an early beginning. Brede Svendson who lived east of town started a collection of books in the nineties. Most of the books were Swedish and Norwegian. He called the collection the Livingston library

and the villagers were happy for the opportunity to make use of the library.

In 1915 the Kleppes arranged for the service by the State Department of Education whereby a case of books could be rented for three months. Choices could be made of types of books wanted whether fiction, history, biography or science. The service was free to the public except that the freight had to be paid for the return of each set to the department.

The Garden Club is a community one but many of the meetings are held in the village. The aim of the club is for the beautification of home surroundings. The club plants and cares for a flower garden near highway 59. This is a worth project and much appreciated by the community.

Wayside Rest Stop on the west side of highway 59 south of the village is supervised and maintained by the village. The mayor, Mr. Ben Nelson has faithfully maintained the place in good conditions. The place is a popular one for picnics and for transients who make it a rest stop.

The Women's Study Club was organized in 1957 and since that time has functioned regularly. The studies have included such topics as biographies, social issues, different countries, and world problems. Every spring the club has sponsored a senior tea for high school graduates.

The Frances Willard Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized November 3, 1938 under the leadership of Alice Mae Stuart. The first W.C.T.U. president was Mrs. Betsy Hjelle, the vice president, Ruth Anderson, Secretary, Elizabeth Haugen, and Treasurer Mrs. Ruth Martin. The Union has down through the years carried out many W.C.T.U. projects such as



poster making contests and oratorical contests. The Union has taken an active interest in community affairs. Mrs. Earl Waterworth is the president of the Union at the present time.

#### From Ox-cart to Jet Plane

At the close of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, few, if any, visualized the amazing changes that would take place by the year 1974. The new methods have taken over so completely that old ways are almost forgotten. It may therefore not be a miss to take an overview of transportation in Newfolden from 1904 to 1974 seventy years.

The story of transportation is the story of man's efforts to move himself and his supplies from place to place ever with greater ease and swifter means. To overcome obstacles of nature has meant hard work because the woodlands and swampy places presented difficulties in the Newfolden area. For instance, the first people who came to see the newly laid out site of the village of Newfolden came along the township road east of the present village. Along that route they found spots in the prairie road which were so low that the farmers had placed saplings and twigs across the trail to keep the vehicles from miring down. These spots were called corduroy roads. Natural elevations such as sandridges became natural trails but the adjacent swampy places were real barriers in wet seasons. A floating bog was especially treacherous and dangerous. Indians who traversed northern Minnesota before the white man came and afterwards, too, laid out trails by foot and pony. White settlers walked great distances in winter by skis. When they could afford to do so they bought oxen or horses. Settlers who came to Newfolden township and neighboring areas arrived by covered wagon in the early eighties.

The first arrivals to the village of Newfolden in the

summer of 1904 came by wagons drawn by horses and all supplies including lumber had to be hauled from Argyle or Thief River Falls. Ox teams owned by Tonnes Nelson and by S. Tunheim were often seen on the streets of Newfolden the first years. It was a common sight to see Hans Korgen drive with one ox before a cart.

After construction of buildings and the people began to buy and sell and barter, there were enterprising young men who saw opportunities for a lively business. 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. Sometimes men would hire team and buggy or sled and do their own driving. Traveling salesmen did this as they arrived on early morning train. After soliciting business from the local merchants they would hire a livery team and drive to other towns returning by night to take the evening passenger train to Thief River Falls or other places along the Soo Line. The first livery barn was built by Gilbert Gilbertson on the sight which is now the Mrs. Ida Hanson residence. Gilbertson built a residence on the adjacent lot to the west where Mrs. Jennie Anderson now resides. On March 1, 1909 Ed Sorenson and his brother Oscar bought the business. Ed has told that for man and team they charged five dollars a day. The Sorensens had two dray teams, a black team and a roan team and the Sorensens did all the draying in the village. In January 1911, the Sorensens sold out to Iver Farstad. Sivert Mortrud and Olaf Nelson were also in the livery and dray business at one time but dates are not available. Their livery barn was on the north side of Minnesota Avenue near the Soo depot.

It was not an uncommon sight on Sundays 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. The same conveyance was used for weddings. According to hearsay a team and a buggy was sometimes hired for