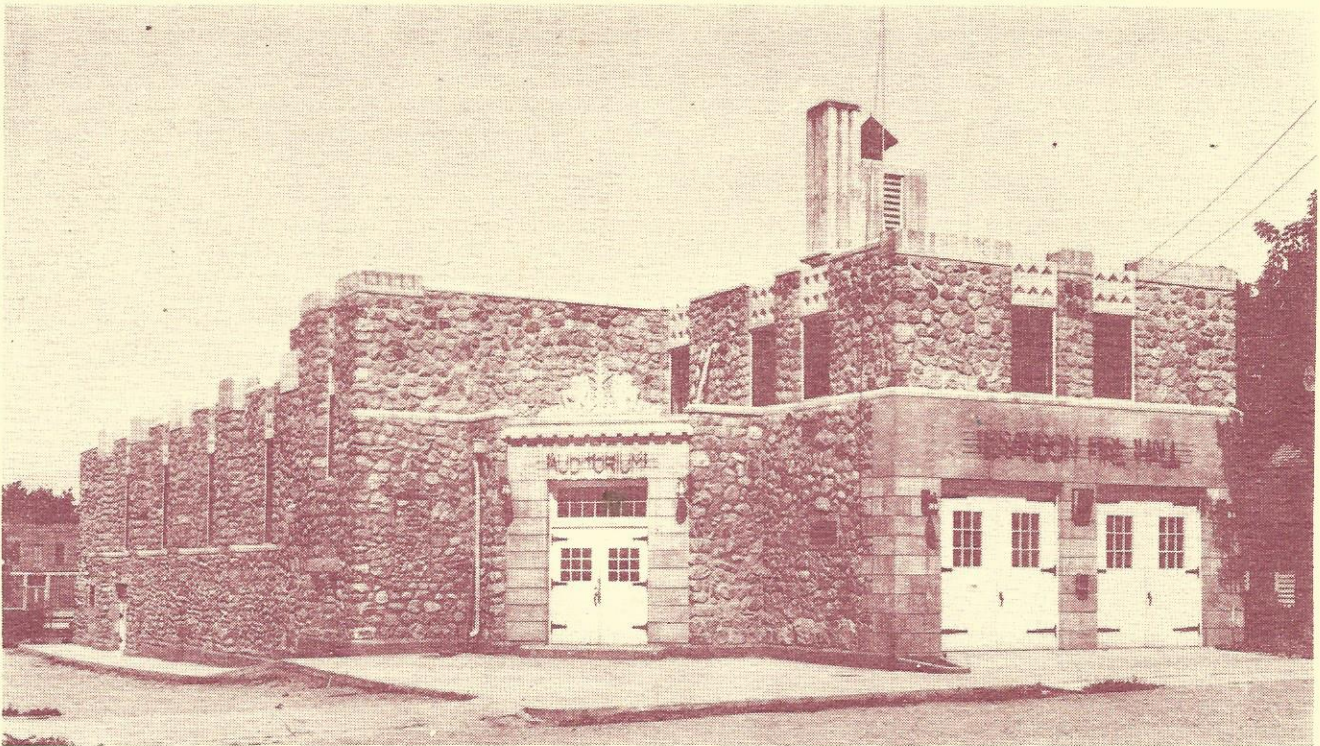

Brandon Centennial



Brandon, Minnesota

1881 - 1981

Acknowledgements

Personal interviews, letters and items from scrapbooks.
The History of Grant and Douglas Counties, by Constant Larson
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The History of Millerville, published by the Klien Co. Store of Millerville, MN
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Historical Committee Co-Chairmen: Elda Sletto
Ethel Berge

A Word to the Reader

It is not intended that this book be a history book, merely a book about history. Should there be an inaccuracy or two, it is our wish that we be forgiven, for everyone's memory depicts a different view.

We wish to thank all who contributed pictures, information, time, copy, ideas and memories toward the publication of this book.

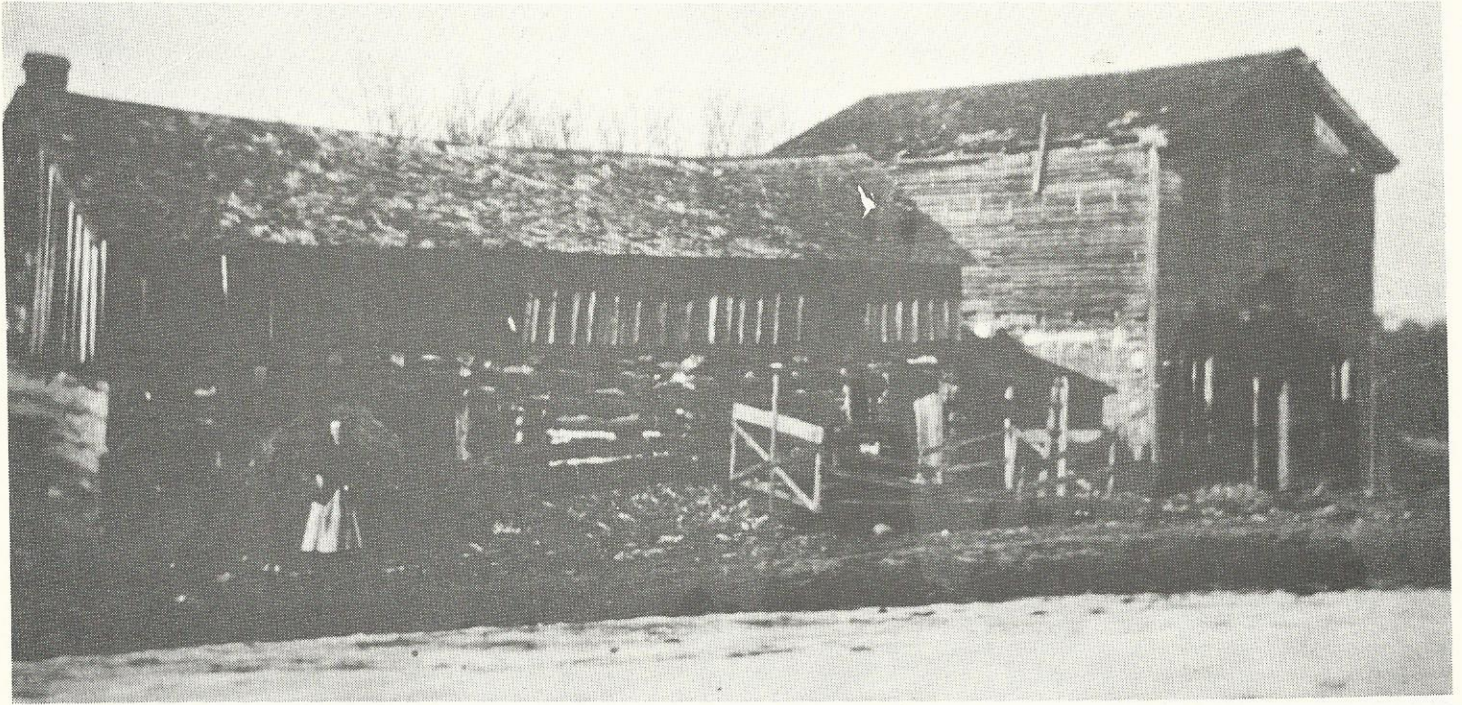
The Committee

Cover Story - See Brandon Auditorium

Printed by the West Douglas Country Record
Evansville, Minnesota

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Early History of Fort Chippewa and Brandon

The first piece of land taken up in Brandon Township was by Henry Gager at about the time the stage route was opened between St. Cloud and Fort Abercrombie which was located near the city of Breckenridge on the North Dakota border. Burbank and Waite, who had the mail contract, induced Gager to open up a stage station and trading post for them. Gager operated this station until 1862 when an Indian outbreak drove him out. In time a stockade was put up at Chippewa and settlers began moving back to the area. Gager named the post Chippewa after the two lakes with the same name, from which the Chippewa River flows southward.

A man named Freudenrich bought the stage station from Gager in 1865. By 1866 there was a hotel which was owned by Freudenrich and a store owned by a Mr. Miller and a Mr. Metz. There was also a blacksmith

shop and barns for the animals of the stage lines, i.e. horses, mules and oxen. Chippewa also had a post office, and a fort that was in service from 1862 - 1866. At times as many as 25 to 30 soldiers were stationed there. Ox trains going through the area sold flour and other supplies to the soldiers.

The land on which the buildings stood was sold by Freudenrich to a Richard Pfeiffer, who in turn sold it to Elias Lund. The property is still in the Lund family. It is now the home of the Dennis Lund family, a grandson of Elias.

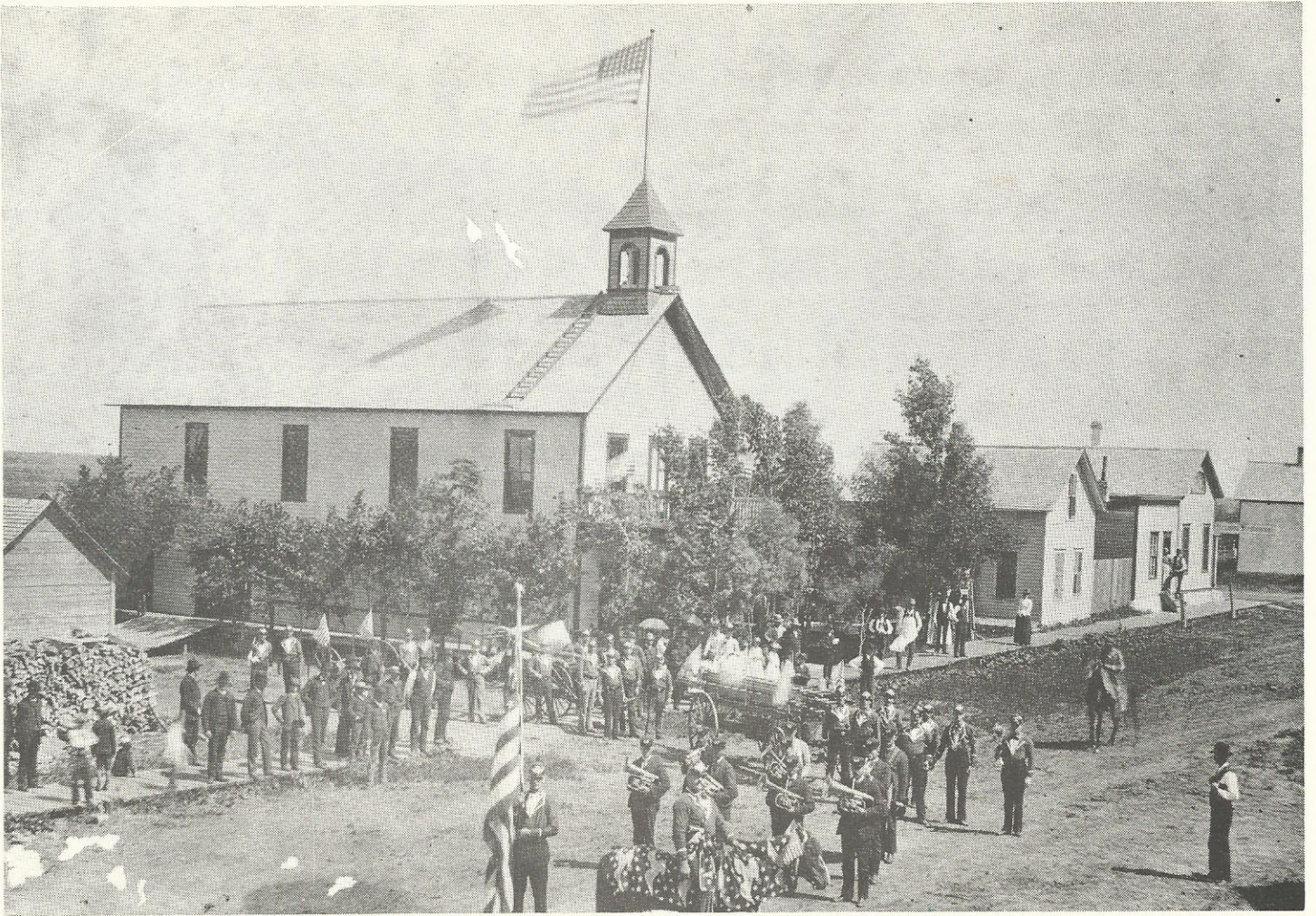
A short distance north of the Lund building site at a fork in the road is the Fort Chippewa Cemetery, now overgrown with trees and brush. The body of a Civil War veteran, John C. Blatt, was exhumed and reburied in the Brandon Community Cemetery.

In the year 1879, the railroad was laid out two miles south of Chippewa.

The town was re-settled nearer the railroad and given the name of Brandon. It was named for Brandon, Vermont, the birthplace of Stephen A. Douglas, for whom the county was named. The proprietress of the new site was Mary Griffin, whose business manager was J. W. Griffin of Minneapolis. Martin Stowe built a large store building and residence on the prairie, soon to be followed by Halvor Engemoen of Holmes City who also built a large store and residence. Emil Larson built a hotel, Pillsbury, Hulbert and David Dows and Co. erected grain houses. Other business interests soon followed.

The village became incorporated by a bill passed by the State Legislature, and signed by the Governor on November 22, 1881. About 1890 a Town Hall was built as a public meeting place and headquarters for the Brandon Fire Department.

Brandon Town Hall



The Brandon Town Hall built 1890

The Brandon Town Hall, built in 1890, had a large auditorium with a raised stage on the east end and two anterooms and stairway on the west end. The main floor consisted of storage for fire fighting equipment, a small jail and a large council room used for smaller gatherings and meetings.

The picture shows the newly formed Fire Department with their ladder wagon, chemical wagon and hose cart, all pulled to fires by manpower.

The Brandon Auditorium now

stands on the site of the original Town Hall.

The first Village Council minutes on record in Brandon date back to August 22, 1884. The meeting was held at the Lumber Yard office. The business at hand was adopting the by-laws of the village. The members of the board were Lorentz Johnson, Emil Larson, O.F. Olson, P.C. Thompson and Jos. Mathiesen. Charles Molden was hired as the Police Constable.

The present "City Fathers" meet in the Council rooms of the Brandon Auditorium. The city business is managed through monthly meetings and kept in order by Terry Ness.

The Centennial year Council consists of: Mayor Myron Severson and Councilmen Skip Brethorst, Lynn Thompson, Dick Pahl, and George Slack. City Maintenance Man is Tony Poltiske.

W.P.A. MURAL



The mural painting in the auditorium and also the wood cut pictures were done under the Federal Arts Program, part of the W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration); A Mr. F.

Boes Pfeifer, W.P.A. Office, Minnesota Building, St. Paul, MN was in charge of this project.

Presently a new fire hall has been

built. The west end of the fire hall has an all purpose meeting room; used also by the Brandon Senior Citizens as a nutrition center.

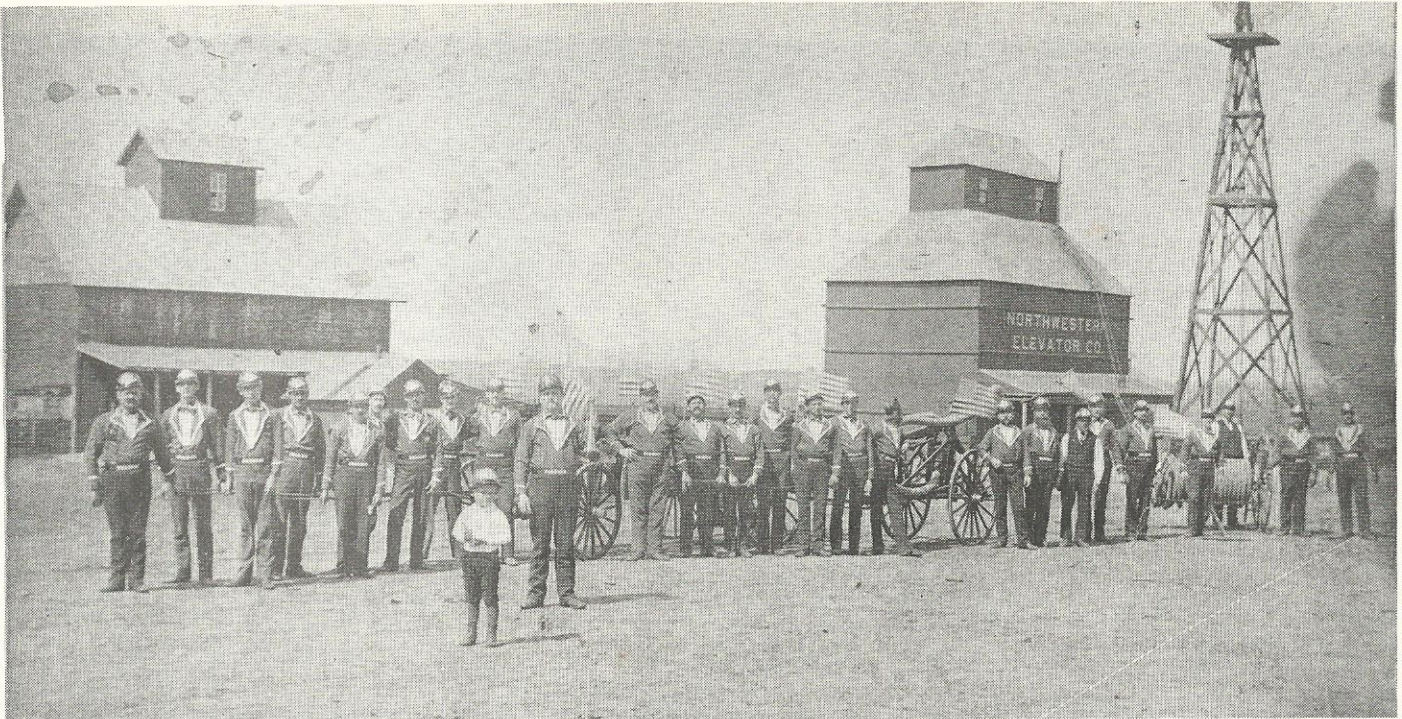
About the Cover

The Brandon Auditorium

The Brandon Auditorium, a W.P.A. project, was built in the middle thirties and completed in 1936. The structure is of native stone from the surrounding area. Employees were men

from the local and surrounding areas. Gust Anderson was foreman and John Knudson the electrician. Later the W.P.A. also rebuilt the sidewalks in the business area and installed the sewer system in Brandon.

Brandon Fire Department - 1890

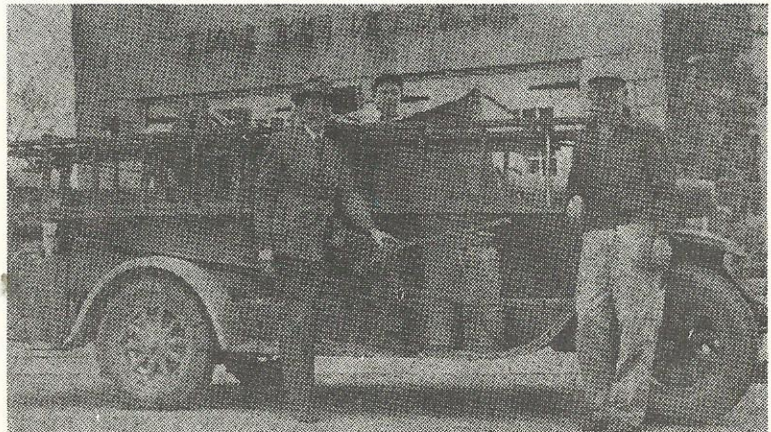


SOME OF THE MEMBERS were: Berndt Tronbol; Lew Williams; Otto Johnson; Pete Bjerken; Jacob Tamble; Andrew

Rosengren; P.J. Seidlinger; E. Senjastad; O.F. Olson



OFFICERS OF BRANDON'S first Fire Department: (Back Row, Left to Right) Berndt Tronbol; Jacob Tamble; Prosper Seidlinger (Front Row) Dr. Van Cappelan; O.F. Olson, Chief



W.H. HOVING, Oscar Pladson and Fire Chief, Albert Holmgren are shown with the International fire truck which has served the department for 21 years.

1889 Fire Department

Officers

Jacob Tamble, Chief; T.H. Hanson, Assistant Chief; Theo. F. Olson, Secretary; P.P. Bjerken, Treasurer; C.W. Meckstroth, Foreman of Hose Co.; John Hammergren, Assistant Foreman of Hose Co.; C. Hentges, Foreman of Hook and Ladder Co.; Carl Olson, Assistant Foreman of Hook and Ladder Co.

Active Members

Jacob Tamble, Thos. Brusegaard, P.J.

Seidlinger, P.P. Bjerkon, W. Werner, B.T. Teigen, T.G. Winkjer, F.W. Ruppelius, F.H. Hanson, C.M. Borgan, C. Hentges, Theo F. Olson, J.C. Metcalf, S. Dickinson, F.H. Nootnagel, Gust Carlson, H.N. Nootnagel, N. Kronberg, C.W. Meckstroth, C.G. Rosengren, Chr. Olson, O. Syverson, Theo. F. Damask, Carl Brusegard, M.J. Schirber, J. Johanson, Jno. Hammergren, P. Undlin, Ed. Nelson, Geo. Beernink, Ed. Johnson, C. Thoennes, Arthur Olson, Chr. Colberg, J.M. Stariha



In 1950 after 10 years and 200 dances, the Brandon Fire Department realized a dream of owning a new 1949 Ford truck completely equipped with hose, ladders, chemical extinguishers, a booster pump and gas masks.

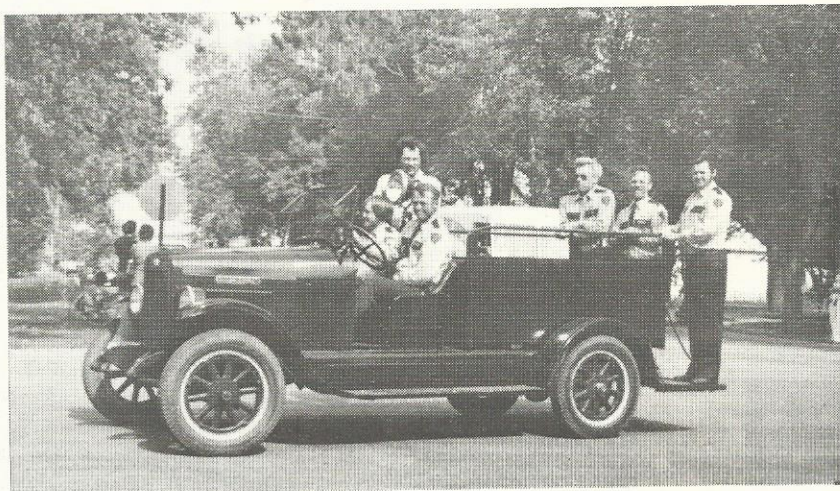
The dances had brought in \$5,070 - just enough to cover the inflated purchase price of a new Ford fire truck. This truck was just sold to a fellow from Albert Lea.

BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

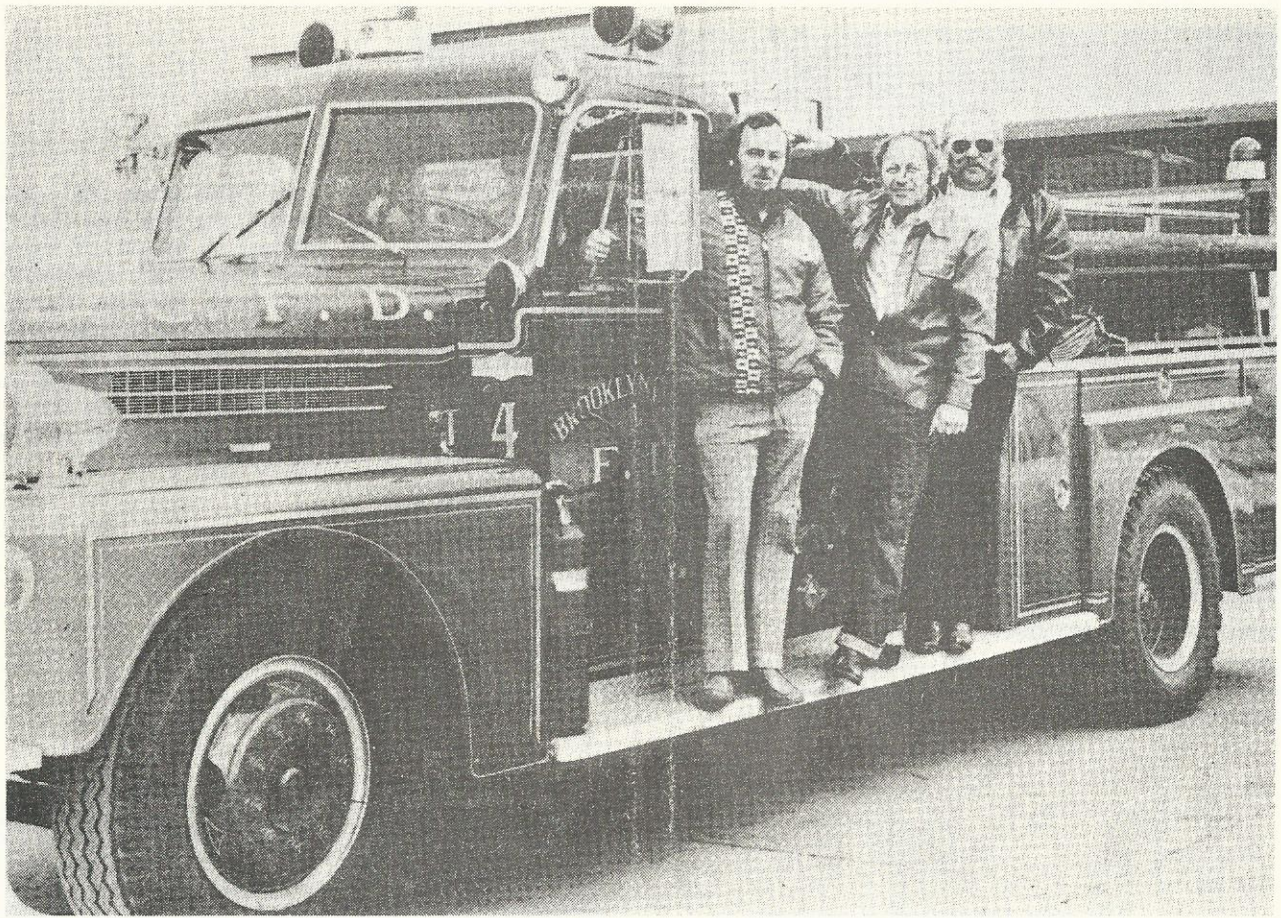
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE in 1953 — Albert Holgren; Freeman Olson; Clif Augdahl; Clarence Anderson; Henry Lanners; Dick Anderson; Mike Wettstein; August Lehn; Louie Kappahn

The new John Bean truck came to Brandon in the summer of 1968 when Orv Schjei and Nate Tolifson brought it here from Indiana.

The truck cost \$15,000, featured original high pressure fog, and operated on a limited amount of water.



The 1928 International had been a trusted and faithful servant for many years. It has been restored by the Brandon firemen and has a special stall in the new fire barn.



OLD NUMBER 4

In the summer of 1980, Dave Thompson, Frank McFarlane, Orv Schjei and Dan Rusch drove to Brooklyn Center to pick up a 1956 Pirsch

fire truck that they purchased from the Brooklyn Center Fire Department. They were as excited as children with a new toy admiring the truck that pumps

750 gallons of water a minute.

'Old Number 4' has character and is a big asset to Brandon's fleet of firefighting equipment.



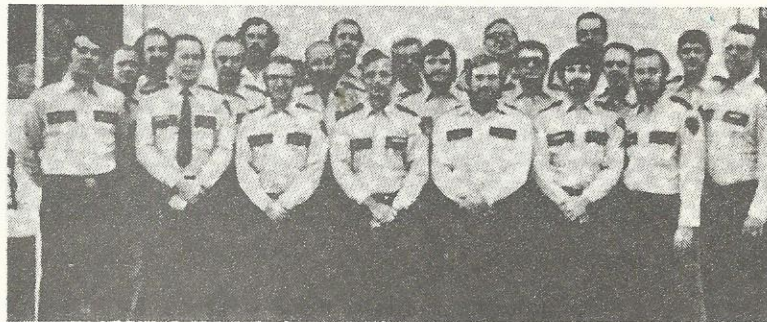
GRASS FIRE TRUCK





IN FRONT of the new fire barn: (Left to Right) fire equipment van, John Bean, Max Pumper, Pirsch No. 4, tanker,

grass rig and the 1928 International retired Mascot.

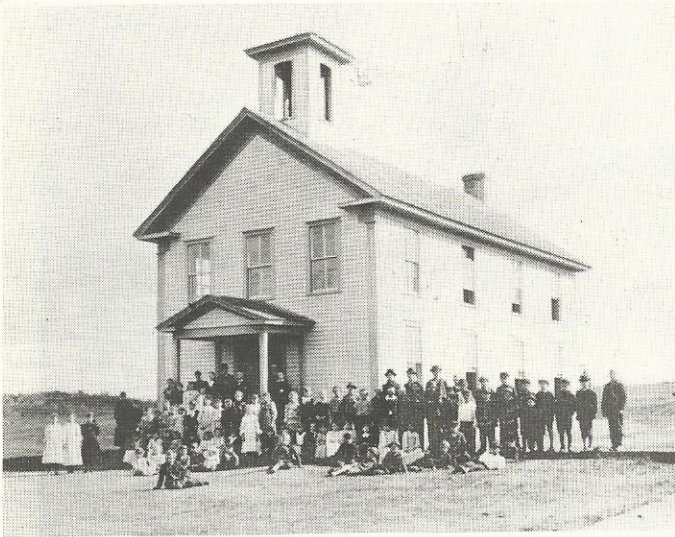


FIREMEN: Chief, Dave Thompson; Ass't Chief, Frank McFarlane; Treasurer, Dennis Korkowski; Secretary, Pat Shea

Pictured: Dana Baker; Dennis Korkowski; Bob Lanners, retired; Pin Webskowski; Devin Rusch; Pat Shea; Dave Thompson; Jerry Klein; Keith Strunk; Frank McFarlane; Orv Schjel; Doug Schjel; Quentin Goehring; Dick Pahl; Dean Johnson; Bill Ness; Don Bakken; Jim Anderson; Ralph Ostlund, retired; Jack Korkowski; Lynn Thompson

Not Pictured: Dan Rusch; Corky Scherrer; Dayton Hermanson; Jim Pischke, retired; Jerry Lee; Jim Korkowski; LeRoy Shea

Schools



FIRST BRANDON SCHOOLHOUSE

This school was in South Brandon. The present J.M. Goering residence is remodeled from this school building.

The Brandon Public Schools

This is a Three Department School Equipped to Carry on One or Two Years High School Work.

Other Items of Interest Reported By Wide Awake Correspondents.

Through the courtesy of Theo. F. Damask of Brandon, we are this week given the privilege of reproducing a picture of the Brandon school. To give a detailed history of the district would of course be too lengthy. However it is worthy of note that the district as we knew it at first extended over territory including farmers around Stowes lake on the north, the Nels Nelson and John Thompson farms in the south, the H.P. Hanson estate on the east and the land north of Devils lake and near Chippewa lake on the northeast in all a total of sixteen sections of the township of Brandon with the village of Brandon in the center. The original schoolhouse of the district was an old log house near the Newhouse farm. The first schoolhouse built in the village was a large two story frame near the mill, now occupied as a blacksmith shop by L.H. Swingen. At the time all this territory was included in the district the attendance was very large and a desire among some of the farthest patrons to divide originated. A large portion of the northwest was cut off and together with other territory Dist. 76 was formed. Later a portion of the southwest was put into Dist. 82.



1921

Some time later, about eight years ago, it was deemed advisable to build a new schoolhouse, one with greater capacity. A three department school was needed but plans for a four room building were made and the contract for the erection of a brick structure was let to Edw. J. Melby. The new building of which the accompanying cut is a picture, has a full size basement for the accommodation of the steam heating plant and the fuel supply.

The school is one of Douglas County's semigraded schools and this year at least one year's high school work will be taken up. Large classes have been graduated from the grades for several years. The valuation of

The school is one of Douglas County's semigraded schools and this

year at least one year's high school work will be taken up. Large classes have been graduated from the grades for several years. The valuation of the school property is placed at \$8000. It is well equipped with a library containing over 400 volumes, and free text books, a large amount of slate black boards, maps and globes necessary for such school work.

Principal Geo. Susense begins his first year this fall but Miss M. Cook has taught in the intermediate department three years and Miss Emily Seidlinger in the primary department three years. They have been retained to continue this year also.

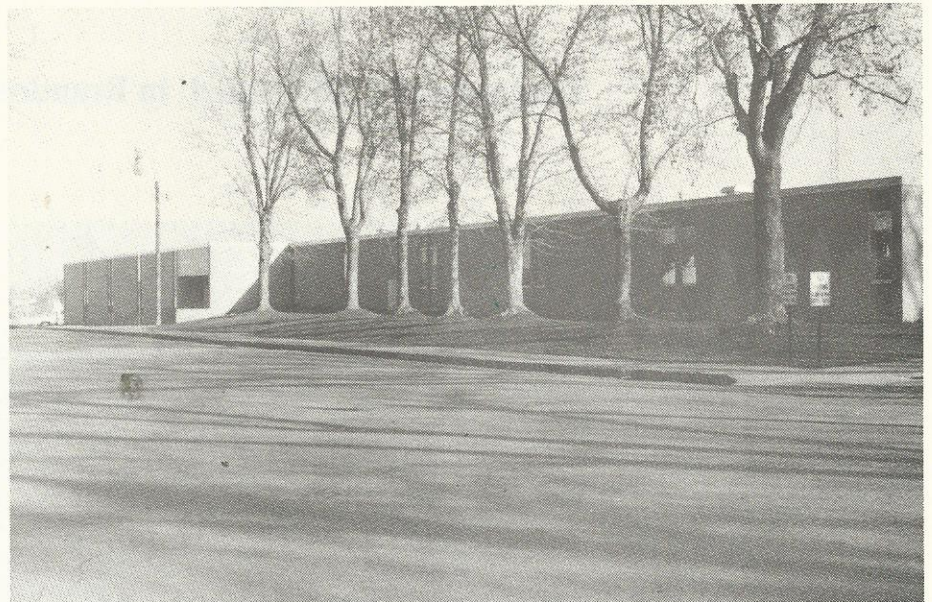
The present school board consists of Theo. F. Damask, clerk; F.W. Rupellius, treasurer; and John A. Linard, just re-elected, as director.

reprinted from the Brandon Echo 1909



SCHOOL WITH ADDITION to the rear - date unknown - note how small the trees are.

SCHOOL IN 1981



Brandon School Dist. 207

Brandon boasts a very beautiful and modern plant. It has been completely updated. A new high school was completed in 1958. This adjoined the old school to the west. By 1970, the old building was razed and the elementary wing was added along with a small gym and a library in the complex.

The "Little House on the Prairie" came to being in 1975 to alleviate overcrowding. This 2-room portable classroom is located on the north side of the school.

In 1980 still another major addition was added for extra classrooms, including an addition to the shop area, kitchen and home economics wing. A new trailer was added and the elementary wing re-roofed.

The present enrollment is 470 including grades Kindergarten thru 12.

Past Superintendents have been: Mr. Les Anderson, Mr. L.E. Kassube, Mr. V Ahrens, Mr. H. Peterson, Mr. C.B. Lund.

Present Administrators include: Mr. Dick Gulbranson, superintendent; Mr. Don Bakken, Secondary Principal; and Mrs. Jeanne Slack, Elementary Principal.

Board Members are: Mrs. Eldred Lund, Chairperson; Mr. Bernie Korkowski, Clerk; Mrs. Myron Severson, Treasurer; Mr. Jim Korkowski; Mrs. Joe Byrne; Mr. Mervin Wagner; Mr. Jerome Ledermann.



DISTRICT 82 - Probably in the 40's, was located approximately 1 mile south.



DISTRICT 54 - in 1955, located approximately 2½ miles south of Brandon.

Teacher and Child Killed in Brandon Cyclone



The village of Brandon in Douglas County was visited by a small cyclone and hailstorm Tuesday afternoon, May 20, 1902, which destroyed several buildings on the edge of the village, wrecking a school three-fourths of a mile out of town; killed the teacher, Miss Ida Hanson, and fatally injured the nine year old daughter of Ole Thompson. The child's chest was crushed. Residents report it had rained heavily during the noon hour and when the rain stopped they saw a whirlwind and dark cloud approaching from the south, but there was no funnel. Several of the children were outside at the time or the death toll would have undoubtedly been higher. Twenty pupils were in the school and started to run for the door, but the teacher advised them to stay inside, while she went to close the window. At that moment the building was lifted from its foundation and was carried several rods. The teacher's body was forced through the half-closed window, her skull fractured and legs broken, while the little girl suffered a crushed chest. Several children were less seriously injured.

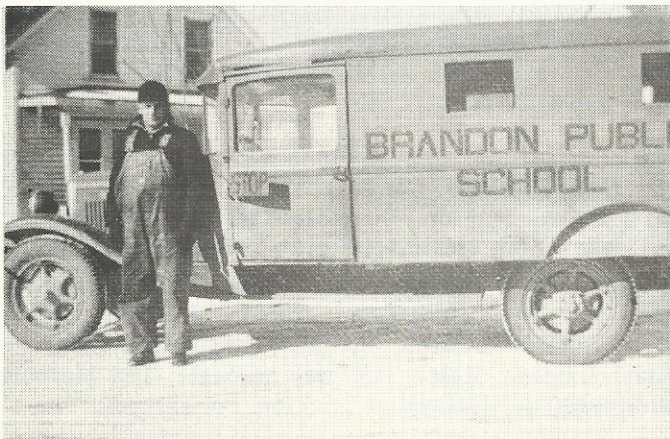


DISTRICT 5 - 1911

DISTRICT 5 WAS LOCATED on Highway 7 and the Pioneer Trail of 1863. The building has been moved to the site of the Alexandria Fort by the Douglas County Historical Society.

Some children pictured are: August Anderson, Carl Fredrickson, Ellen Anderson Fredrickson, Clarence Anderson, Isaac Johnson, and Bill Johnson. Can you name more?

Brandon's First School Bus

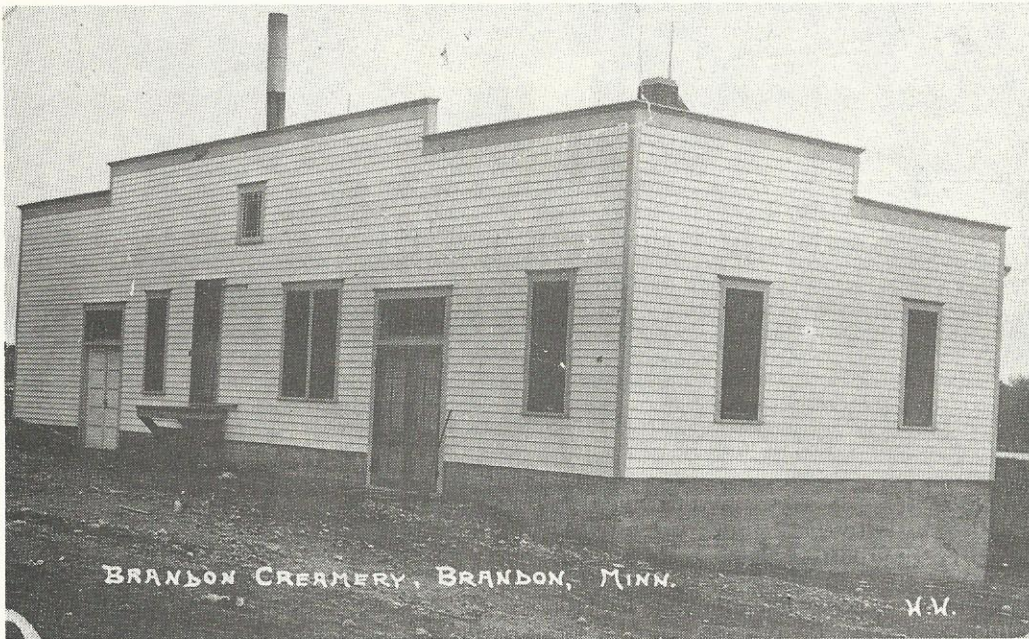


SCHOOL BUS, 1942 with Henry Handke, driver



FULL LOAD OF KIDS, 1944 - Name them if you can.

Brandon Creamery



BRANDON CREAMERY, 1911 - located in the east side of Brandon, on the property now owned by Roy Strom.



NOTICE THE CARS!



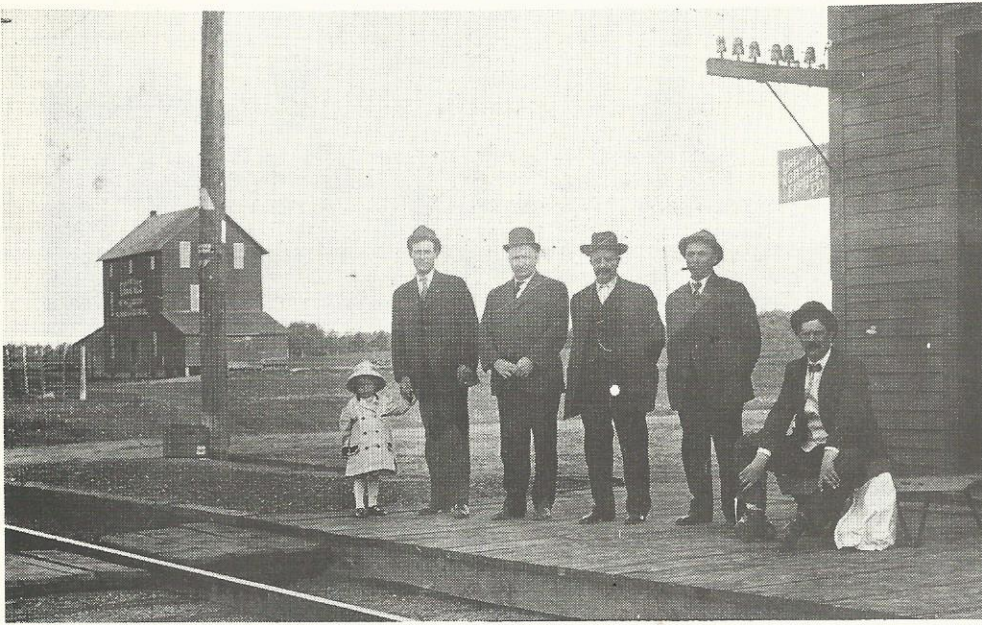
J.W.B. Properties, 1981

The members of the first Brandon Creamery Board were: L. Sketnan, President; Ole Berg, Director; Emil Bergh, Secretary; Ludvig Hanson, Director; Carl Augdahl, Director; John Halgrimson, Treasurer; Gustavus Guenther, Director.

Board members at the time the Creamery Association was dissolved were: Clifford Lund; Clifford Johnson; Delphin Engel; Norman Severson; Vernon Lehn; Eldred Lund and Donald Johnson. Ralph Toft was Manager; Ted Haabala, Buttermaker; and Evangeline Erickson, Bookkeeper.

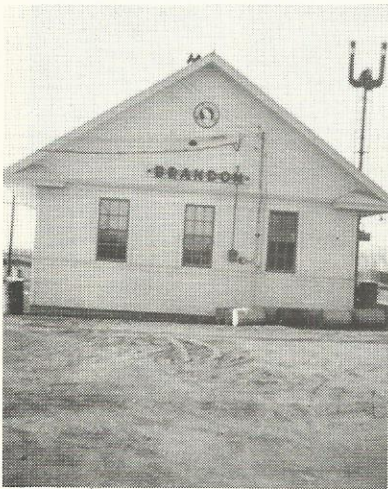
When no longer used as a creamery, the building was renovated and converted into an apartment building by Mrs. LeRoy Larson and Mrs. Donald McHenry. It contains 11 apartments. It has since been purchased by J.W.B. Properties of Alexandria.

Great Northern Railway Depot



TAKEN AT THE DEPOT. The Feed Mill is in the background.

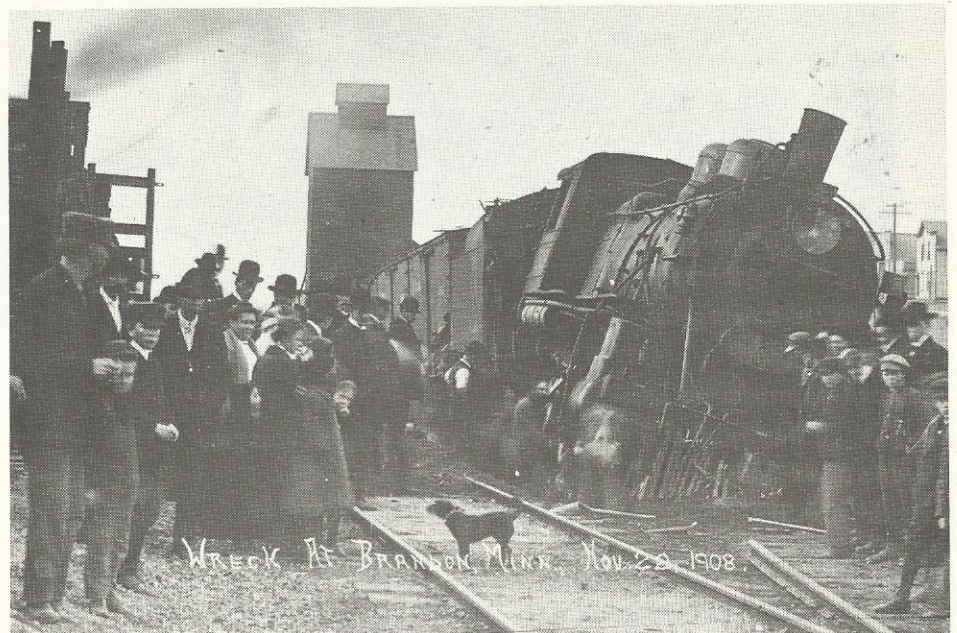
Pictured: Sylvester Dickenson, Depot Agent and daughter; Dr. C.W. Meckstroth; P.J. Seidlinger, Harness Maker; an unidentified man; and Joe P. Lorsung, Elevator Operator.



THE DEPOT in early years.

The first train came through Brandon in 1878. It was a popular pastime of the people to meet the passenger trains. Nearly all the freight that came to town arrived by rail. John Hammergren, driving a team of horses, usually spent the entire forenoon delivering freight from the depot to the merchants.

J.M. "Jake" Goering arrived in Brandon in 1923 and spent more than 51 years as Agent Telegrapher for the Great Northern Railway. At that time public transportation was primarily by rail. There were two passenger trains a day each way. As years went on and private transportation became more available, the trains became fewer. Jake Goering retired in 1969 and in the 1970's the depot was dismantled.



Banks



The Brandon State Bank was organized in 1902

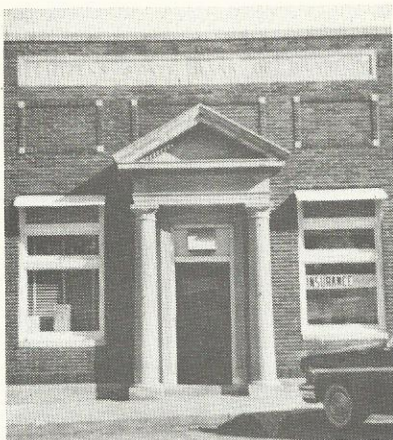
O.F. Olson was the president and Theodore F. Olson was the cashier. On June 16, 1916, this institution was

converted into the First National Bank of Brandon. Tollef Jacobsen was president and Ferd Swenson cashier. This

bank closed in the late 1920's. The bank building now houses Arnie's Dairy Equipment Co.



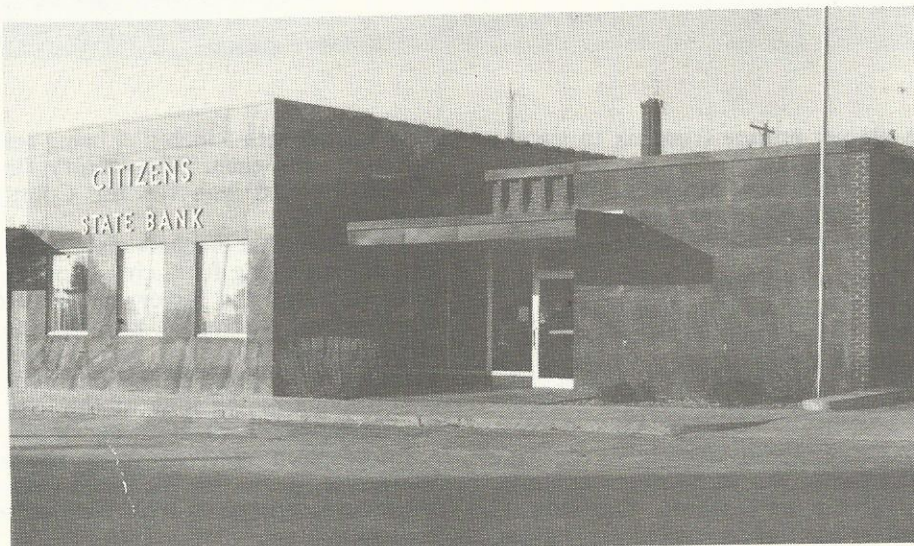
THE FARMERS STATE BANK of Brandon was organized on Nov. 11, 1910. Its first officers were: P.O. Unumb, President; B.T. Telgan, Vice President; George Drexler, Cashier; and Axel Burkee, Cashier; Assistant Cashier was Edwin Bergh. This bank also closed in the late 1920's.



CITIZENS STATE BANK



BANK



1981

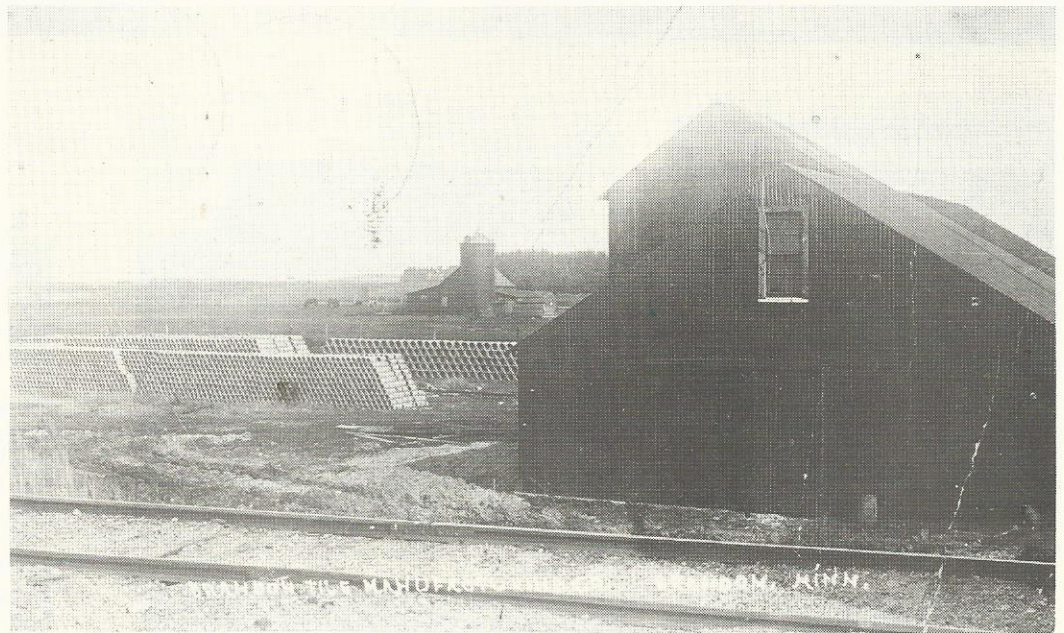
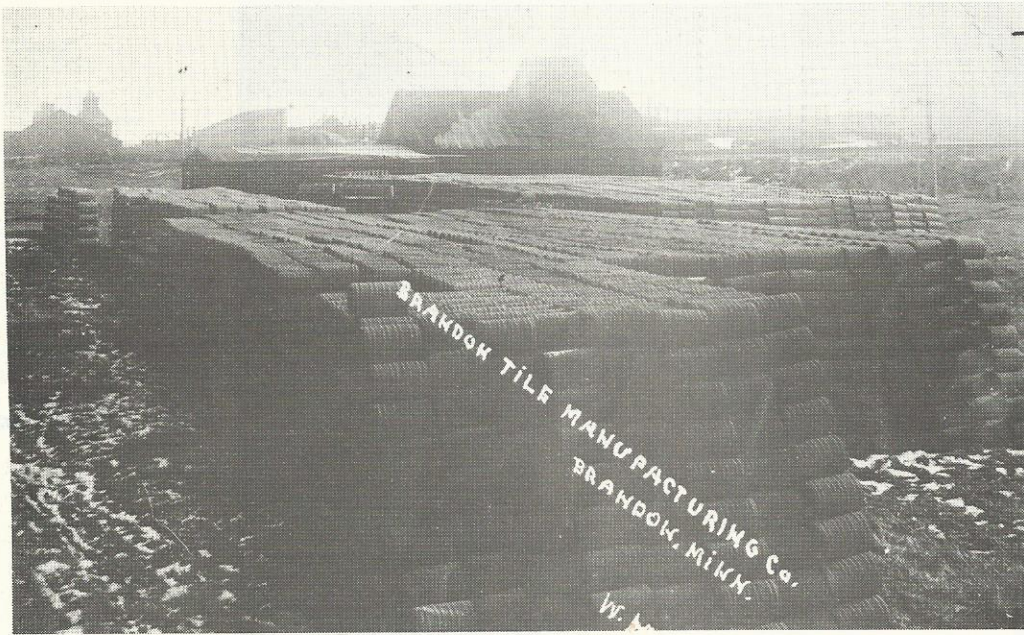
Banks of Brandon

The Citizens State Bank of Brandon has been serving the community since 1927. The bank opened on December 15, 1927 after the State Banking Commissioner of Minnesota approved the charter request of the Otto Bremer Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota, to open a bank in Brandon. The building and equipment were purchased from the stockholders of the Farmers State Bank of Brandon after the liquidation of their assets in 1926.

The original building was built in 1919 and is still a part of the newly remodeled building. When built, the building was 25'x60' and was of brick construction; in 1956 a granite front replaced the brick and a side entrance was constructed. In 1963 a 20'x25' addition was put on the rear of the building, and the interior remodeled. In 1975 an extensive remodeling and addition was completed by purchasing an additional 100 feet of frontage, adding onto the existing building and providing a parking lot, along with a drive-up window and walk-up teller facilities.

There has been a steady increase in resources from a start of \$37,520 in 1927, to \$15,481,110.56 in 1980.

Brandon Tile Manufacturing Co., Brandon, MN



The Brandon Tile Factory was built in 1914, by Theo. Knutson of Garfield. It was owned and operated by Oscar Newhouse, then age 21; and his brother, age 18; It was located on the site of the present Telephone Storage building, west of the Land O' Lakes fertilizer plant next to the railroad tracks.

The cement used was delivered by railroad at 80¢ per 100 pound sack, and sand was hauled from the gravel pit at Moon Lake, by horses and wagons.

The tile machine, a Monarch, made

six tile per minute from six to sixteen inches in diameter.

A continuous cement mixer was used, with the factory being powered by a 20 horsepower Mogul engine.

There were three steam rooms for curing tile, each with nine tracks. The steam boiler fired by wood or coal produced steam for the rooms which held 36 3-deck cars, on which the tile were piled while being cured.

After steaming overnight, tile were unloaded in the yard, where at times, 60,000 tile were stored. One day 22 double box loads, pulled by horses,

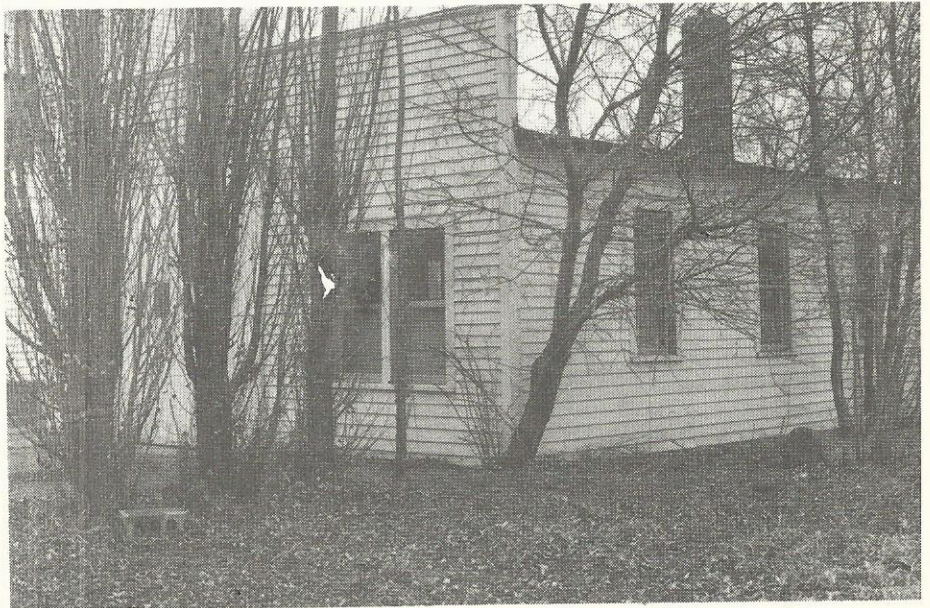
were loaded with 5 inch tile, being sold for 3½ cents each. The factory furnished 5 to 16 inch tile for County ditch, No. 22.

The Newhouse brothers also farmed and did surveying for their customers. They operated the factory until 1946 when it was disbanded and the machinery sold. Clarence passed away at the age of 47 years in 1944 and Oscar is still living at the time of this writing, December, 1980, at the age of 87.

Information received from Mabel Newhouse, (Mrs. Clarence) and Oscar Newhouse, written by Nola Newhouse Foslien.

Brandon Power Plant

BRANDON POWER PLANT - This building, between 2nd and 3rd Streets on Holmes Avenue, housed the Brandon Power Plant which provided electricity for the village of Brandon in the early 1920's. In later years it has been occupied by repair shops and garages. It now is owned by Ole Schjel.



THE BRANDON FEED MILL, run by Mr. Metcalf until the early 1920's, was located just east of the present Standard Service Station. In the background is the elevator being constructed.

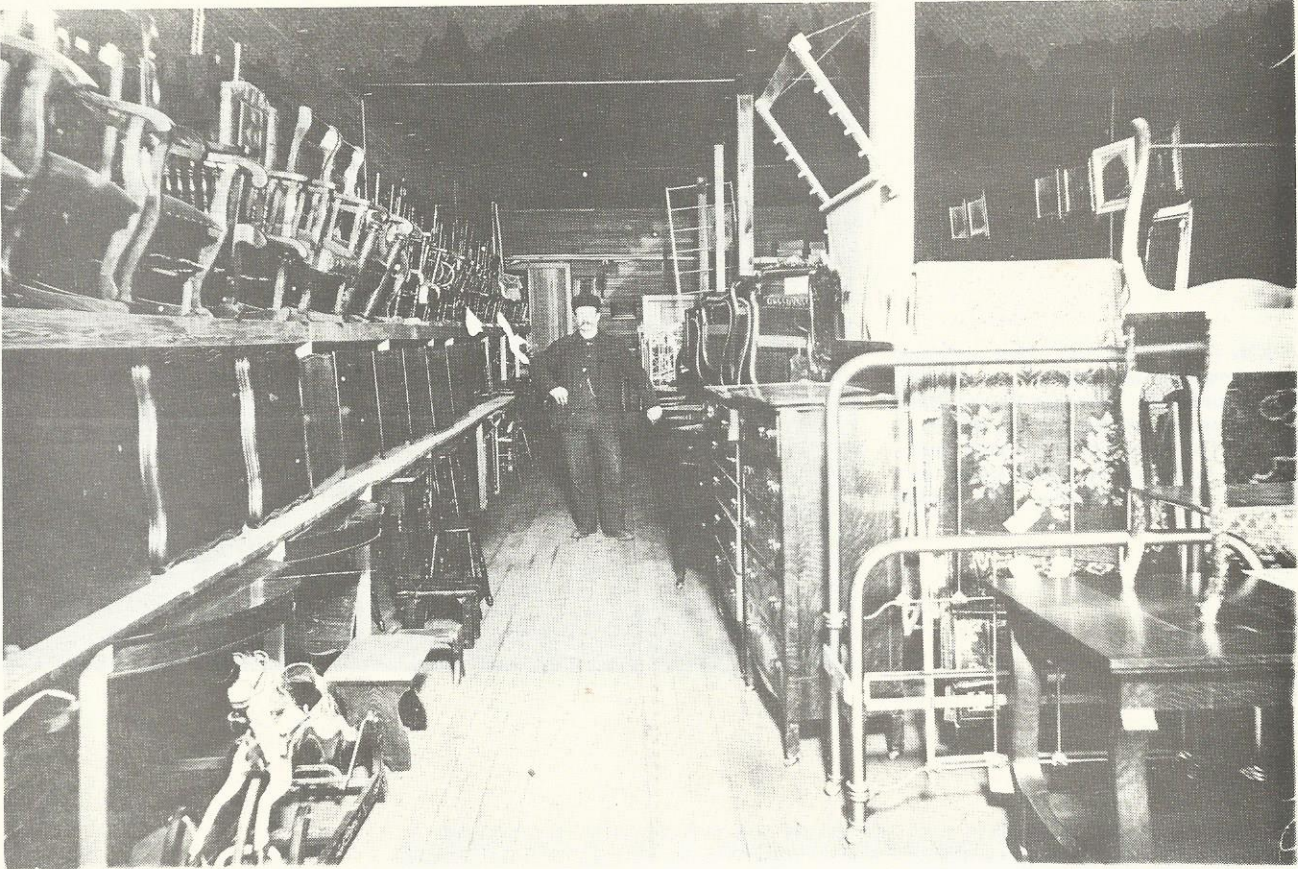
Brandon Physicians

The physicians who have practiced in Brandon are as follows: Doctor Brown came about 1883 and resided a few years.; Dr. Foss — 1885-1886; Dr. Charles Van Kappellan — 1889-1904; Dr. Gisle Bjornstad — 1893-1896; Dr. John Lyng — 1899-1901; Dr. C.W. Meckstroth came in 1901

and practiced until his death in the 1940's. Dr. C. Nootnagel, Sr., a homeopath practiced at his home several miles northwest of Brandon, until his death. One of the doctor's offices was located in the back room in the Damask Drug store, which was located where the Laundromat and Brandon

Electronics building is now. Later after the First National Bank closed and this building used for other purposes, a room was added on the west side and this was used as the Doctor's office, and also served as a dentist's office for a short time.

Stores & Shops



JACOB TAMBLE FURNITURE STORE located on the lot south of the present Blue Gill Inn



JOHN LEHN - 1911 In Cigar & Jewelry Store



A SALOON in Brandon



THERE HAVE BEEN several photography studios in Brandon. This photo was taken by A.M. Thompson Studio.

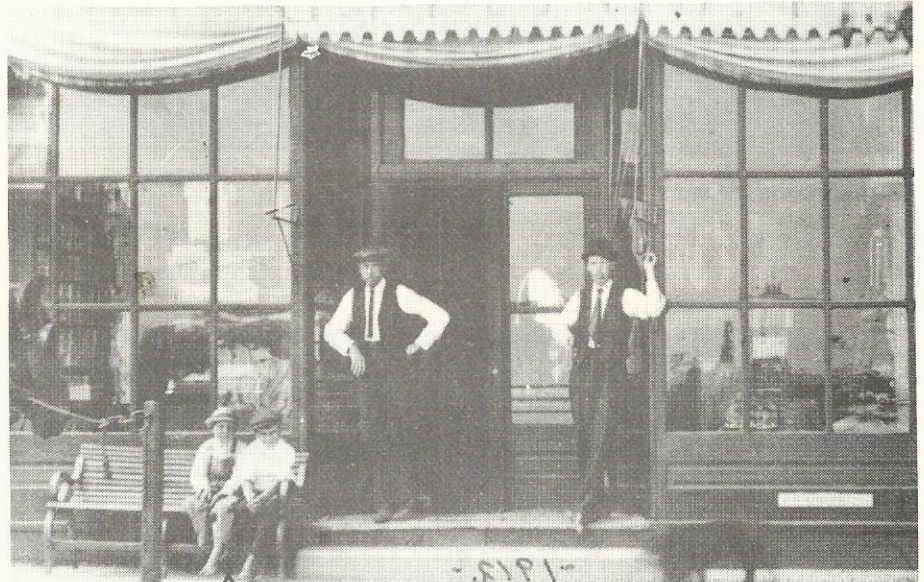
(Back Row - L to R) Emil Linnard; Emil Bergh; Johnny Bergh; Peter Undlin; Ole Bergh; not identified. (Front Row - L to R) Carl Augdahl; Hilmer Hanson (painter); and Henry Olson

Holmgren & Christenson Store



HOLMGREN AND CHRISTENSON General Merchandise Store, 1912-1945. Clerk, Emma Anderson who married Henry Christenson in 1914.

This was the second store built on the site of Brandon. It was built by Halvor Engemoen of Holmes City. Later owners of this large store were Leuzinger and Ruppelius, later Ruppelius sold it to Albert Holmgren and Henry Christenson in March of 1912. When Holmgren retired, because of illness, in 1938 his interest was purchased by Elda and Roy Christenson. It was then known as Christenson's Store; more often called the "Corner Store". A side room was built onto the store and at one time housed a banking business and also a barber-shop. The store was in operation until March 15, 1945 when word was received of the death of Roy Christenson while in Kunming, China. The contents of the store were sold to R.H. Dahl and the building to Hoplin Hardware. The Hoplins razed the building and rebuilt a large hardware store (now Ostlund's) and a Post Office building.



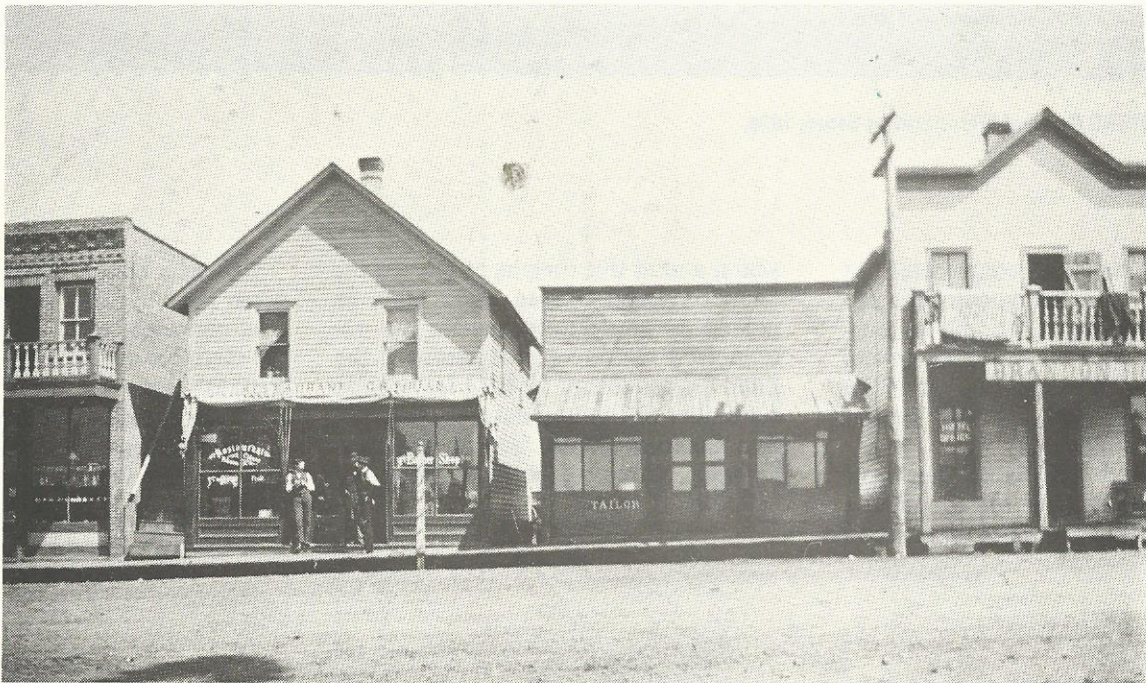
ALBERT HOLMGREN, Henry Christenson, "X" marks Freddie Ruppelius - 1912.

BANK BUILDING, (L to R) Holmgren & Christenson, Zabel's Drug, Schulke Barber Shop





THE PETER LARSON GARAGE, owned by Theodore Jacobson. Pictured are: Emil Linnard; Henry Hauglie; and Peter Larson. The building is located behind the School Bus Garage (formerly Handke Garage).



THE BRICK BUILDING on the left housed a drug store and burned in about 1920. The next building was a cafe owned by George Videen, and also housed a barber shop run by Albert Holmgren. Next was a tailor shop and a hotel. These buildings were located where the present Hopfner building, Town and Country Foods and the Citizens State Bank are now located on Front Street.

Brandon Feed Store



WOLD BROTHERS General Merchandise Store, 1898

This building was constructed in 1898. There were living quarters upstairs with both an inside and an outside stairway. A well was dug on the south side of the building and the pump was installed on the second floor landing or porch.

Carl A. Wold and his brother were engaged in the general merchandising business in this building for seven

years, and at this time he published the Brandon Echo. Three years later he moved to Alexandria where he re-organized the paper and named it the Park Region Echo. In 1914 he became a member of the Legislature. His wife, Eva Emerson Wold, was at one time Douglas County Superintendent of Schools.

No exact date has been found as to when the building was converted to a feed and seed store. Albert Haber was the manager of the business when John Renkes came to work in the mill. Renkes purchased the business in 1920. Other buildings that housed a hatchery and storage for feed and grain were added later.

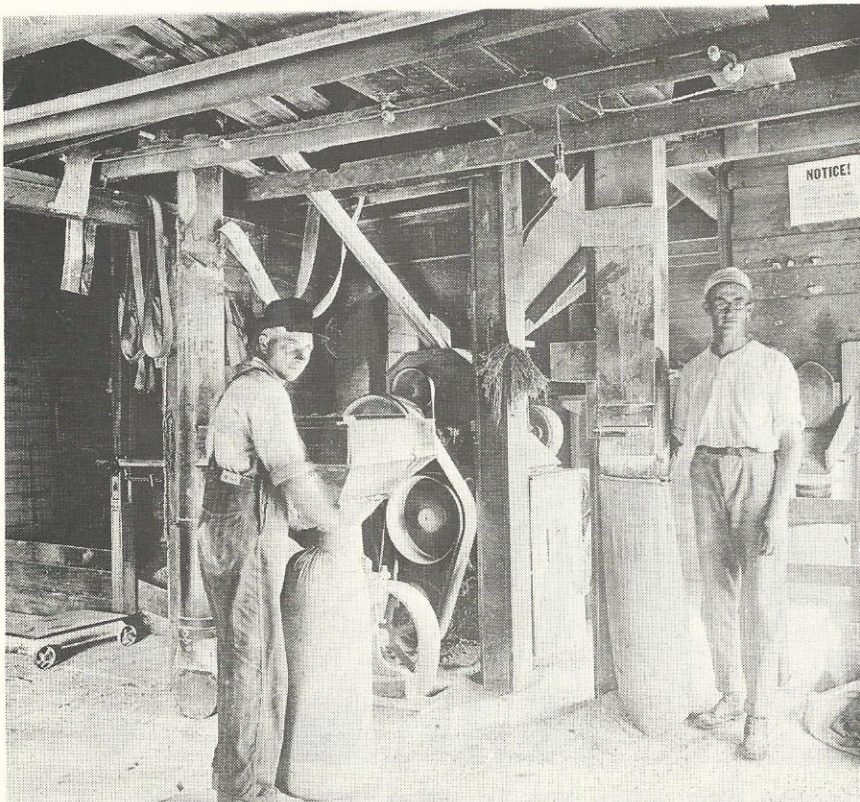


RENKES FEED STORE

J.O. Renkes operated the feed store from 1920 to 1977, approximately 57 years of business. "J.O.", as he was

called, claimed one record, "I have delivered more babies than all the doctors in Douglas County, baby chicks".

J.O. also wrote many words of wisdom as the "Corncracker".



MIKE KORKOWSKI - JOHN RENKES, 1921

BRANDON Flour and Feed - Store -

We have constantly on hand a good stock of the best flour that money can buy; also a complete line of cereals.

Feed of many varieties always in stock such as: BRAN, SHORTS, OATS, ETC.

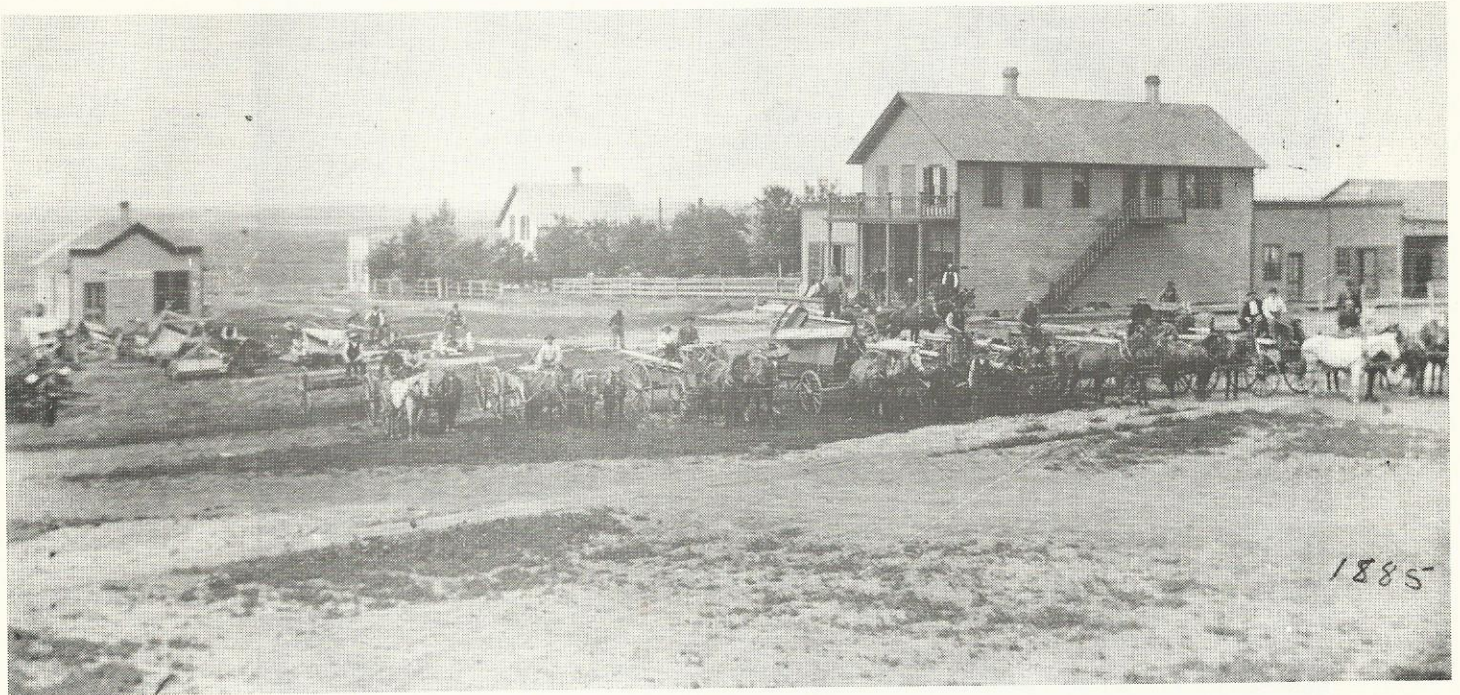
Our prices are right, and we respectfully solicit YOUR BUSINESS

Yours for business,

A. G. HABER, Prop.

New location north of depot. Brandon, Minn.

O.F. Olson Hardware Store



The hardware store with living quarters was built by O.F. Olson in 1885. The building originally faced south, but later part of it was moved to face the east. The corner lot was

then used for the new bank building on the corner of Central Avenue and Front Street. The bank and hardware building is now owned by Jim Richards. The bank building now is the

home of Auel's Dairy Equipment and Brandon Auto Sales is in the hardware building.



MARTIN OLSON and his father O.F. Olson. Hardware Store Interior. Note the kitchen stoves in foreground.

Douglas County Co-op



CO-OP BUILDING, 1969

The Douglas County Cooperative was organized on April 19, 1934. At the time Mr. "Chuck" Ehlenfeldt was the manager. The station was located in the block building near the tanks between the City Park.

The first Board of Directors were: Hilding Anderson, Aldrich Carlson, Alfred Guenther, Theodore Winkjer, Olaf Smith, John A. Roers and Theodore Foslien.

After moving down to Central Avenue, many changes occurred at the new location. The old storage shed was torn down and the gas pumps moved to the area north of the building. A new steel building was built in later years.

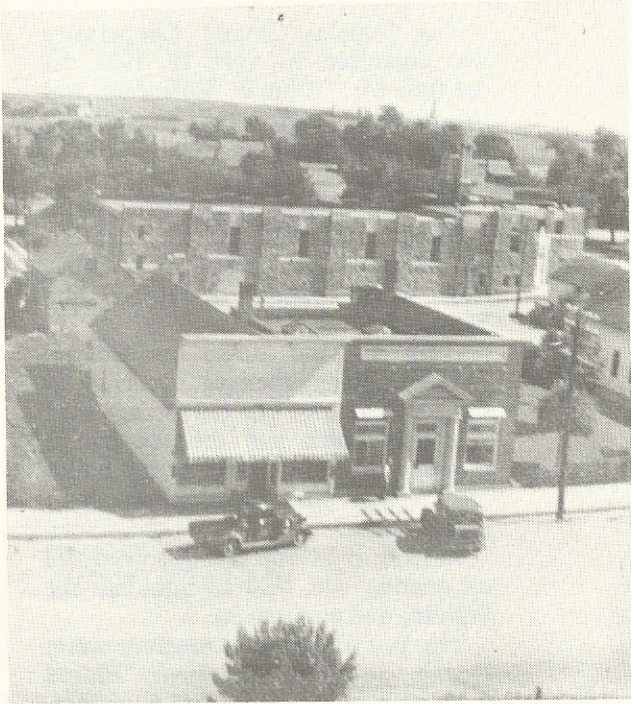
In 1978, the Coop was dissolved and an auction was held to liquidate the building and equipment.

The last Board of Directors were: Dennis Johnson, President; Eldred Lund, Vice President; Cliff Guenther, Secretary; Lester Bettermann, Sid Satterlie, Jr. and Dennis Jacobson.

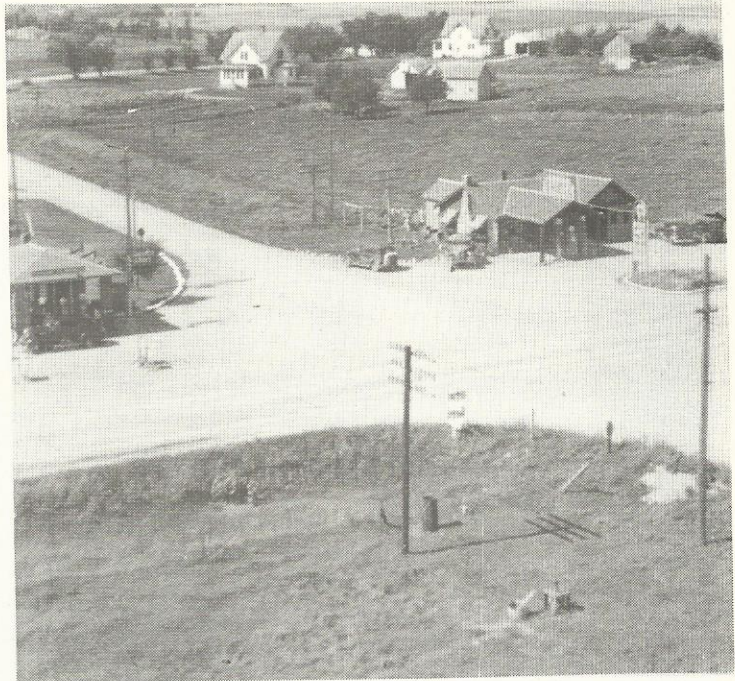


SCHOOL FAIRS were held in this building and other activities.

Bird's Eye View Pictures taken from the top of the elevator



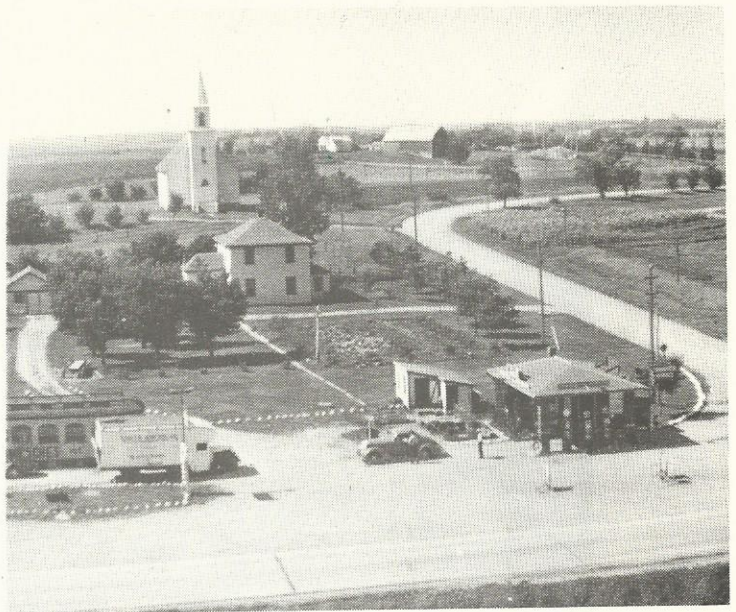
CITIZENS STATE BANK; Dahl's Store (on left); Brandon Auditorium



SHELL STATION (on right); Henry Christenson residence (left); Andrew Anderson residence (right)

Dahl's Store is gone now and the bank building has been expanded and remodeled. The Brandon Auditorium remains and is still in use. The Diner is gone, too and in its place is the Starlight Bar. The J.M. Goering home, the Chippewa Church and Frank's Standard Service building are still there. However, Bob Thoennes and LeRoy Shea now own and operate the Standard Service Station.

The log cabin has been replaced by the Slack Building owned by Corky and Jeanne Slack. The building houses several businesses. On the north end of the building is Slack Gas and Oil. Dean Johnson has a repair shop adjacent to Slack Gas and Oil. Greg Roers, a cabinet maker, owns Custom Woodcrafts. Jim Korkowski owns Uncle Moe's Manufacturing. John and Janet Pennie have a furniture stripping shop in the southwest end of the



FRANK'S STANDARD STATION; "The Diner" (van in front reads North American Creameries); J.M. Goering residence; Chippewa Church

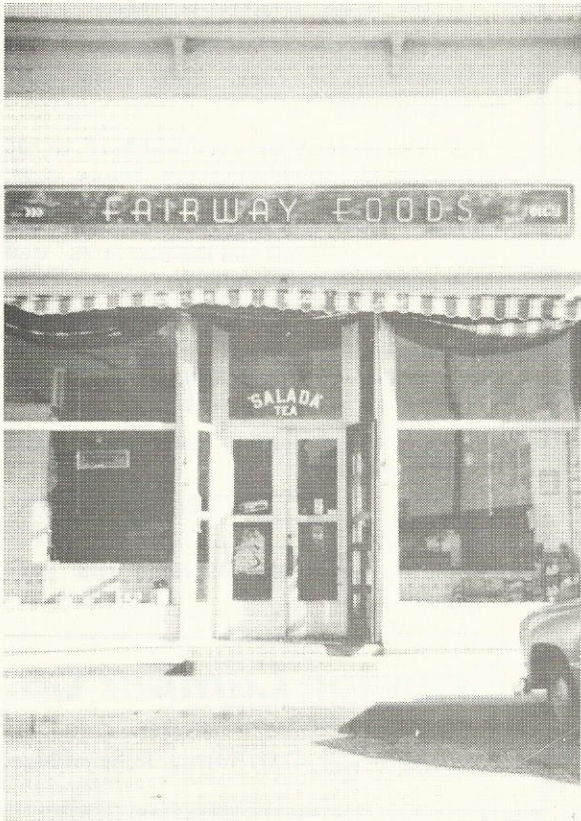
building.

Mr. Slack also owns Slack Painting.

The Henry Christenson home is now owned by the Olander Sletto's. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Anderson is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Anderson, son of Andrew.

Clarence has been in business in Brandon all of his life. He has built many homes in the area and has a plumbing and heating business at the present time. James Anderson, son of Clarence, has been a part of his dad's business for many years and resides just west of his dad's home.

Dahl's Store

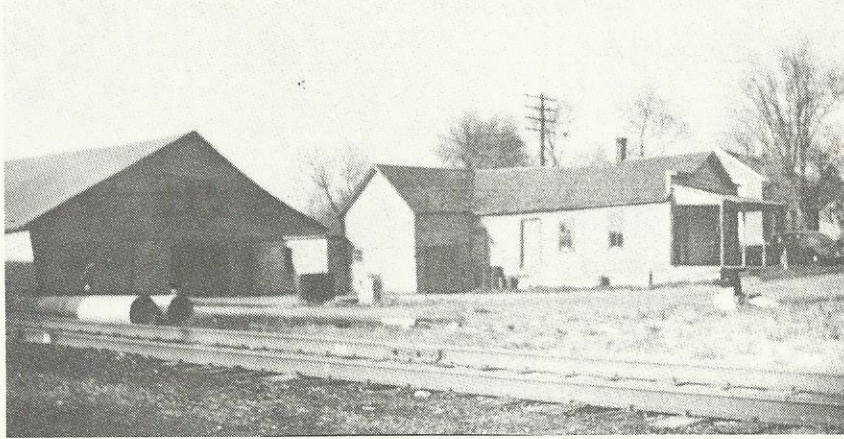


DAHL'S STORE, 1922-1953

The B.T.Teigen Store was a general store on Front Street. Richard Dahl was employed by Teigen. In 1927, Richard and Clara bought the Teigen store and changed the name to Dahl's Store. "We had to handle everything", the Dahls said, and were in business until 1955.

In the late 1950's Bob Kloehn purchased the Dahl property and built a new super market. In 1961 Frank McFarlane and Earl Licht purchased the super market and also the former meat market building. They slaughtered and processed animals in the meat market building and incorporated a full meat line in their store. During the next few years, McFarlane became sole proprietor of the business and today Dan McFarlane has joined his father in the operation of the Town and Country Foods store.

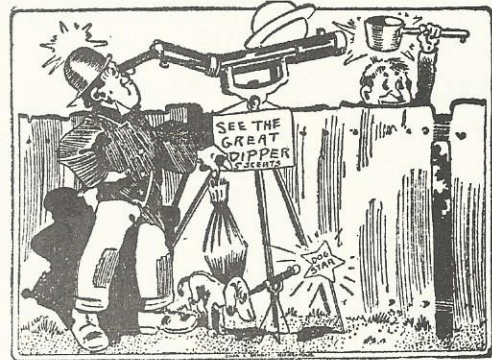
Brandon Lumber Company



BRANDON LUMBER YARD

The Brandon Lumber Company was first owned by a Mr. Smith who lived in Minneapolis. Charles Rosengren worked for him in Minneapolis when he first came to America from Sweden. Smith then started Charles in the Lumber Yard in Brandon. When Charles moved to Fergus Falls, his brother Oscar took over the management. Oscar came to Brandon in 1909 and retired in 1932 when Otto Johnson took over the business. In 1943, Oscar Rosengren again came back to work for two years in the Lumber Yard because of the illness of Otto Johnson. Winston Johnson, Otto's son, began working in the business in 1936. When he was discharged from the service in 1945 he took over the managership.

The building has been rebuilt on the same location.



A Far Sighted Man

Never puts off till the last minute, things that he knows must be done. How about your far sightedness?

Can't you see where you will have to do some fixing up around the place before long, some repairs to make that will require some lumber? Then, why put it off? Why not come in and let us tell you the cost of the stuff you'll need next time you're in town?

But whenever you buy, be sure and see us first, even if you do have to drive out of your way to get here. It will pay you in dollars and cents to remember this.

We will be pleased to meet prices with any competition.

We sell the best silos.

We also handle the Overland and Ford automobiles,

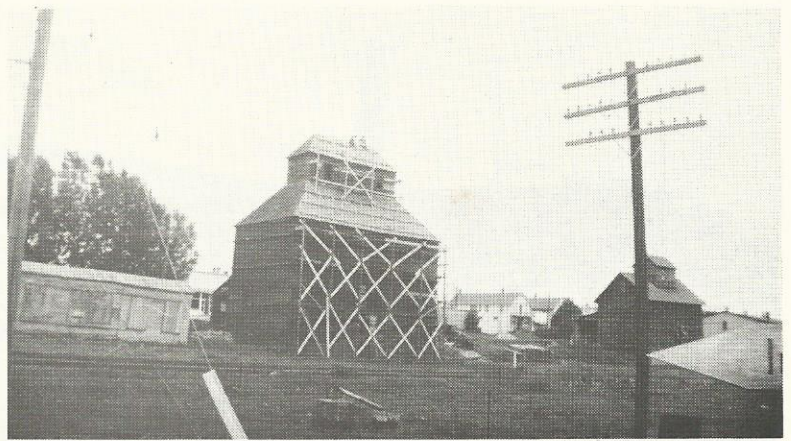
Brandon Lumber Co.

BRANDON, MINN.

C. J. JOHNSON, Pres., C. G. Rosengren, Sec. & Mgr.
C. A. SMITH, V. Pres.,

CREDIT to the Brandon Forum, 1914

The Elevator

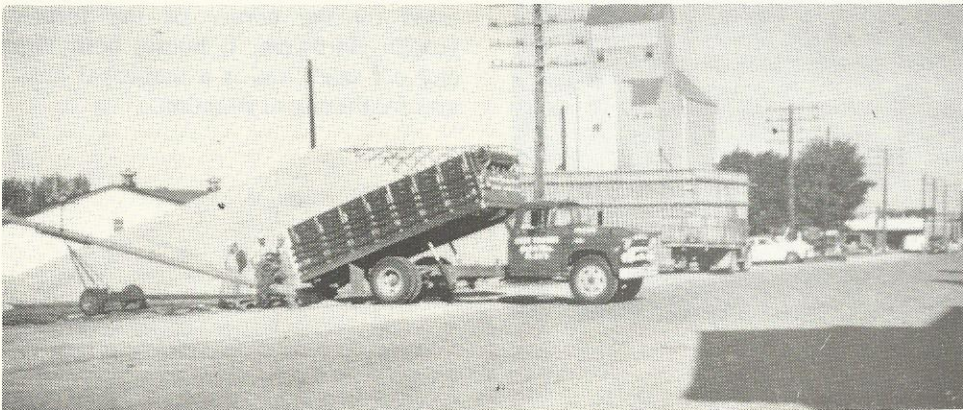


REPAIRING the main elevator, 1930's

Farmer's Grain Elevator was re-modeled and added to in 1955 and is now called the Land O Lakes Ag Service Center. A fertilizer plant is a part of the elevator complex. Quentin Goehring is the present manager and Charles Bolin is the Chairman of the Advisory Board. Ten people are employed full time.

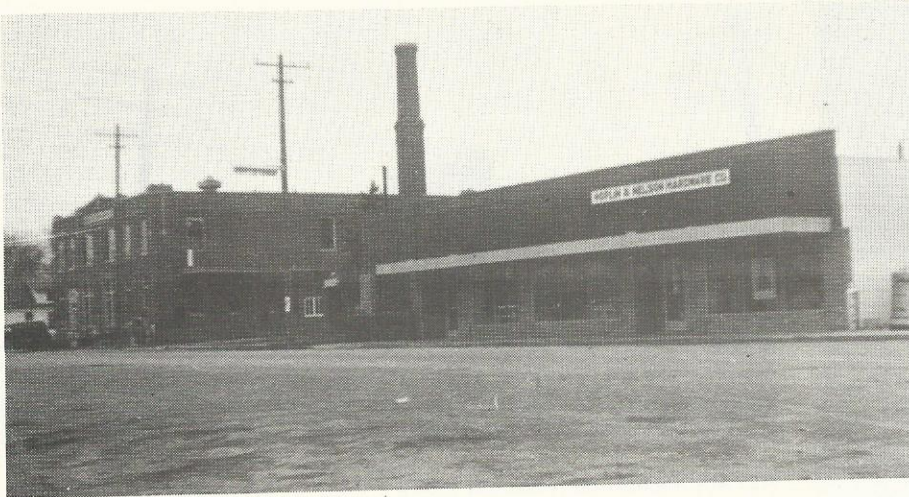


THE LAND O LAKES elevator as it appears today.



ERNIE TOLIFSON unloading barley on the ground in 1959.

Hoplin & Nelson Hardware



HOPLIN & NELSON HARDWARE

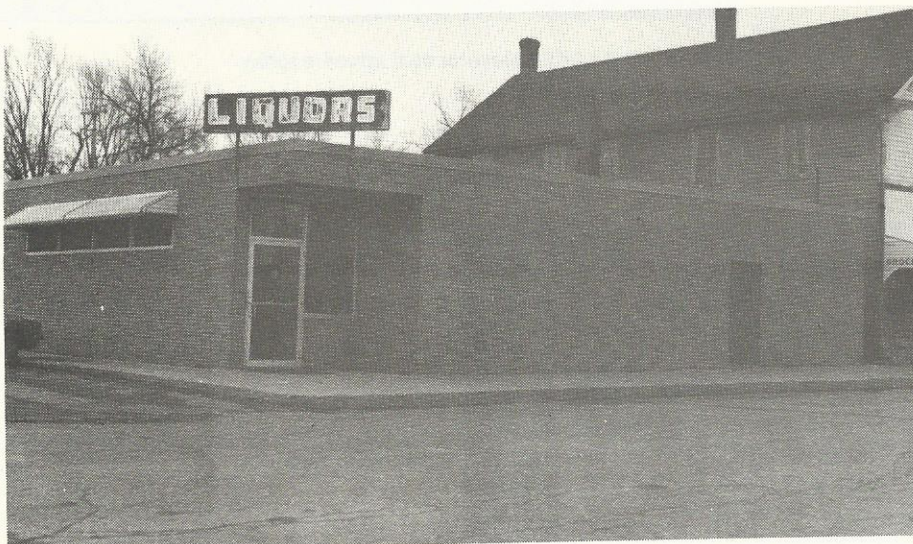
In 1958 Victor and Ralph Ostlund purchased the hardware business from Haplin and Nelson. Another showroom was annexed to the south end of the building when the Post Office was built.

1904 Brandon Echo news item

“Tomorrow (April 15, 1904) the two rural routes established from the Brandon Post Office will begin service. Mr. Jas. Scherrer is the carrier for Route No. 1 which runs north, and Mr. Edwin K. Johnson for Route No. 2 which runs south. It will probably be a little harder on the carriers to begin with than otherwise on account of the condition of the roads at the present time, but farmers will have to keep the roads in as good a shape as they can or the routes will be discontinued. The rural route is a good thing for the farmer and should be encouraged as much as possible.”



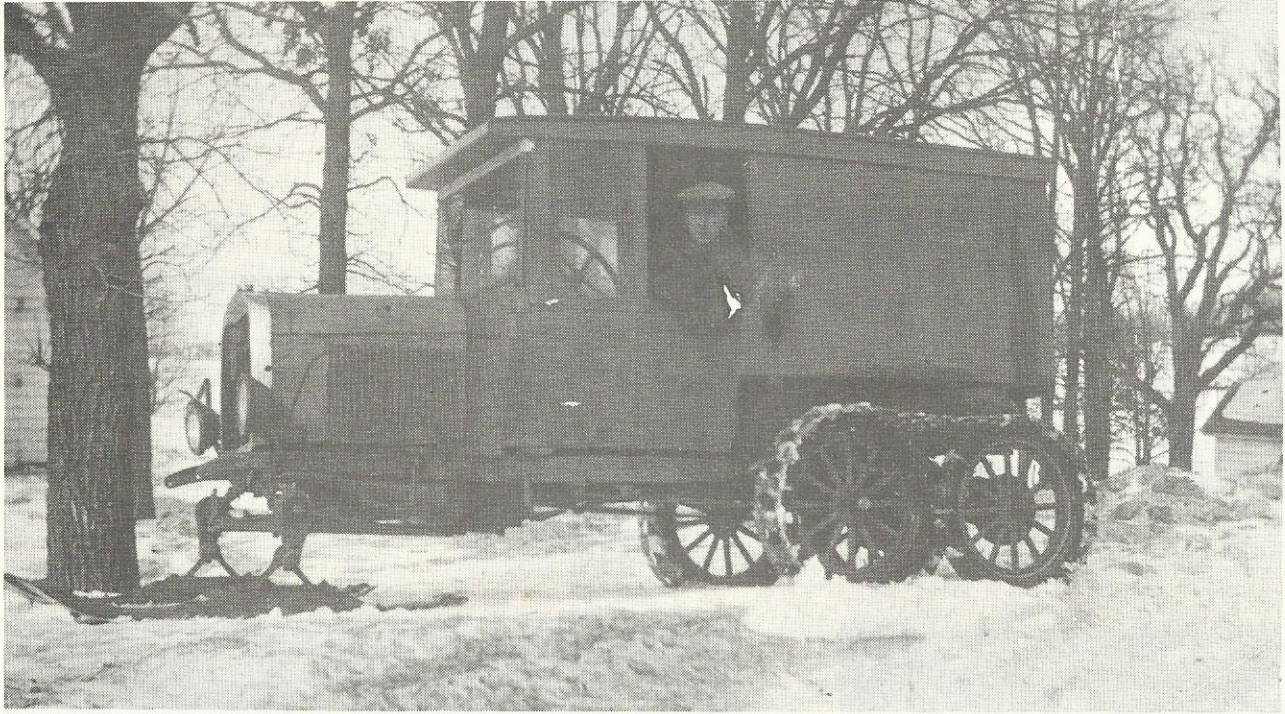
OSTLUND HARDWARE and Brandon Post Office



BRANDON LIQUOR STORE

The Brandon Liquor Store is now located on the corner of the former Hoplin Hardware. It houses both “on and off sale” and is a municipal business for the city of Brandon.

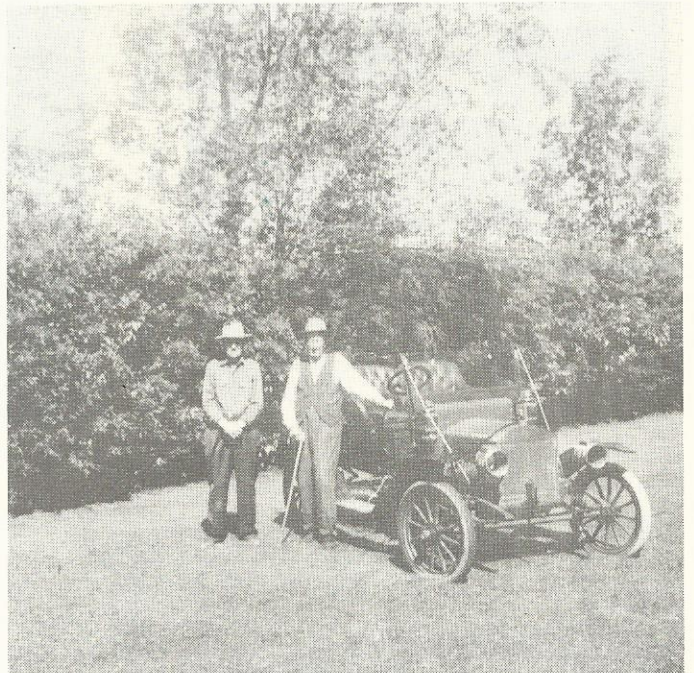
Post Office



HENRY JOHNSON in his snowmobile that was used for mail delivery



HENRY JOHNSON, Delores Schwartz, Walter Hoving



CLARENCE JOHNSON and Henry Christenson. Clarence bought this 1909 Maxwell from Henry in the early 1920's. He used it to carry mail for many years. Clarence enjoyed driving his Maxwell for special occasions.

The Brandon Post Office is located on the corner of Front Street and Central Avenue. It was moved from its former location approximately a block east, on Sept. 17, 1959, and dedicated on April 22, 1960.

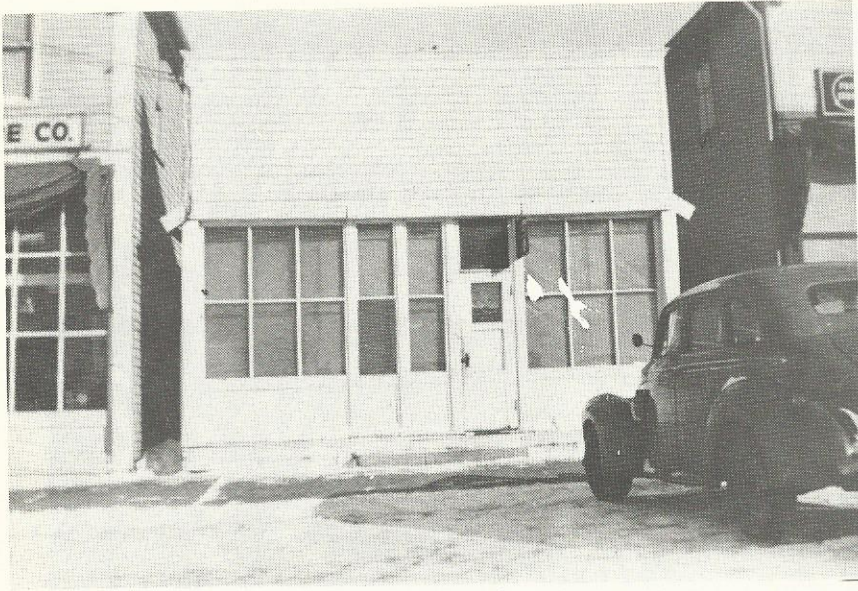
Delores Schwartz is the Post-

mistress, Ruth Lindquist, Clerk, Ray Lanners and Donald Johanson are the rural mail carriers. Mrs. Emily Drexler was Postmistress in Brandon for 36 years, followed by Walter Hoving, Larry Mahan and presently Delores Schwartz. Delores has been post-

mistress since 1971.

Clarence Johnson was mail carrier for 40 years, Henry Johnson for 33 years. Ray Lanners has carried mail for over 31 years.

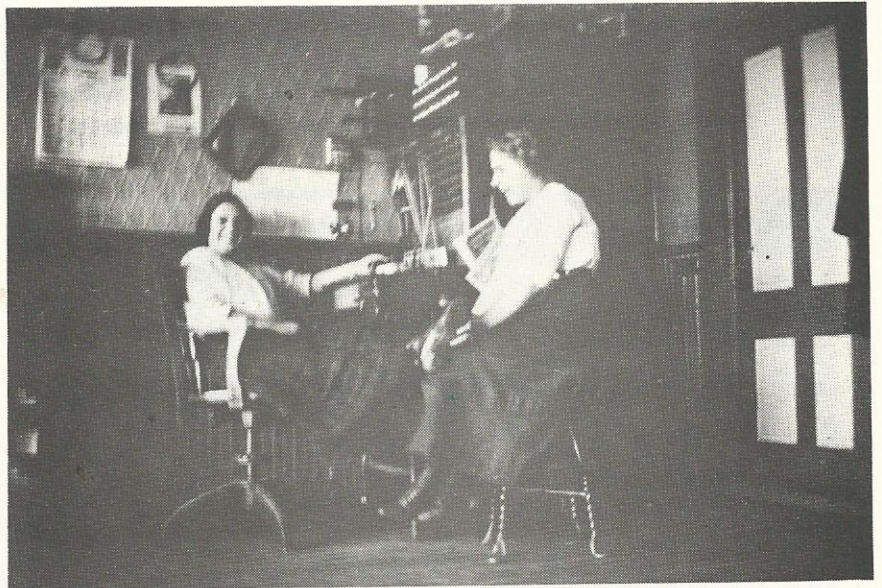
Gardonville Telephone



TELEPHONE COMPANY - 1948



ELSIE KAPPAHN, Hazel Myers



1915 - KATIE STARIHA, VICTORIA KNAUF, Operators



PRESENT LOCATION - 1952

Gardonville Telephone Association was begun in 1943, with Carl Erickson as manager. Gardonville is a contraction of the names of the towns the company served, namely: GARfield, BranDON, and EvansVILLE. It was located in a small building next to the present Charlies' Place.

In 1952 they moved to their present

location with Paul Ekstrand as manager. The smiling faces of Elsie Kapphahn and Hazel Myers graced the front office. Soon "Hap" Jones took over the management. Alice Woeste joined the company in 1960. The plant outgrew its building and was remodeled in 1974. Vernon Peterson retired in 1979 after 33 years with the company. The staff

now includes: Don Barber; Tim Grabow; Roger Sammons. Office staff includes: Babe Jacobson; Yvonne Hermanson; and Alice Woeste with Skip Bretorst as manager. Present board members are: Norman Week; Harold Libke; Joe Wagner; Phil Roers; Richard Buse; Harlan Hanson; and Eugene Myren.



TELEPHONE BOARD - 1920: (Back Row, L to R) Ole Werner; C.P. Anderson. (Front Row) Ole Satterlund; Louis Hermanson;

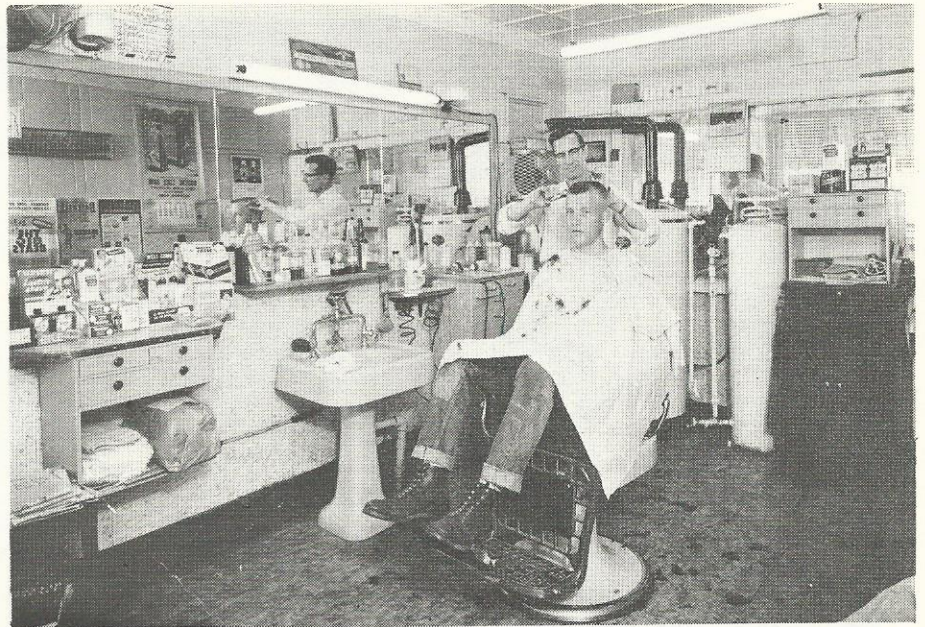
H.A. Pries.



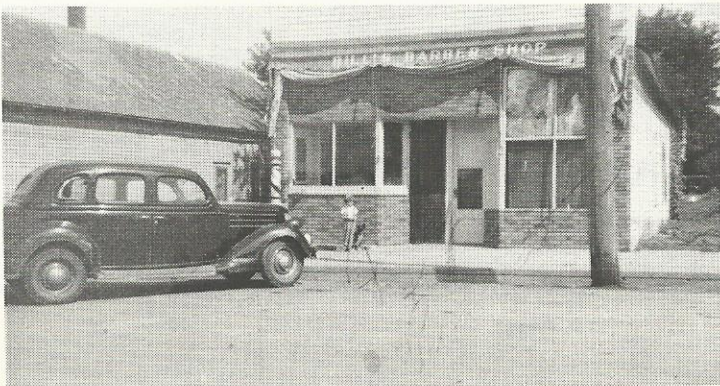
JOHN STARIHA WORKED IN Albert Holmgren's Barbershop-1911

The Barbershop

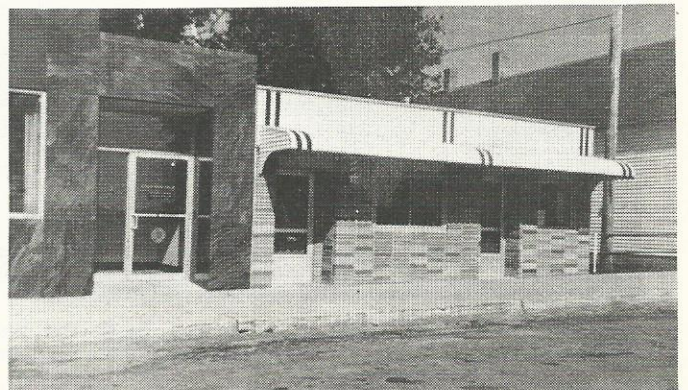
Wilbur has been lowerin' ears and givin' shaves since the spring of 1946 when he bought the shop from George Ziegelman. Hopfner's lived in the back of the shop for many years before building their home in the southwest side of town. Later he built a new building next to the bank. When the bank needed to expand, Wilbur returned to the same spot and built his present building.



WILBUR HOPFNER cutting hair



1928



Barbershop and Beauty Shop - east of bank in 1964

Beauty Shops

Brandon has two beauty shops. Carol's Cut 'n Curl has been in business for 17 years. Carol Rossum Koep started her own shop in the

Hopfner building in 1964, and moved to her present location when Wilbur built his building in 1974.

Cheryl Alstead worked with Carol

for a few years, then added a shop to her home on the northeast corner of town.



The present Moe and Urness building is between the Post Office and the Hopfner building. Originally a wooden structure, which over a period of years housed a grocery store, with several different owners, Zabel's Drug store, and cafes run by several different people. Clinton and Edith Moe

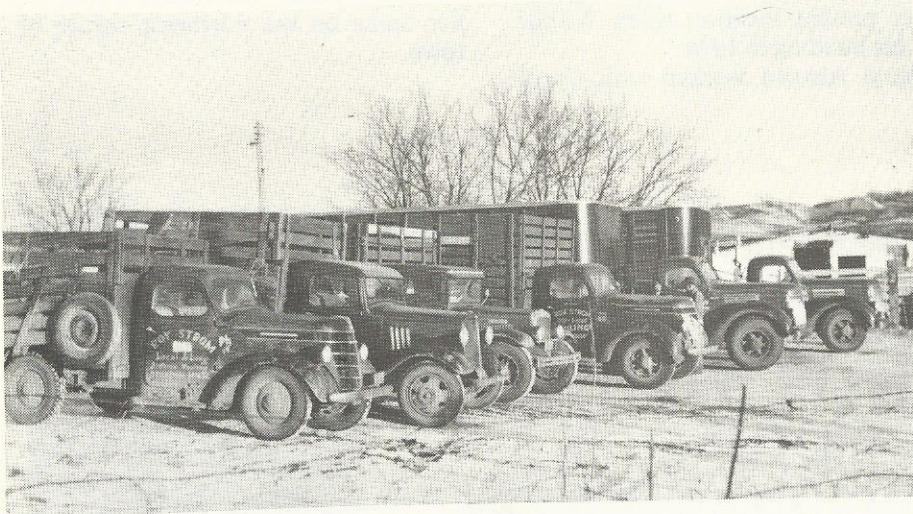
operated the cafe last and had living quarters in the back. Moe then went into the insurance business. The present building still houses the business.

The Moe and Urness Mutual Fire Insurance has been in business for 98

years. David Thompson is the Office Manager and Sharon Rossum is the Office Secretary.

The Board of Directors are as follows: Verlyn Bruzek; Marvin Dobberpuhl; Gerhard Thoennes, Sr.; Milton Strand; and David Thompson.

Livestock Shipping



ROY STROM'S FLEET of trucks in 1941



BY 1958 ROY'S FLEET had grown to 10 trucks.



MEET THE PERSONNEL of Schjei Trucking. These smiling gents are: (L to R) Ole Schjei; Gary Buse; Erwin Grubb; Jerry Klein; and Kenneth Schjei, owner and operator.

The Brandon Shipping Association began under the management of Mike Bitzan over fifty years ago in the late 20's. Livestock was shipped by rail to South St. Paul at that time.

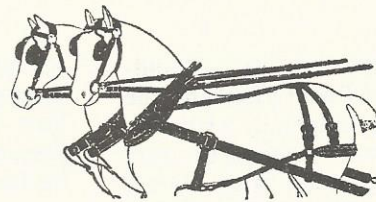
In 1929 Frank Lehn started a second shipping association which shipped by truck. Then Roy Strom and the Lund Bros. began two independent trucking systems.

The two associations dissolved and then in 1943 Roy Strom bought the Lund Trucking line and was the only shipper left. In 1959 he became affiliated with the Garfield Shipping Ass'n. being hired as manager.

In 1968, after thirty-nine years in the business, Roy sold to Kenneth Schjei. In 1979 Schjei trucking was sold to Lowry Transfer under the management of Bruce Wagner who owns it at present. Both of these owners have remained with the Garfield Shipping Ass'n. The present board members are: Verner Haabala; Paul Lauthen; Curtis Olson; Lester Olson; Alfred Kloehn; Norman Severson; and Norman Week.

Truck drivers for Roy Strom were: Cliff Augdahl; Tony Skrove; Ray Stich; Dorlan Ranstead; Kenneth Schjei; Dayton and Les Hermanson; Vernon and Cliff Strom; Ralph Angen; Dean Christopherson; and Ervin Grubb. Ervin has been a trucker and assistant for all three owners since 1957.

Present employees of Bruce Wagner include: Paul Mackay; Monte Ohlragge; Philip Reiling; and Ervin Grubb.



Harness, Sadlery,
Whips, Robes, Blankets,
Trunks and Satchels.

Repairing and Oiling Promptly Done.

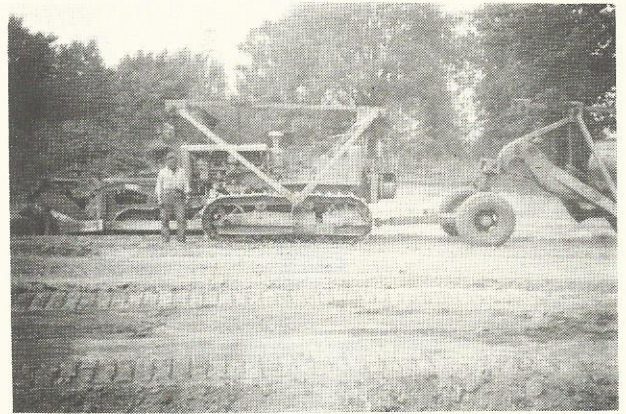
P. J. Seidlinger,

Brandon, - - - - - Minnesota.

Road Building



CLIFF'S FIRST CATERPILLAR



GETTING THE GROUND ready for a new road



GRAVEL LOADING WITH a Farmall tractor and a B4 International truck, a 1934 model with a wooden cab.



CLIFF'S NEW CAT in 1981

Clifford Strom returned from his travels with the Merchant Marines in 1945. First he worked for his brother Roy in livestock and local hauling. He bought three trucks from Roy and went into business for himself, still picking up cattle for Roy's business and hauling coal, grain, gravel, etc. A front end loader was used for gravel and soon he found a used TD 6 bulldozer a necessity.

He was asked to get a school bus to haul Dist. 54 pupils from south into Brandon School as Ted Plaster had the north route and William Van-Sickle another route. Soon he bought the other buses.

In time Ray Stich bought the local hauling and Ray Strom the school buses and the gravel business.

When Clifford started grubbing trees and clearing land he was given a grub hook by the Stop family as a reminder of how his forefathers did it. Thanks to our forefathers for a great heritage.

Ray Strom helped Clifford a great deal. Leonard Schulte and Vernon Strom have long been of service and throughout the 35 years many other faithful and dependable men have helped build the business what it is today.

Paul Strom learned as he grew up in the business and in 1975, after his Army service, he decided to join his dad in the Heavy Equipment Construction business and to carry on serving the fine people of this community and area.

Schelin's Store



Charlie Schelin moved to this building after having been burned out just down the block on a -35 degree winter night in 1942. This location was for a time, Dahl's Store.

Charlie was in the grocery business for 42 years. After his death the building was sold to Meadow Lane Enterprises. Shea Carpeting was located there for a time.

This past year the Meadow Lane Enterprises has converted the building into a teen center. The name is Charlie's Place, a most fitting name.

A Tribute To Charlie Schelin



Written by Brenda Olson. Published Nov. 19, 1974 in the school paper - The Centurion - By Product of the Billboard:

Someone who cared?

A place to go?

Meeting your friends?

That was Charlie's!

We all knew him and liked him. And sometimes took advantage of him. All the time though, he knew he was getting ripped off by some of the kids. But this never stopped him from having his store open until late at night until the kids had gotten rides home from the games and dances. Until there were no more people outside his store who needed a place to sit and wait.

He never seemed to mind all the noise that was made in his store when everyone gathered by his store to decide what to do and where to go. And a lot of people never appreciated all he did for everyone; until now.

Now he is gone and now we start thinking. Thinking of all the good times everyone shared in his little store. Thinking of all the times you saw someone take something but never said anything about it.

Thinking of all the times you could have just dropped by to say hello, to brighten up his day. Now we ask ourselves WHY? Why didn't we ever do anything for him? But now it is too late. Now we sit and remember all the good things about Charles Schelin. How kind he was, how he cared about the kids, and that he stayed open till late hours of the night just for a bunch of kids that didn't even stop and appreciate it.

He is gone now, but he will be remembered by all of us. He was a good man. He had a good honest business. But, as it happened, he's gone. So we just have a memory of a kind man who actually gave a darn about the kids!!!

Korkowski Implement

Fifty-three Years of Business



John Korkowski has been in the implement dealer of International Harvester Machinery since the purchase of the dealership from Nels Kronberg in 1928. John sells implements, a full line of parts and he also has a repair shop.

Car Dealerships

Car dealerships were prominent businesses in Brandon. From 1931-1940, Harvey Bolin sold Oldsmobiles, G.M.C. trucks, and Case farm machinery in the "old potato" warehouse. Another business that Harvey still operates is the airplane repair service he started after he and his wife bought the Two Havens Resort on Chippewa Lake.

Blacksmiths

Brandon has had quite a number of blacksmiths in its day. There was a blacksmith shop on the corner west of the John Korkowski Implement building. Some of the owners were: Ed Norgen, Harry Ruana, and Art Larson. The Meissner Garage, now owned by Les Okerlund had several different blacksmiths in residence: Jim Larson, George Herring and John Smith.

A and R Welding became a part of Brandon when Art Eisner came to town in 1968. His shop is located on the west end of town across the road from the Brennon addition.

Argo Motor Car

\$295

Four Cylinder

Water Cooled

Shaft Drive

Sliding Gear Transmission

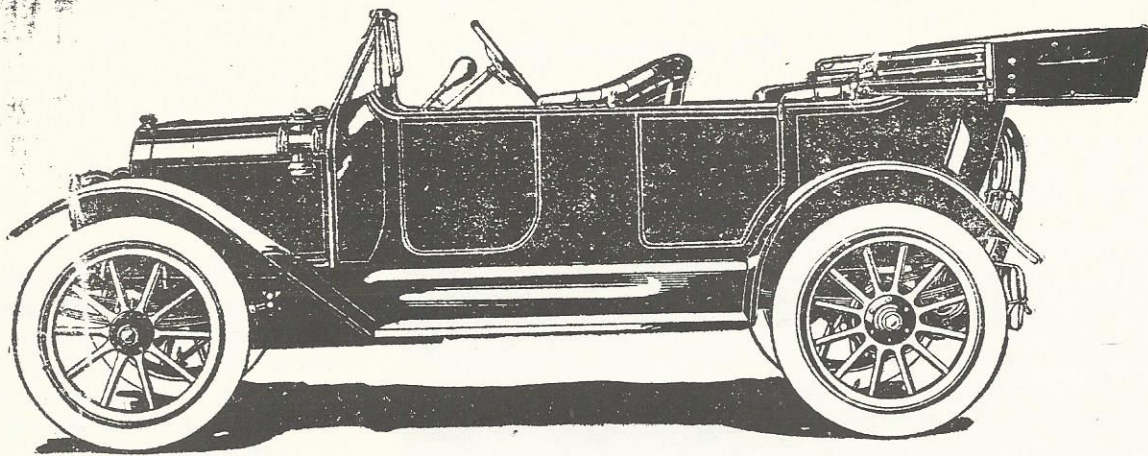
The lowest first cost

The lowe operating cost

The lowest upkeep cost

Not cheaply made because the price is low, but because it is the greatest engineering triumph of the age.

C. J. ABEL,
Douglas County Distributor
Brandon, Minn.



1914 Maxwell "25-4"
 \$750 F. O. B. Detroit, Michigan.

The year's sensation. Four-cylinder, bloc-cast; 25 h.p. motor; magneto; weight 1650 pounds; 103 inch wheel base; 30x3 1-2 inch tires all 'round; 3 speed selective transmission; full five-passenger body designed by Bruce Ott; complete equipment, including windshield, top and Jiffy storm curtains.

LOCAL AGENTS
Larson & Hoplin,

Brandon, Minnesota.

Do You Realize

that the two most important things to be considered in opening a bank account are:

1st. A safe bank in which to deposit your money.

2nd. A bank that always stands ready to lend any assistance to its customers to which they are entitled.

Our large number of accounts, both large and small, is conclusive proof that we combine these important elements of Banking.

Brandon State Bank

CAPITAL \$25,000 - SURPLUS \$5,000

O. F. OLSON, Pres. THEO. F. OLSON, Cashier
 ANTON H. STROM, V. Pres. J. M. TAMBLE, Asst. Cash

Directors:

JACOB TAMBLE, J. A. LINNARD, P. B. LORSUNG
 C. G. ROSENGREN

CITY RESTAURANT

Lunches Served At All Hours

FRUITS and CANDIES

SOFT DRINKS OF ALL KINDS

Smoking Pipes, Cigar Holders

CIGARS AND TOBACCOS



**CLOCKS, SILVERWARE,
 JEWELRY**

Watch and Clock Repairing Done

GEORGE VIDEEN

Brandon, : M i n n .

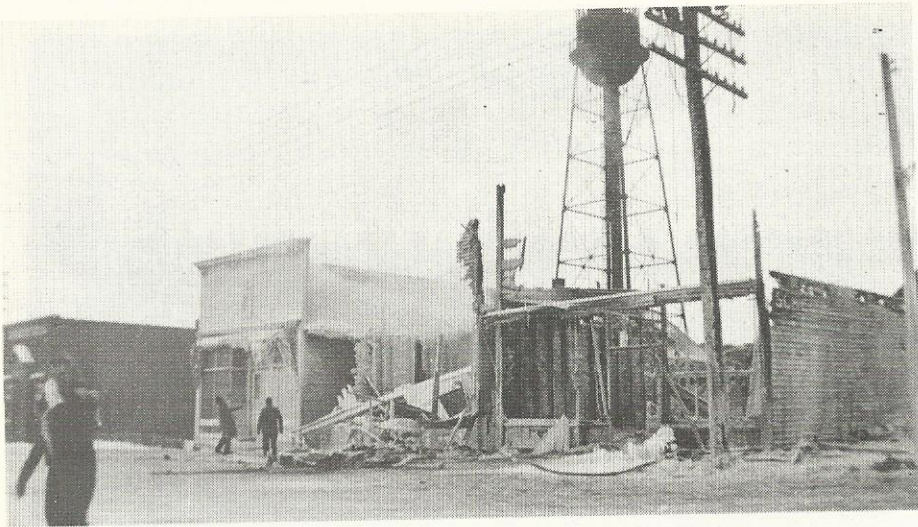
Olson & Lehn



CORNER BUILDING on Front Street and Holmes Ave.



LOUIE KAPPAHN IN HIS CAFE. Other owners were "Cappy" Pehans, "Popeye" Rogneys and George Courriers.



BUILDINGS BURN in early '40's - Charlie Schelin's Store and Courriers Restaurant

The white building remaining in the picture is the Brandon Meat Market. Oscar Pladson and Leo Smedstad, brothers-in-law, operated the Brandon Meat Market for many years. When Oscar and Leo retired, the building was used as a slaughter-house by the Brandon Super Market owners. The building was then sold to Dayton Hermanson and housed Hermanson's Floor Covering. When Citizens State Bank expanded, the building was torn down to make room for the bank parking lot.

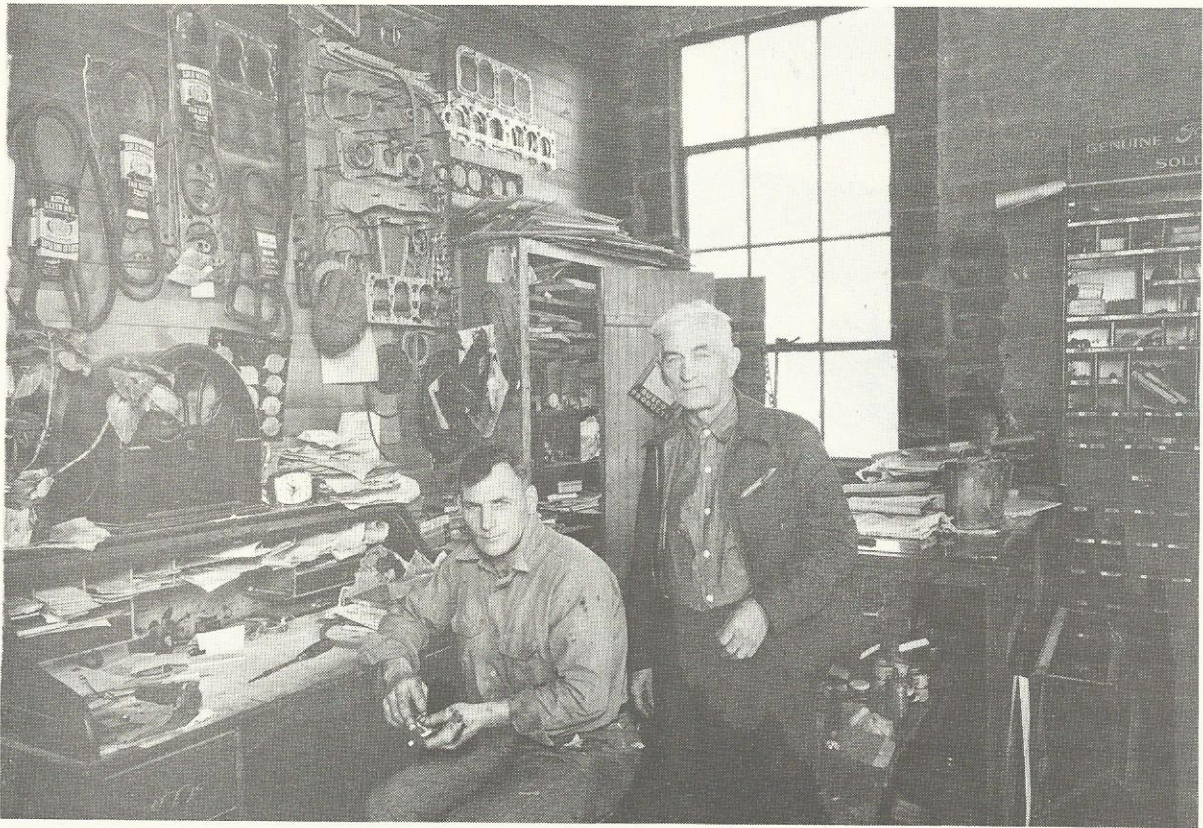
Brandon Super Market was built in the early 50's by Bob Kloehn who owned and operated the first self service food market in Brandon. Later he built a bigger store where the Town and Country foods is now located. The building in the picture was then remodeled to house a laundromat in the east half. Lil and Lee Schultz moved to Brandon in 1961 and opened Schultz's V-Store in the west half of the building. Schultz's were in business for 5 years before selling the business to Myron and Carol Severson. In 1967, Dennis Korkowski purchased the building and Seversons moved to their new building on Central Avenue. Dennis has owned and operated Brandon T.V. and Electronics in the present location since that date. The Korkowski's also own and operate the Car Wash and the Laundromat.



BRANDON SUPER MARKET located on the corner

The Forum Only **\$1.25** Per Year.

Bus Barn



ROBERT HANDKE and son Henry.



HENRY HANDKE and his first bulk tank truck when he drove for a Fergus Falls firm.

This building was built by a group of Brandon businessmen, and later bought by Robert Handke who had the Ford Garage, general car repair business, gas, oil and parts. In 1970, Bruce

Nelson bought the building from Henry Handke and also bought the school bus business from Ray Strom.

This building was also used for several years on 4-H Achievement Day

to house the 4-H animals that were brought in for show. This was a big day for Brandon with a parade highlighting the celebration.



BUS BARN TODAY

Severson's & Bettermann's



In 1966 the Myron Seversons bought two lots from the Douglas County Cooperative and built a store building housing variety, clothing and groceries. After 15 years of being in business, the Seversons sold the store to Willie and Hilda Bettermann. The Bettermann's store is called Bettermann's Village "3".

The Brandon Echo

In 1891 the Brandon Blue Bells newspaper was born. It originally was established by a man named Clark. It was published for about a year by Clark and then sold to Hans Peterson and Fred Andrews. These were tough years for newspaper publishers and soon the two men gave up. It was then

that A.C. Lawrence took over the Blue Bells plant and changed the name to the Brandon Echo. Lawrence also had difficulties in establishing the paper and again it changed hands, this time to Mr. George S. Myron. Myron moved the plant into his home from the Decker building. A short time later

Mr. Myron followed the path of his predecessors and it was sold to Mr. Borgen. Borgen, too, ran into trouble and soon the Brandon State Bank took over the paper and Mr. Carl A. Wold was hired as manager. In 1908 the paper was moved to Alexandria and its name changed to the Park Region Echo.

The Brandon Forum.

BRANDON, DOUGLAS COUNTY, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1915.

The Brandon Forum was founded by A.B. Johnson on October 15, 1910, about two years after the "Echo" had

been moved to Alexandria. On October 15, 1915 the Forum was purchased by W.J.B. Moses.

Cappy's Place

Casper Pehan

Main Street

Brandon

John Melby

Paper Hanger and Agent
for Alfred Peats Wallpaper Co.

Lorsung's Saloon
and
Meat Market

Millerville, Minnesota

Snappy Summer Goods

Priced Low

B.T. Teigen
Brandon, Minnesota

Brandon News

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brandon, Minn.
Permit No. 4

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1968

Published by Brandon Commercial Club

Brandon Starts Paper Again After Many Years

The first issue of the Brandon News was delivered to the Brandon trade area the week of July 25, 1968. It was spearheaded by Frank McFarlane and Robert Lanners.

Ads included the Brandon Super Market with bacon advertised at 2 lbs.

for 99¢; Seversons advertised sweat shirts at 99¢ for all sizes; Schelin's Store had 2 lbs. Butternut Coffee for \$1.43; and Ostlund Hardware had one gallon of latex flat paint on sale at \$2.60 per gal. Other advertisers in the Brandon Shopper were Brandon Co-op Creamery, Haabala Brothers Con-

struction, Ray's Bulk Petroleum, Clint Moe Insurance, Frank's Standard, Milt's Cafe, Carol's Cut 'n Curl, Farmer's Grain, Citizens State Bank, A and R Welding, Scherrer Oil, Brandon Lumber Co., Korkowski Implement, Brandon T.V. and Electronics, and Douglas County Cooperative.

West Douglas County Record

VOL 1, NO. 1

AUGUST 23, 1979

The West Douglas County Record was founded in August of 1979 by Dana and Jon Schroeder who also publish the Grant County Herald in Elbow Lake and the Ashby-Dalton Post. The Record was established to serve as a weekly newspaper for the Brandon, Evansville, Millerville and Garfield areas. It expanded on the job done previously by the Brandon News and Evansville Booster.

The Record has an office in Evans-

ville and is mailed each week to 2400 area households from the Brandon post office. Staff members include DeEtte Field, associate editor; Jody Hanson, ad sales; Jean Slack, reporter-photographer; and Darlene Fletcher, office receptionist. The paper is put together each week in the office in Elbow Lake and printed at Quinco Press in Lowry.

Subscriptions are free within the trade area, making the publication

totally advertiser supported. The Record is the official legal newspaper for the Brandon and Evansville school districts and for the cities of Brandon and Evansville. It carries coverage of area school board meetings and city council meetings, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, feature stories, school sports, church and social news, and classified and display advertising. It averages from 16 to 20 tabloid sized pages each week.

Brandon Organizations



EAGLE SCOUTS Jeff Johnson-1980 and Winston Johnson-1935

For many years the Campfire Girls were active in Brandon. During later years the Girl Scouts and Brownies have been a part of the community.

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have also been active. In 1980, Jeff Johnson became an Eagle Scout. He joined the ranks of five other young men who received this honor in 1935. Roy Christenson, Winston Johnson, Walter Undlin, Claire Swenson, Wendelyn Wagner and Orrin Helgeson were the six young men.

Garden Club

In 1969 the Brandon Garden Club was organized with Mrs. Charlie Rossum as president. The ladies have been very active with community projects and have planted many flower

beds for everyone to enjoy. They have changed their name to the Merry Tillers. They have 15 members. Present officers are: Ella Schjei, president; Ethel Peda, vice president; Hazel

Hermanson, secretary; Millie Peterson, treasurer; and Alpha Schulte, historian.

Brandon Fin & Feather Sportsman's Club

The Brandon Fin & Feather Club was one of the first sportsman's clubs in the country. It was first organized by Peter Handke and Walter Wilken.

The first project of the club was a crow hunt. Because of the large infestation of crows the crow hunt was organized. Two teams were chosen. Points were scored; 2 points for a crow and 1 point for an egg. The losing team treated the winners with a free meal. This was done during the months of April and May and became an annual event for many years.

Jack Rabbit hunts were also organized to control the rabbits and a means of making money for the club. The rabbits were sold for their fur.

The smoked fish picnic had its beginning and is still an annual event that is much looked forward to by all the members.

During the dry years of the thirties

and the low water in the lakes, the club worked with the D.N.R. to prevent lakes from drying from lack of oxygen and also helped restock those that did.

The club has often worked in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. One of our biggest projects was the poisoning of the carp in Whiskey Lake and then the restocking of it.

Officers of the club today are: Jim Korkowski, president; Ray Berndt, vice president; and Don Bakken, secretary-treasurer. The present-day membership is 125.

Projects the club are presently involved with are: Carp control; pheasant and duck raising programs; shelter-belt and tree planting; acres for wildlife with corn plot; gun safety training program; and game fish rearing pond.

Brandon Lions Club

The Lions Club has been roaring up and down the streets of Brandon since the spring of 1969 when they decided to organize. Twenty-four local men chartered the first club, with Pastor F. Bromhal being the first president. Lions International is involved in a number of state-wide and International projects including the Lions "Eye Bank", Camp Courage, Leader Dog program and now being involved in the Hearing Center. They have raised money for many local community projects. The Brandon Lions annual chicken feed has been a great success over the years. The fellows love putting their cooking skills to work. Warren Gibson, newly elected president takes over the gavel from retiring president, Duane Johnson. Other officers are: Larry Noeldner, secretary and Fran Fuller, treasurer. There are 20 members at this time.

Service Organizations

The Argonne Forest Post #278 of the American Legion has been in existence since 1920. American Legion honors the veterans of all wars and the men who died in service for our country.

The original Legion included members from Brandon, Evansville, Garfield, Moe, Urness and Millerville. Each Memorial Day they would march to the cemetery west of town on old Highway #3 to pay tribute to their comrades. Memorial Day services were held on the Brandon School lawn until the Brandon Auditorium was built in 1936.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #936 began in 1934 in Brandon. In 1940, the Post was moved to Alexandria and is still active.

After a period of inactivity, the Argonne Forest Post #278 of the American Legion of Brandon was reinstated on December 29, 1941.

There were 27 charter members, five

of whom are still living: Olaus Johnson and Harry Ruana of the Knute Nelson Memorial Home, Alexandria, MN; Olaf Haglund of Crestview Manor, Evansville; Theodore Plaster, Brandon; and William S. Johnson of rural Brandon. The first officers were Commander, John Knudson; Treasurer, Richard Dahl; and Adjutant, Walter Hoving.

Immediately following WW II, the Post had 117 members, an all time high in membership in Brandon. The membership has been greatly reduced following the institution of Legion Posts in the surrounding towns.

Present officers are: Commander, Lydon Sletto; Finance Officer, Francis Brennon; and Adjutant, Ralph Ostlund. Our Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit have been in active service to our community longer than any other organization.

Argonne Forest Unit #278 of the

American Legion Auxiliary of Brandon, MN was first endorsed on Oct. 29, 1942 by the local Post Officers. Second endorsement was made by the Department of Minnesota in November of 1942. Third endorsement was approved by the National Secretary on January 4, 1943. Thirteen members signed the original charter, five of whom are still members: Mrs. Joel Angen; Mrs. Louis Lea; Mrs. Theo. Plaster; Mrs. W.H. Hoving; and Mrs. Clarence Newhouse. The signing of the charter took place November 2, 1942. First Officers were: President, May Angen; Secretary, Marie Lea; and Treasurer, Clara Dahl.

Present officers are: President, Alpha Schulte; Secretary, Elda Sletto; and Treasurer, Gertie Engel.

We have had two Gold Star Members: Mrs. Leo Smedstad, a Gold Star Mother and Elda Sletto, a Gold Star Sister.



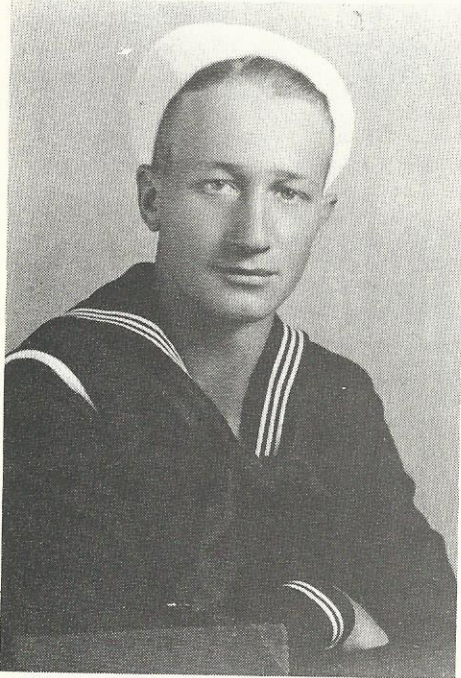
JOHN KNUDSON, First Commander of the V.F.W., Alexandria - also First Commander of the American Legion, Brandon.



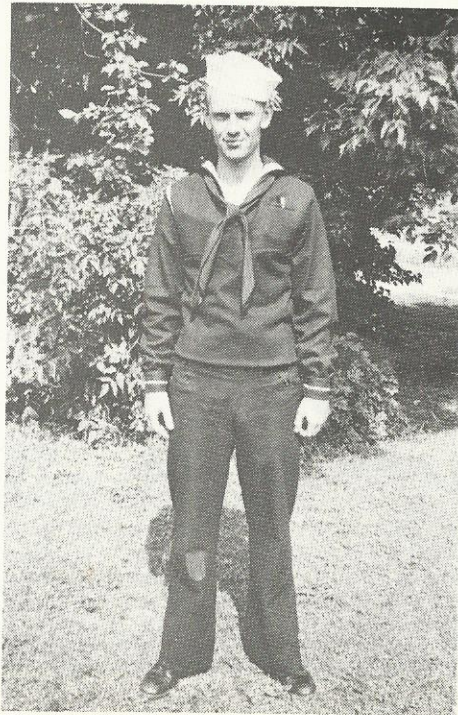
FLANDERS FIELD, Memorial Day - 1974

As long as there have been wars and conflicts, men and women from the Brandon area have left home and family to serve and defend our country.

We wish to dedicate this page in their behalf.



MACHINIST MATE First Class, U.S. Navy - Earl C. Sletto, son of Emil and Sarah Lea Sletto of rural Brandon, was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the Battle Ship Arizona on December 7, 1941. He is still entombed in the ship with 1,101 other servicemen. Earl was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.



SEAMAN FIRST CLASS, U.S. Navy - Vernon Smedstad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Smedstad of Brandon, Mn. passed away April 13, 1943 at the Veterans Hospital at Ft. Snelling, Minneapolis, Mn., having been transferred there from a hospital in Sicily. He died from food poisoning following the Battle of Salerno, WWII.



2nd LT. ROY H. CHRISTENSON, U.S. Air Force, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Christenson of Brandon, Mn. was killed in a plane crash on a routine training flight at the Kunming Air Base in Kunming, China, March 12, 1945. He was a fighter pilot flying P-51's in the China India Burma War Theater in WWII. Roy was awarded the Bronze Star.

THESE THREE MEN were honored by a Flag with three gold stars which hung in the front of the Brandon Auditorium for many years, placed there by the American Legion.

Early Activities for Fun & Recreation



COMMUNITY PICNIC at Moon Lake



HOW ABOUT A RIDE?

Brandon Band

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.



8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

THIS PICTURE was taken in the early 1900's:

- 1.) John Rosengren
- 2.) _____
- 3.) Carl Olson
- 4.) Albert Nelson, Leader
- 5.) Richard Dahl
- 6.) Delphin Knudson
- 7.) _____
- 8.) _____
- 9.) Albert Holmgren
- 10.) _____
- 11.) _____
- 12.) John Melby
- 13.) James Scheerer
- 14.) Art Swenson

Can you name some of the unidentified fellows?



BRANDON BAND - 1910: Albert Nelson, director; (Back Row) Dr. Van Kappelan; Richard Dahl; Clarence Johnson; Art Swenson;

(Front Row) John Melby; Albert Holmgren. Uniforms were a bright kelly green with red trim and gold braid.



BRANDON CHORAL CLUB: (L to R) Edward Johnson; Otto Johnson; Lena Starha (Mrs. Nick Schwartz); Alice Werner (Mrs. Axel Burkey); Agnes Olson (Mrs. Otto Johnson); Cara

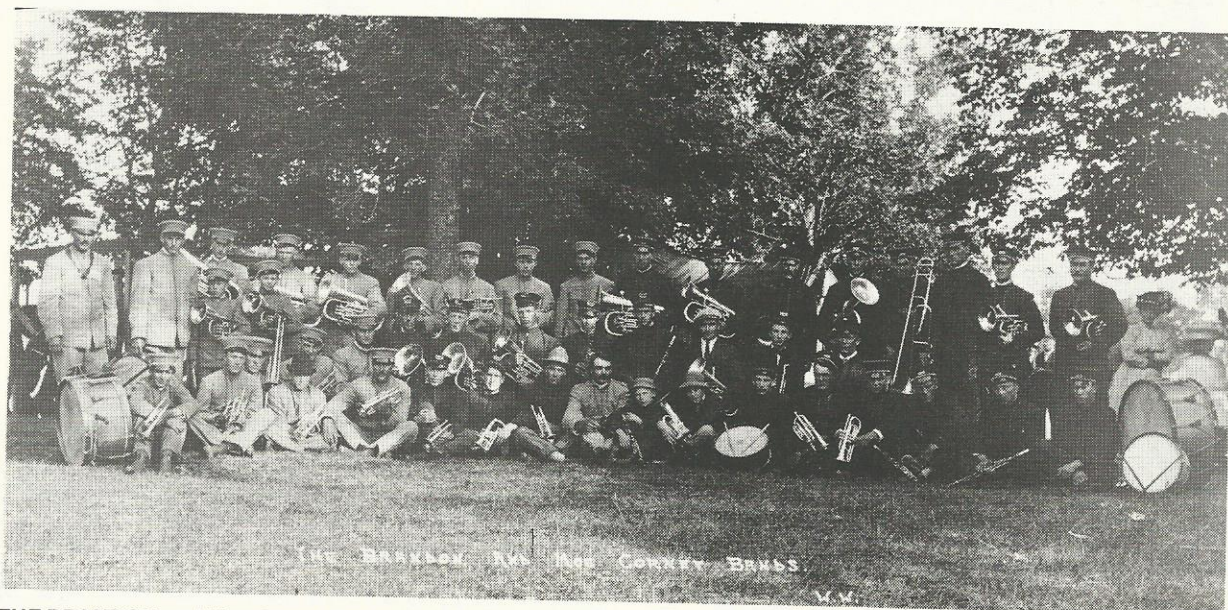
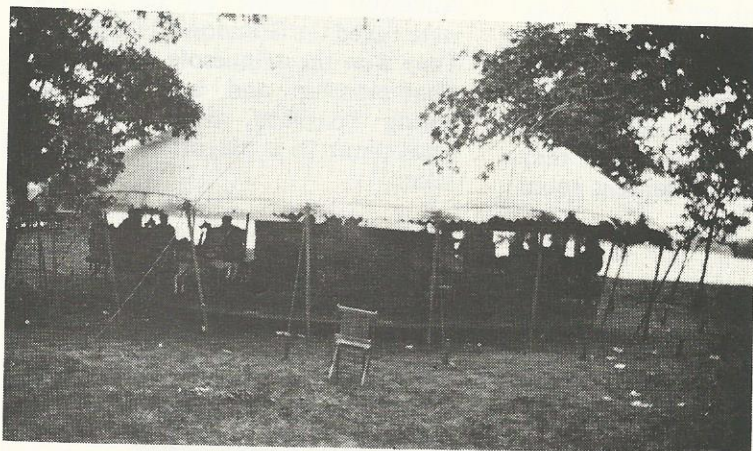
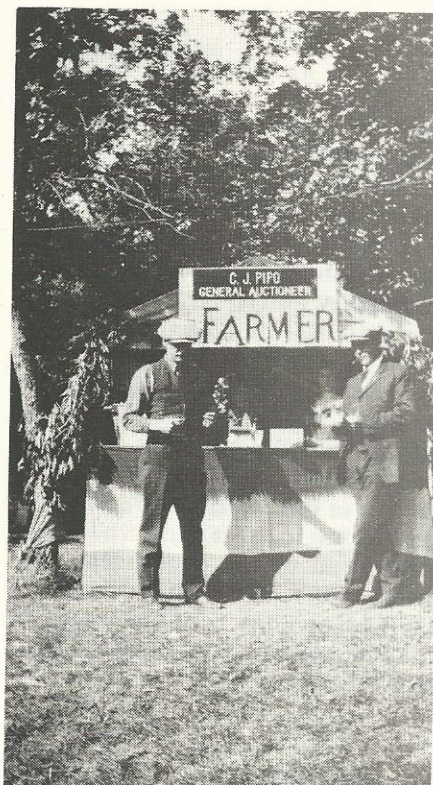
Werner (Mrs. Edward Johnson); (?Eva Emerson Wold); Mr. & Mrs. Brusegaard; and (?Carl Wold).



QUOTE FROM WRITING on back of postcard, dated Feb. 15, 1915. Near the Schaubhut place, which is now George Skrove's: "Some fellows have built a scaffold 26 feet high, the man

pictured jumped 65 feet. Later ten feet was added to the height. John just received a new pair of hickory skills costing \$10.00.

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR was held at Chippewa Park, between Little Chippewa and Devils Lakes, north of Brandon - early 1920's.



THE BRANDON and Moe Cornet Bands

The Brandon Silver Streaks

The following is a letter received by Mrs. Eldon Stene from her sister, Mrs. Lloyd Liane (Helen Miller) of Owatonna.

Sunday evening

Hi!

I got so excited when I saw the "Silver Streaks" that I will send this back with Mom's letter.

I think they were at their best in 1935 or 1936 because I was working in Alexandria and I came back for every game and they won them all.

Number 1 is Tiny Blaha, of course, and what a guy he was. He was our Supt. when I graduated and I don't know how long he was there in 1931.

No. 2 is Bill Williams. He was one of Alexandria's coaches at that time. He later was in the FBI in Minnesota. I don't know for sure but I think he was the head of the department. In these last years he has been Manager of the Metropolitan Stadium where I talked with him at a Twins game about three years ago.

No. 3 is Les Alden, the coach at Brandon at that time.

No. 4 is Bob Haried of Alexandria, not a coach but a very good basketball player.

No. 5, George Roscoe also a coach at Alexandria at that time, more recently he was at Austin and Rochester.

No. 6 was Russ Anderson, the coach at Evansville at that time. He was our center and a very good basketball player. I haven't heard where he went after he left Evansville.

It really brings back memories as I have this same picture in my picture album only about size 8x10 glossy print. I cherish that picture as we were all so proud of them, our little town of Brandon, our Firemen and their "Silver Streaks". Their suits were silver with dark blue (I think) and on the back of their jackets they had the face of a laughing fireman with the red fireman's hat on it. Mom says we paid 10¢ to see the game the first year they played and there was standing room

only. The second year they charged 25¢ and took in over \$100 the night they played and beat the Minnesota Traveling Gophers! They were the best!

I remember them well. If their old fans remember them as well as I do, they may have had many letters by now.

As ever,
Helen

This letter was written in response to a picture of the "Silver Streaks" in a previous paper.

Editor's note: A kind informant tells us Russ Anderson owns the Sioux Sporting Goods store at Bismarck, N.D. and, in turn, a note from Russ Anderson himself: (in part) "They were called the Brandon Silver Streaks. They won the Minnesota Gold Medal Championship and beat the Rock Spring Sparklers, Minnesota AAU Champions in a playoff at Brandon, Minn."



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM, Brandon, Mn. (Seated, L to R) Rickey Kelley; Clifford Stuber; Loren Miesner; Roy Christenson; Donald Sateren. (Standing) Leslie Alden, Coach; Earl

Stuber; Wesley Haber; Lloyd Lehn; Warren Therkildson; Herman Hoplin.



THE BRANDON SILVER STREAKS: Henry Bergh and Albert Holmgren, Managers; (Front Row, L to R) Jerome Hughes; Marlon Blaha; Roy Lanners; (Back Row) Henry Bergh; Leslie

Alden; Russel Anderson; Robert Harled; Edwin Zable; Albert Holmgren.

The Silver Streaks played such teams as: The Globe Trotters; the Red Heads (a team composed of women); and other professional teams.



BRANDON SILVER STREAKS, BRANDON, MINN. 1938-39

(Back Row, L to R) Oscar Pladson; Leslie Alden; George Roscoe; Bill Williams; Albert Holmgren. (Front Row) Marlon Blaha; Russel Anderson; Robert Harled. With exception of Harled, all were coaches in Brandon, Evansville and Alexandria.

1951 Resorters League Champions



THE BRANDON BASEBALL CLUB which won the 1951 Resorter League title game at the Alexandria Ball Park in 1951. Shown above are: (Front Row, L to R) Chas. Erickson; Bob Lanners; Ray Johnson; Claud Harnett; Orvin Schjel; Clarence Anderson;

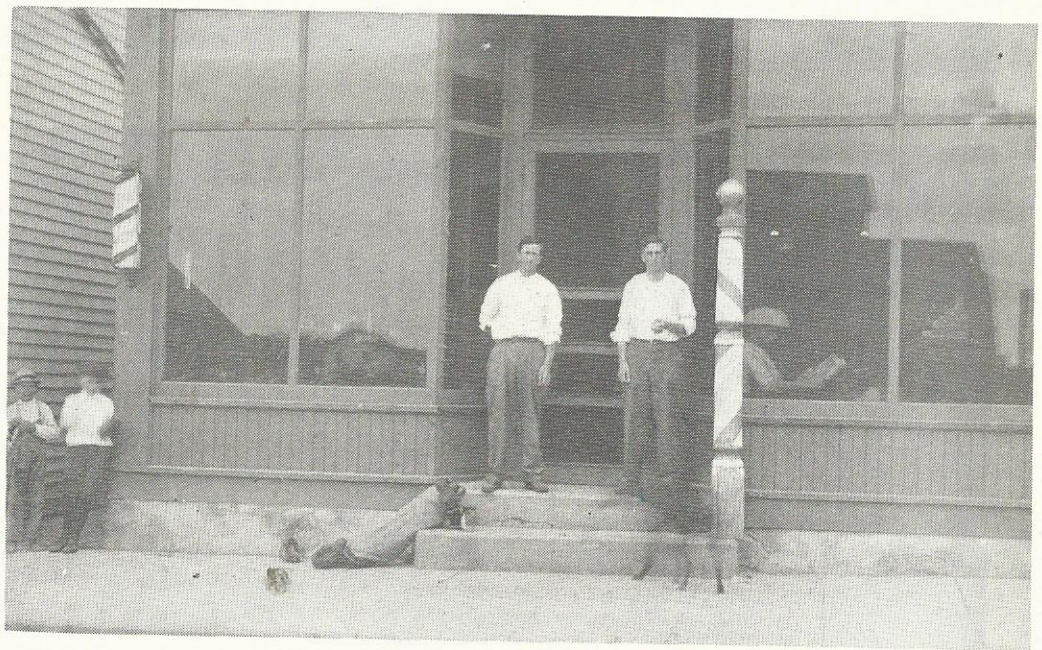
and Robert Olson. (2nd Row) LeRoy Wallin; Clarence Lehn; Cortland Scherrer; Dick Johnson; Curtis Olson; Dale Walstad; Elphege Webskowski; Les Anderson; Eugene Stone; Wayne Bye; and Oscar Pladson.

Street Scenes



LOOKING WEST down Front Street. Former bank building in background - July 4, 1911.

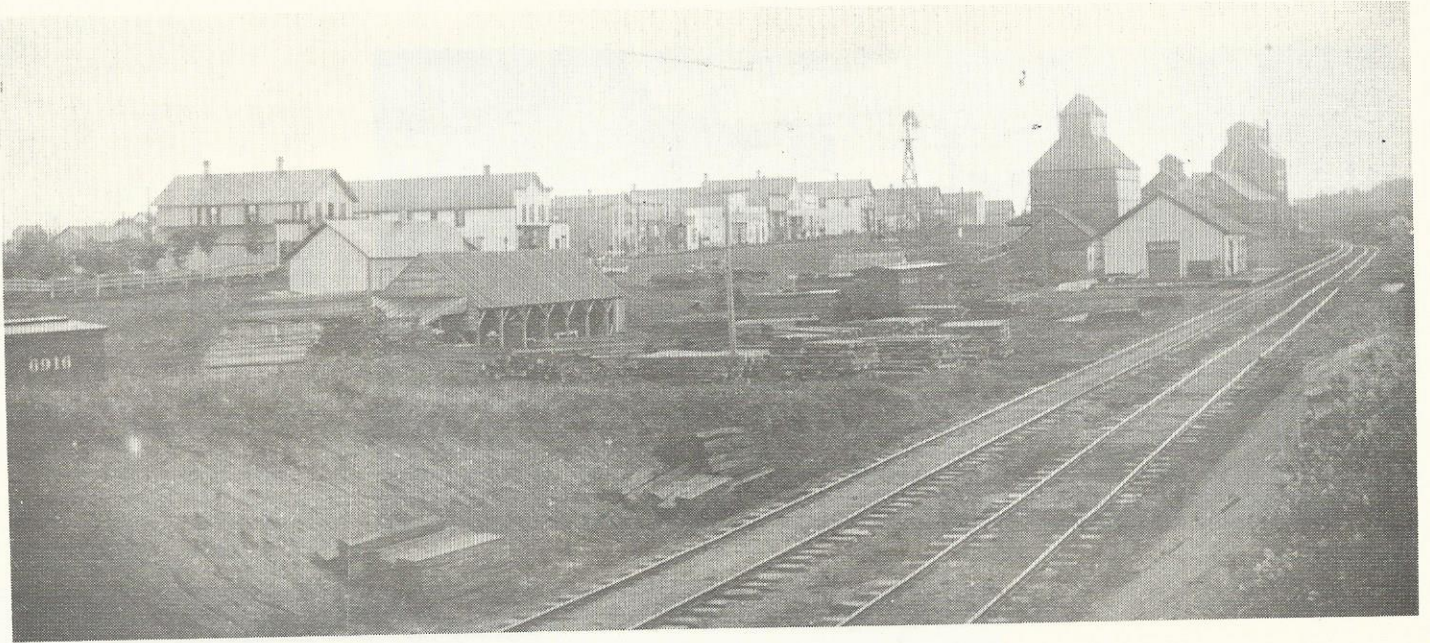
BARBERSHOP - location unknown



LOOK AT THOSE wonderful automobiles!



(R to L) Seldlinger's Harness Shop; Post Office; Martha Hagedorn Building; Brandon Telephone building; Hoplin Hardware building; Schelins's Store.



MAIN STREET of Brandon - 1890



**JOHN HAMMERGREN grading
Main Street - 1907**

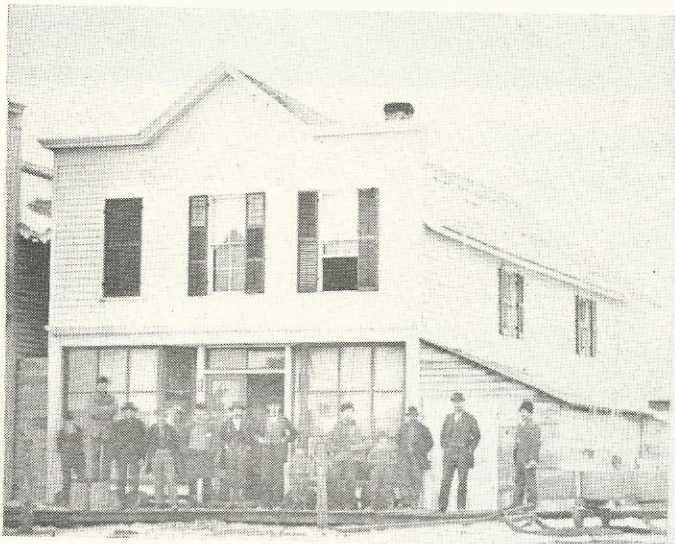
**FRONT STREET between
Holmes and Nelson Avenues.
Building marked "X" was at that
time a meat market operated by
John Hammergren.**





THE CORNER OF Front Street and Holmes Avenue. The laundromat is now on this site.

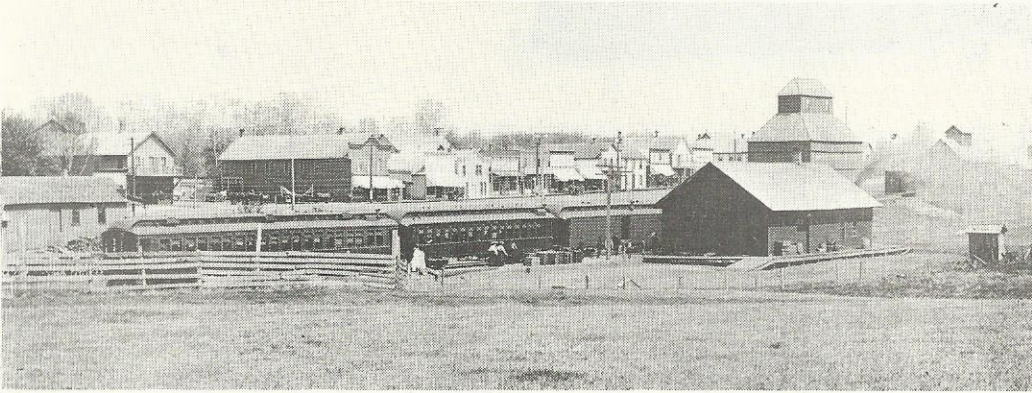
THIS HOME WAS BUILT by Christ Petterson on the corner of 3rd St. and Nelson Ave. Later owners were Anton Strom and Emil Bergh. It is now owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Lee Salsbury.



COULD THIS BE the hotel in the middle of Front Street? (year unknown)



FRONT STREET - 1912



TRAIN DEPOT - Front Street in background

FRONT STREET



FRONT STREET looking east



**LOOKING SOUTH - early
1900 Central Avenue**

Central Ave Brandon Minn 72

THE O.F. OLSON HOME was destroyed by fire, rebuilt by J.O. Renkes, and is now the home of Wm. Killmp.



O. F. Olson & A. Pakison, Residence 67



THIS HOME IS NOW owned by Mr. & Mrs. Mel Vensland.

C.G. ROSENGREN residence. It is now owned by Mr. Fran Fuller.



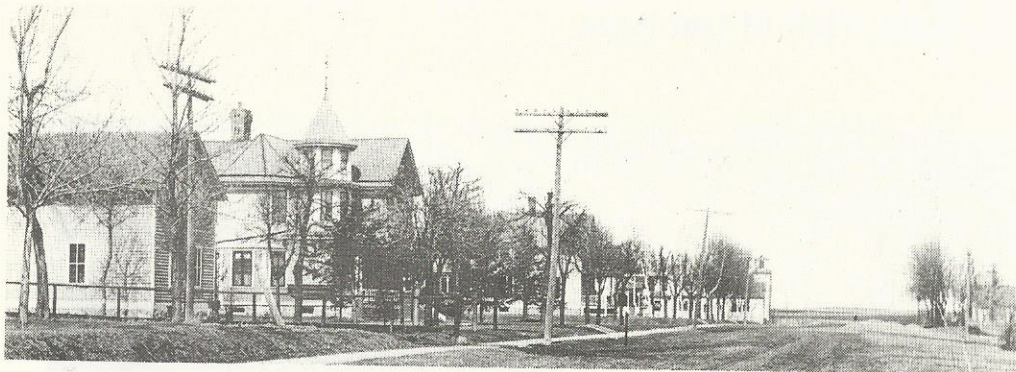


1912 - C.G. ROSENGREN home - Grace Church on the right .

THIS HOME IS now owned by Mrs. Phyllis Gabriel.



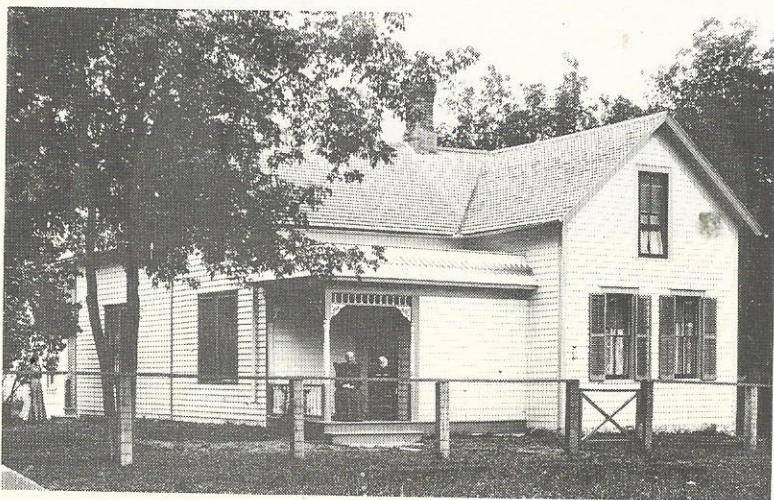
JACOB TAMBLE HOME, now owned by Mr. & Mrs. James Schecker .



LOOKING NORTH on Nelson Avenue. The large home was the Catholic Church Rectory for many years. It is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Lydon Olson.



SIMILAR SCENE as above photo. Note St. Ann's Catholic Church in the background. (1912)



MRS. THORER EVENSON AND Morris Tronbol are pictured. The house is lately known as the DeBilzen home.



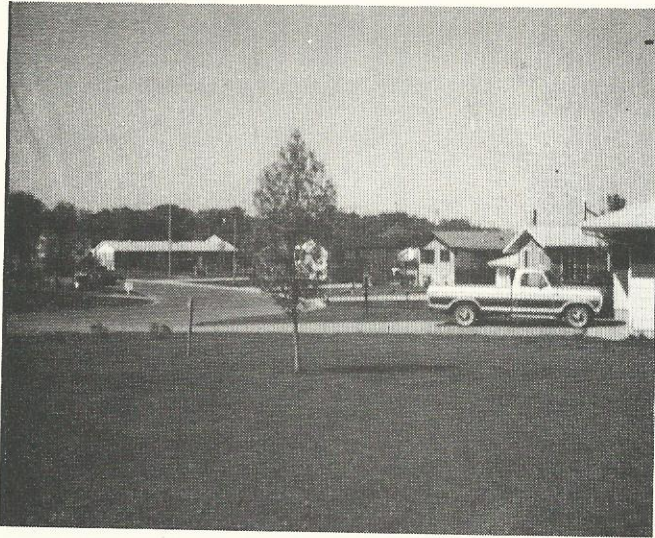
ELI SMITH, U.S. mail driver of Nome, Alaska, at Brandon, Minnesota May 3, 1909 on his way home from Washington D.C.

Aerial View of Our Area

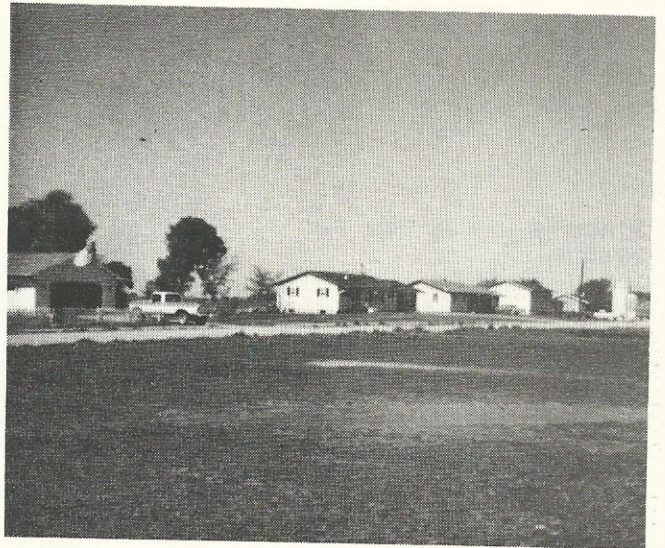


THIS PHOTO SHOWS our "Centennial City" in the midst of a beautiful array of lakes which our summer people enjoy along

with our lake residents. The farming land and beautiful farms make up the surrounding area that is so vital to our community.



MEADOW LANE



BRENNON ADDITION



Brandon Manor, an 8-plex apartment building, was finished during the summer of 1978. A 4-plex apartment building is located a block east of the 8-plex. It was completed in 1969.

Farming Yesterday



FARMING - a vital part of our community.

POTATOE HARVEST ON THE LINNARD, FARM No 1 AH

STACKING HAY on Thos. Farrell's farm.



JACOB JACOBSON'S threshing rig; Pete Undlin, engineer; Daniel Jacobson, water man; Emil Linnard, seperator man.



STACKING HAY ON THOS. FARRELL'S FARM.



WRECK OF BARN and silo on Stop's farm as it looked after the storm of July 28, 1917.

WRECK OF BARN AND SILO ON STOP'S PLACE, BRANBOX, MINN.
AS IT LOOKED AFTER THE STORM OF JULY 28, 1917.

Farming has seen many changes over the years.



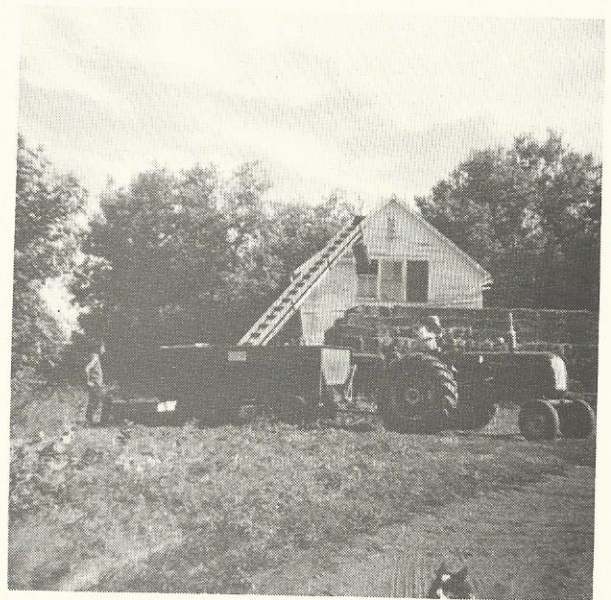
EVEN THE HORSES dressed up in those days.



SWATHING the grain field



COMBINING the harvest



STORING the grain

Churches



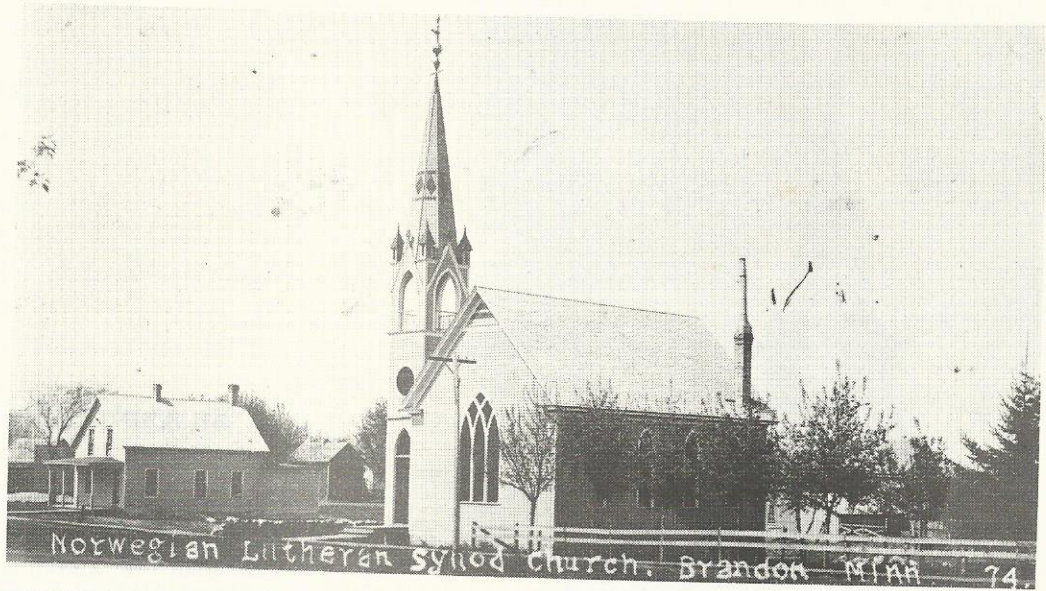
1973

Chippewa Lutheran Church

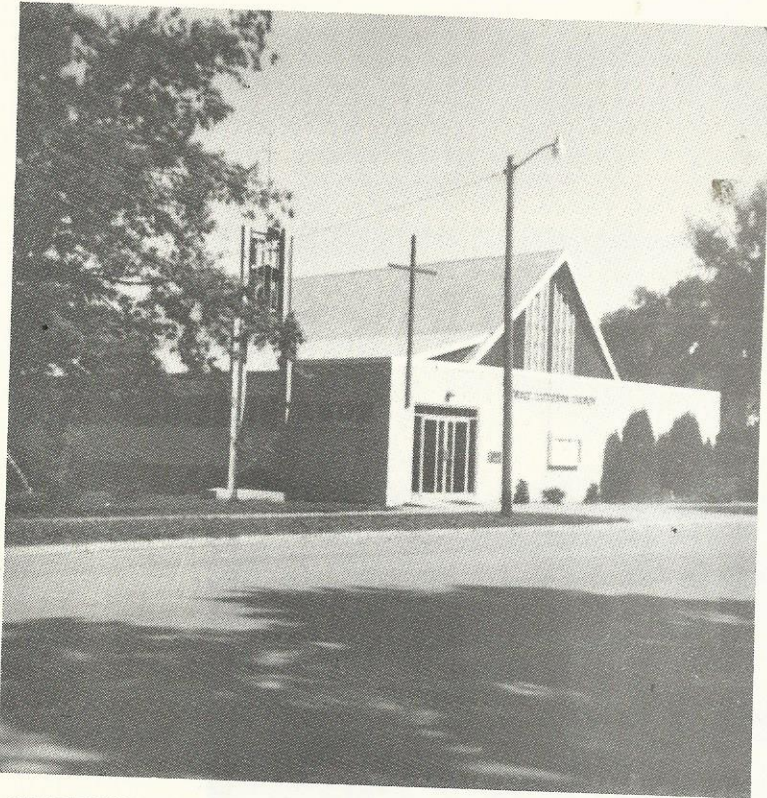
Chippewa Lutheran Church was built in the early 1870's and sits on its original site. Remodeling and improvements have been made over the years. The church cemetery is located one and one-half miles south and east of Brandon. Chippewa Church is affiliated with the Associated Lutheran Free Church. The present Pastor is Gordon Grage.

CHIPPEWA CHURCH - 1981





NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN SYNOD CHURCH - 1907



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1981

Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church was originally known as "the Synod Church", belonging to the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. The church was built in the early 1900's, a wooden structure with a plank walk and steps. The Ladies Aid was chartered in 1881.

In 1910, Grace joined the East and West Moe Churches, making it a three-point parish served by one Pastor. In 1952 the old structure was razed and a new building was erected.

Grace is a member of the American Lutheran Church of America and is presently served by Pastor Fred Gilbert.



St. Ann's Catholic Church

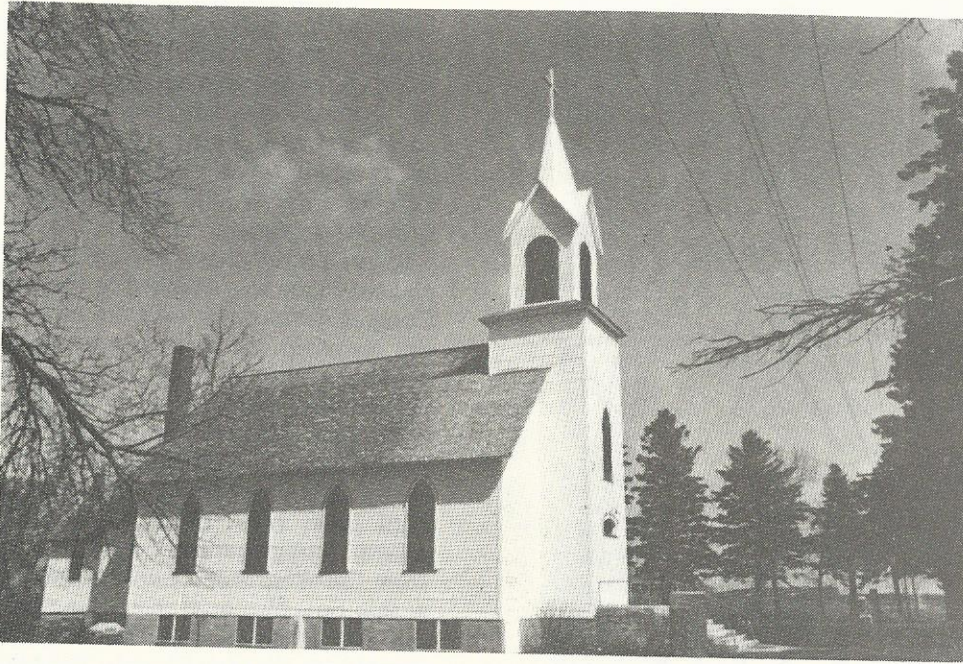
In the spring of 1902 about 23 families in the Brandon community built their first church. The church was incorporated on Feb. 10, 1909. In 1915 the church was improved and enlarged. In 1966 plans were drawn up for a new church building and rectory. Construction was begun in May of 1967. The church is now being served by Father Leonard Gaida.

St. Ann's cemetery is on the west side of Nelson Avenue, north of 3rd Street.

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



1981



ST. PETRI CHURCH - 1981

St. Petri Church

St. Petri Church was organized in 1887. At a congregational meeting in Brandon in January of 1890 it was decided to build a church which was completed and dedicated in September of that year. Previously, the congregation held its services in Evansville and at the Lutheran Free Church in Brandon. Presently served by Rev. Ronald Johnson, this church is also surrounded by its cemetery.



EAST MOE - 1981

East Moe Lutheran Church

As the name suggests, the church is in the eastern part of Moe Township. Leaving the West Moe congregation, East Moe built its own church and became self-supporting in the mid 1880's. They were served by the same pastor then as today, being a two point parish with West Moe. They are using the original church building and are also served by Pastor Kenneth Hodum. This is another country church with its own cemetery on either side of the church.



WEST MOE CHURCH - 1967

West Moe Church

As a congregation, West Moe was organized Sept. 9, 1867, now the oldest church of Norwegian heritage in Douglas County. Services were held in homes or schoolhouses, being served by traveling missionary pastors. In 1871 94 acres of land was purchased. Previously known as Our Saviors Church, a resident pastor came in 1872 and the name was changed to the Moe Congregation, along with the name of the township name, in memory of a district in Norway from which many settlers had come. A parsonage was built first. Actual building of the church began in 1876. The church was used at this time but was not dedicated until June, 1889. In the early 1880's several congregations were started from the West Moe Church. East Moe at that time also built their own structure. In all, eleven churches were originated with the Moe Church. The highest hill on their property was picked for the building of the church and cemetery, which surrounds the church on three sides. Over the years it has also been remodeled, with structures being added. It is presently served by Pastor Kenneth Hodum.



BRANDON UNION Sunday School

The Brandon Cemetery is located 1/2 mile west of Brandon. The land for this cemetery was donated to the Brandon community by August Swenson, whose picture appears on all cemetery deeds. (1890)

The Brandon Union Sunday School was composed of children and young people from all churches in the community - Peter Hoplin, Supt. Clara Nelson (Dahl) was one of the teachers. They met at the schoolhouse.



AUGUST SWENSON
DONOR OF THE CEMETERY GROUNDS.

Brandon Businesses - 1981

- A. & R. Welding & Repair**
Art Eisner
- Anderson Plumbing & Heating**
James & Clarence
- Auel Dairy Equipment**
Arnie Auel
- Berndt's Kamp Kappy**
Ray & Sherlyn Berndt
- Bettermann's Village Three**
Willie & Hilda Bettermann
- Bitzan Oil Co.**
Don Bitzan
- Blue Gill Inn**
Dick & Pat Pahl
- Bob & Roy's Standard Station**
Bob & Karen Thoennes &
LeRoy & Debbie Shea
- Brandon Auto Sales**
Jim Richards
- Brandon Communications & TV**
Dennis Korkowski
- Brandon Lumber Co.**
Winston Johnson
- Brandon Municipal Liquor Store**
Amos Becker, Manager
Doreen Schjei, Ass't. Manager
- Brandon Super Market**
Frank & Jeanne McFarlane
- Carol's Cut & Curl**
Carol Koep
- Cheryl's Beauty Shop**
Cheryl Alstead
- Challes Electric**
LaVern Challes
- Chippewa Farms Horticultural Enterprises**
Mark Olson
- Chippewa Hills**
Corky Slack & Children
- Citizens State Bank**
- Custom Woodcrafts**
Greg Roers
- E. & R. Towing**
Ray Stich
- Farmers Union Oil**
Les Hermanson
- Felco Oil**
Clair Christenson
- Gardonville Telephone Co.**
- Hopfner Barber Shop**
Wilbur Hopfner
- J. & J. Stripping**
John & Janet Pennie
- John Guck Salvage Yard**
John Guck
- Korkowski Implement**
John Korkowski
- Land O' Lakes Ag. Service, Elevator,
Bulk Plant & Fertilizer**
- Lawson's Resort**
Clarence Lawson
- Lippka Sanitation Service**
Jerry Lippka
- Lowry Transfer, Inc.**
Wagner Division
- Maple Trailer Courts**
Gordon Wibstad
- Marquette Excavating**
Kevin Marquette
- Moe Insurance Agency**
Dave Thompson
- Nelson School Bus Service**
Bruce Nelson
- Okerlund Graveling**
Les & Peggy Okerlund
- Ostlund Hardware**
Ralph & Mary Ann Ostlund
- Ottertail Power Co.**
Lynn Thompson
- Post Office**
- Rusch Construction**
Dan & Devin Rusch
- Wallace Schiele**
Auctioneer
- Schjei Grain Trucking**
Kenny Schjei
- Shady Creek**
Dick & Linda Wagner
- Shady Lane**
Bob & Dodi Klenk
- Slack Painting Inc.**
Corky & Jeanne Slack
- Slack Gas & Oil**
Corky & Jeanne Slack
- Starlite Tavern**
Lola Thorness
- Strom Construction**
Cliff & Paul Strom
- Strom Garage**
Ray Strom
- Strunk Drywall**
Keith Strunk
- Two Havens Resort**
Harvey Bolin
- Uncle Moe Manufacturing**
Jim Korkowski
- Wagner Plumbing & Heating**
Dick Wagner
- Wagner & Sons Implement**
Florian Wagner